



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 23-10-2024

GS-2

1. Article 142
2. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
3. Indian pharmacopoeia
4. What does the Global Hunger Index 2024 state about India?

GS-3

5. Kaziranga National Park

Article 142

Syllabus- GS-2; the Constitution of India- Judiciary

Context

- Supreme Court opens IIT door for student who could not pay fees on time.

About

- **Article 142** of the **Constitution of India** grants the Supreme Court of India extraordinary powers to deliver complete justice in any matter pending before it. This article is often invoked when the existing laws or legal frameworks are inadequate to provide fair and complete justice in a particular case. Here's a breakdown of the key aspects of Article 142:

Key Provisions of Article 142

- **Article 142(1):**
 - Empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary to do complete justice in any case pending before it.
 - The orders of the Supreme Court under this article are enforceable throughout the territory of India.
 - This provision allows the court to take actions that go beyond the scope of existing laws, filling any gaps to ensure justice is served.
- **Article 142(2):**
 - Allows the Supreme Court to make orders related to the functioning of any authority or tribunal in a case before it.
 - It also enables the Court to punish individuals for contempt of itself.

Significance of Article 142

- **Ensuring Complete Justice:** The article gives the Supreme Court broad discretionary powers to ensure justice, even if that means going beyond the confines of statutory provisions.
- **Judicial Activism:** The article is sometimes seen as a tool for judicial activism, allowing the judiciary to play a proactive role in matters where existing laws may be silent or inadequate.
- **Landmark Judgments:** Article 142 has been invoked in many landmark cases, including the Ayodhya verdict (2019), Bhopal Gas Tragedy settlement, and reforming the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Landmark Cases Involving Article 142

- **Union Carbide Corporation v. Union of India (1991):**
 - The Supreme Court used Article 142 to approve a settlement between the Union of India and Union Carbide in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy case.
- **Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi Case (2019):**
 - In the Ayodhya verdict, the Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to allocate alternative land to the Sunni Waqf Board and ensure the construction of the Ram Temple.
- **Supreme Court Bar Association v. Union of India (1998):**
 - The Court clarified that Article 142 does not allow the Supreme Court to override substantive law, but is to be used when no law is in place to address an issue adequately.

Limitations of Article 142

- While Article 142 grants expansive powers to the Supreme Court, it is not without limitations:
 - **Not to Override Statutory Law:** The Supreme Court clarified that this article cannot be used to overrule existing laws and statutory provisions, but rather to supplement them when required.
 - **Judicial Prudence:** The Court must exercise restraint and not use Article 142 to create laws, a role constitutionally assigned to the legislature.
- Article 142 is a powerful tool for delivering justice, ensuring that in extraordinary circumstances, the judiciary can step in to fill any gaps in the law.
- However, its use is also balanced by judicial restraint to avoid overstepping the separation of powers between the judiciary and the legislature.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Syllabus: GS-2; Global Governance

Context

- Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla led a Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) to the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva which was held from 13th October to 17th October 2024.

About

- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is an international organization of parliaments, which plays a significant role in promoting parliamentary dialogue and cooperation among its member states.

Formation and History:

- Established in 1889, the IPU is the oldest international organization dedicated to parliamentary cooperation.
- It was formed to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue and foster peace and democracy.

Headquarters:

- The IPU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Membership:

- Comprises 179 national parliaments and 13 regional parliamentary organizations, representing over 1.4 million elected legislators globally.
- Membership is open to any state that has a parliament.

Objectives:

- Promote democracy, peace, and human rights.
- Facilitate parliamentary cooperation and dialogue on global issues.
- Encourage the participation of parliaments in the development of international law and norms.

Structure:

- The IPU is governed by the **Assembly**, which meets twice a year to discuss and decide on important issues.
- The **Governing Council** manages the organization's activities between sessions of the Assembly.
- Various committees focus on specific areas, such as peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development.

Activities:

- Organizes conferences, seminars, and workshops for parliamentarians to share experiences and best practices.
- Develops resolutions and declarations on global issues, influencing national and international policies.
- Provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to parliaments in developing countries.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Democracy and Development:** Promotes the role of parliaments in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- **Human Rights:** Advocates for the protection of human rights, with a special focus on women, children, and minorities.
- **Peace and Security:** Engages in dialogue to prevent conflicts and promote disarmament.

Recent Initiatives:

- The IPU has been actively involved in addressing global challenges like climate change, terrorism, and pandemics.
- It supports initiatives aimed at enhancing gender equality in parliaments.

India and the IPU:

- India is a member of the IPU and actively participates in its activities, contributing to discussions on global governance and parliamentary democracy.

Indian pharmacopoeia

Syllabus: GS-2; Health, International Institutions

Context

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi has said that 11 countries in the world have already recognised Indian pharmacopoeia as their standard.

About

- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)** is an official document that sets standards for the quality, purity, and strength of drugs and pharmaceuticals in India.
- It is a crucial resource for ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicines.
- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia** is an official publication by the **Government of India** that establishes the quality standards for medicinal substances used in India.
- It is published by the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, which functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The first edition of the **Indian Pharmacopoeia** was published in **1955**.

Purpose of Indian Pharmacopoeia

- Ensures the **quality control** of drugs manufactured, distributed, and sold in India.
- Provides standards for **drugs and pharmaceutical formulations**, which serve as legal and scientific guidelines.
- Ensures the safety of patients by enforcing uniform standards in the pharmaceutical industry.

Structure and Content

- The **IP** contains **monographs** that describe standards for drugs, including:
 - Identity, purity, and strength
 - Limits for contaminants and impurities
 - Analytical methods for testing
 - Dosage forms and biological products (such as vaccines and serums)
- Standards are provided for various types of pharmaceuticals such as:
 - **Chemical drugs**
 - **Herbal medicines**
 - **Biologics**
 - **Veterinary drugs**

Legal and Regulatory Significance

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia is **legally binding** under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. All pharmaceutical products manufactured and sold in India must comply with its standards.
- Non-compliance with the standards mentioned in the IP can lead to **legal actions**, including the cancellation of licenses or penalties for manufacturers.

Role of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

- The IPC is responsible for publishing the Indian Pharmacopoeia and ensuring the standards set in the document are implemented.
- It also promotes public health by ensuring that the quality of medicines in the Indian market meets international standards.

Harmonization with Global Standards

- The IP is aligned with international pharmacopoeias like the **British Pharmacopoeia (BP)**, **United States Pharmacopeia (USP)**, and **European Pharmacopoeia** to maintain global relevance and acceptance of Indian pharmaceuticals.
- Harmonization also helps in boosting the **export** of Indian pharmaceutical products.

What does the Global Hunger Index 2024 state about India?

Syllabus: GS-2; International Institutions

Context

- 105th out of 127 countries with a score of 27.3, indicating a serious level of hunger. This highlights persistent challenges in food security and nutrition in India.

About

- The **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024** provides a comprehensive overview of hunger levels worldwide, with a specific focus on various factors contributing to food insecurity.

Overview of GHI 2024

- **India's Ranking:**
 - India ranks **105th** out of **127** countries, indicating a **serious** level of hunger with a score of **27.3**.

Key Findings from the Global Hunger Index 2024

- **Hunger Level in India:**

- India ranks **105th** out of **127** countries, with a score of **27.3**, categorizing it as having a **serious** level of hunger.
- **Scores Interpretation:**
 - Below 9.9: Low hunger
 - 10-19.9: Moderate hunger
 - 20-34.9: Serious hunger
 - 35-49.9: Alarming hunger
 - Above 50: Extremely alarming hunger

Parameters Contributing to the Score

1. **Child Stunting:**
 - 35.5% of children under five are stunted (low height for age).
2. **Undernourishment:**
 - 13.7% of the population is undernourished (insufficient caloric intake).
3. **Child Wasting:**
 - India has the highest child wasting rate globally, with 18.7% of children under five being wasted (low weight for height).
4. **Child Mortality:**
 - 2.9% of children die before their fifth birthday.

Political Will and Government Initiatives

- The report acknowledges India's "**significant political will**" to improve food and nutrition security, referencing initiatives like:
 - **National Food Security Act**
 - **Poshan Abhiyan (National Nutrition Mission)**
 - **PM Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKAY)**
 - **National Mission for Natural Farming**
- However, it emphasizes the need for improvement, particularly addressing the **intergenerational pattern of undernutrition**, where malnutrition in mothers leads to poor nutritional outcomes in children.

Relationship Between GDP Growth and Hunger

- The report highlights that **GDP growth** does not guarantee improved food and nutritional security for all.
- It advocates for policies focusing on **pro-poor development** and addressing **social/economic inequalities**.

Proposed Solutions

- **Access to Social Safety Nets:**
 - Improve access to programs like the **Public Distribution Scheme (PDS)** and **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**.
 - Enhance cash transfer schemes.
- **Agricultural Investments:**
 - Promote diversified, nutritious, and ecological food production, including nutri-cereals (like millets).
- **Mother and Child Health:**
 - Invest in maternal and child health, including water, sanitation, and hygiene improvements.
- **Integrated Interventions:**
 - Consider links between food and nutrition, gender, and climate change in interventions.

Expert Opinions

- **Dipa Sinha**, a Development Economist, emphasizes that while entitlement systems exist, they require more resources and diversification. She highlights:
 - The PDS primarily provides cereals, leading to nutritional gaps.
 - School and Anganwadi allocations are low and not inflation-indexed.
- She stresses the importance of making healthy foods **affordable and accessible**.

Data Collection Debate

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** criticized the GHI data, arguing it did not use their **Poshan Tracker**.
- They reported lower child wasting rates than the GHI indicated but acknowledged that GHI relies on internationally vetted survey estimates for comparability.
- It is pointed out that the Poshan Tracker data is limited to ICDS enrolled populations and is not representative of the entire population.
- It is also suggested the need for regular **National Family Health Surveys (NFHS)** to provide a comprehensive view of nutritional status, contrasting with the annual GHI releases.

Kaziranga National Park

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

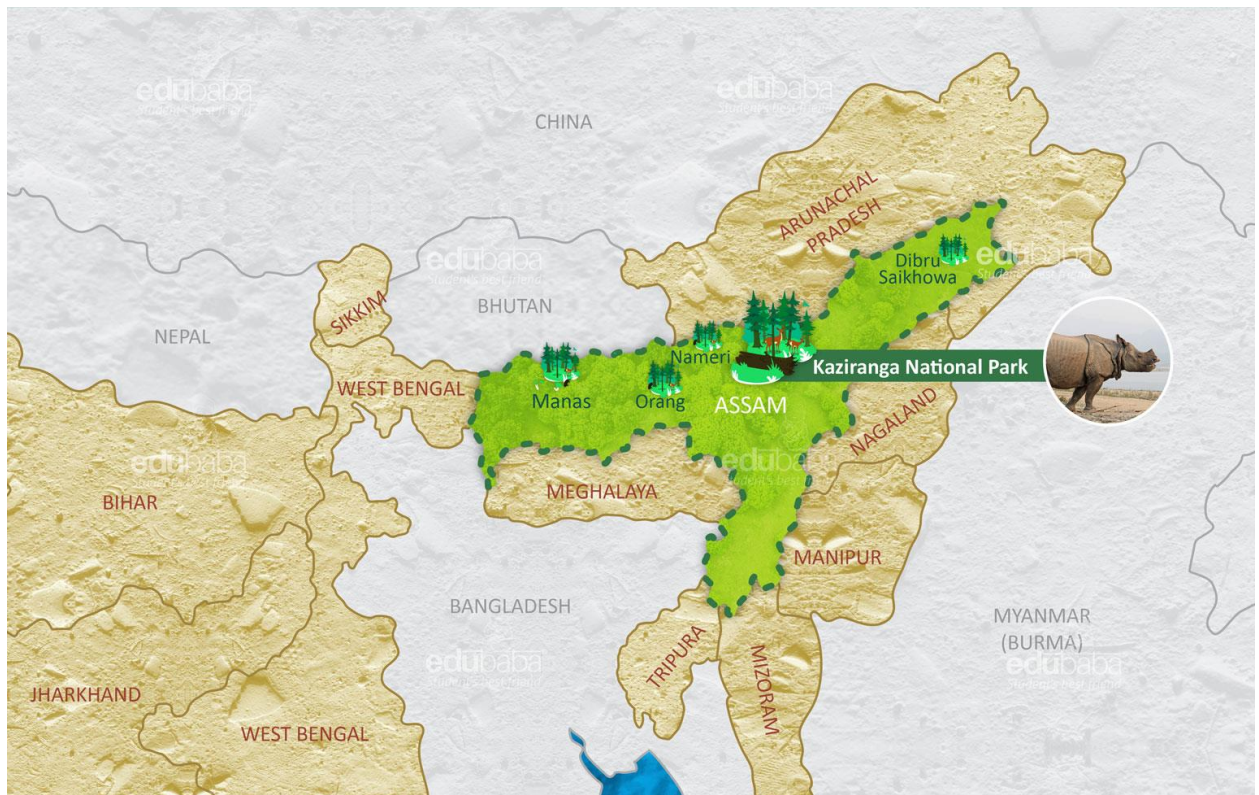
Context

- Over 446 butterfly species have been spotted at the Kaziranga National Park making it the second highest in the country with the highest number of butterflies . Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh has the highest butterflies.

About

Location

- **State:** Assam, India
- **District:** Golaghat and Nagaon
- **Coordinates:** 26.4019° N, 93.1700° E
- **Area:** Approximately 430 square kilometers



History

- **Establishment:** Kaziranga was declared a national park in 1974. It was initially set up as a reserve forest in 1905 to protect the one-horned rhinoceros.

- **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Designated as a World Heritage Site in 1985 due to its unique biodiversity and conservation efforts.

Biodiversity

- **Flora:** The park consists of tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshland, and dense tropical forests. The dominant species include various grasses, shrubs, and deciduous trees.
- **Fauna:**
 - **One-horned rhinoceros:** Kaziranga is home to about two-thirds of the world's population of the Indian rhinoceros.
 - **Other Species:** Elephants, tigers, swamp deer, wild water buffalo, and a variety of birds including the great Indian hornbill and pelicans.
- **Birds:** More than 480 species of birds have been recorded, making it a significant birdwatching destination.

Conservation Efforts

- **Protection:** Managed by the Assam Forest Department, Kaziranga has been successful in anti-poaching measures, leading to a significant increase in the rhino population.
- **Community Involvement:** Local communities are engaged in conservation efforts, promoting eco-tourism and providing alternative livelihoods.

Geographical Features

- **Topography:** The park consists of a mix of grasslands, marshes, and forests, situated in the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River.
- **Climate:** It has a subtropical monsoon climate with heavy rainfall during the monsoon season, which contributes to its rich biodiversity.

Ecological Importance

- **Habitat:** Kaziranga supports diverse ecosystems that are crucial for the survival of several endangered species.
- **Ecosystem Services:** It plays a vital role in flood control, maintaining soil quality, and supporting a variety of wildlife.

Challenges

- **Poaching:** Despite improvements, poaching remains a significant threat to the rhino population and other wildlife.
- **Flooding:** Seasonal flooding from the Brahmaputra River can disrupt habitats and pose challenges to wildlife.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** Encroachment and agricultural activities in the surrounding areas lead to conflicts between humans and wildlife.