



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 24-07-2025

GS-1

1. Devadasi system
2. Mahadayi River

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3. Article 143

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4. Vitamin D
5. Apache Helicopter

Devadasi system

Syllabus: GS-1; History

Context

- In a bid to strengthen the legislation against the centuries-old Devadasi system, the Karnataka government is working on introducing a new law.

What is the Devadasi System?

- The **Devadasi system** is a centuries-old religious practice in which young girls were "dedicated" to a deity or temple, especially in South India.
- These girls, known as **Devadasis**, performed rituals, dance (e.g., **Bharatanatyam**), and served temple functions.
- Initially respected, the system eventually degenerated into **ritualized exploitation** and **sex slavery**, especially of Dalit and poor girls.

Historical Evolution

- **Origin:** Dates back to the **6th–9th century**, during the **Bhakti Movement**.
- **Flourished under:** **Chola, Vijayanagara, and other South Indian dynasties**.
- **Cultural Role:** Custodians of temple arts, especially dance and music.
- **Colonial Period:** Misinterpretation and legal interventions led to social marginalization of Devadasis.
- **Decline:** Transformed into a practice of **sexual exploitation** under the guise of religion.

Legal Reforms and Prohibitions

Year Law/Act	Region
1947 <i>Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act</i>	Tamil Nadu
1982 Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act	Karnataka
1988 Andhra Pradesh Devadasi Prohibition Act	Andhra Pradesh
2006 Maharashtra Devadasi System (Abolition) Act	Maharashtra

- **Constitutional** **Provision:**
Article 23 prohibits human trafficking and forced labour.
- **Supreme Court & NHRC:** Urged states for effective rehabilitation of Devadasis and their children.

Present-Day Issues

- Despite legal bans, **illegal dedication** still persists in **Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana**, and **Andhra Pradesh**, due to:
 - **Poverty**
 - **Caste discrimination**
 - **Lack of education and awareness**
 - **Social stigma**

Karnataka Devadasi Prohibition Bill, 2025

- The **Karnataka government** has proposed a progressive bill that addresses the **rights of children born to Devadasis**, aiming for justice, dignity, and legal clarity:

Key Features:

1. **Right to Paternity Test**
 - Children born to Devadasis can legally identify their biological fathers using DNA/paternity tests.
2. **Right to Inherit Property**
 - Grants **inheritance rights** from the father's side—empowering children financially and socially.
3. **Privacy Clause**
 - Option to **remove the father's name** from public documents and forms, protecting the child's dignity and avoiding stigma.

Implications of the New Bill

Aspect	Impact
Social Justice	Reduces caste-based and gendered discrimination.
Legal Identity	Establishes parentage, removing the stigma of “illegitimacy.”
Economic Empowerment	Inheritance rights improve long-term social mobility.
Privacy & Dignity	Legal anonymity safeguards emotional well-being.

Mahadayi River

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- West flowing rivers

Context

- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's remarks on the Mahadayi river dispute provoked a sharp response from his Karnataka counterpart Siddaramaiah who dubbed the former's statements an 'insult to the people of Karnataka'.

Origin & Course

- Originates from **Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Belagavi district, Karnataka**.
- Flows westward for about **111 km**, of which:
 - **35 km in Karnataka**
 - **76 km in Goa**
- Joins the **Arabian Sea** near Panaji, Goa.

States Involved

- **Karnataka**
- **Goa**
- **Maharashtra** (minor catchment area)

Major Tributaries of Mahadayi River

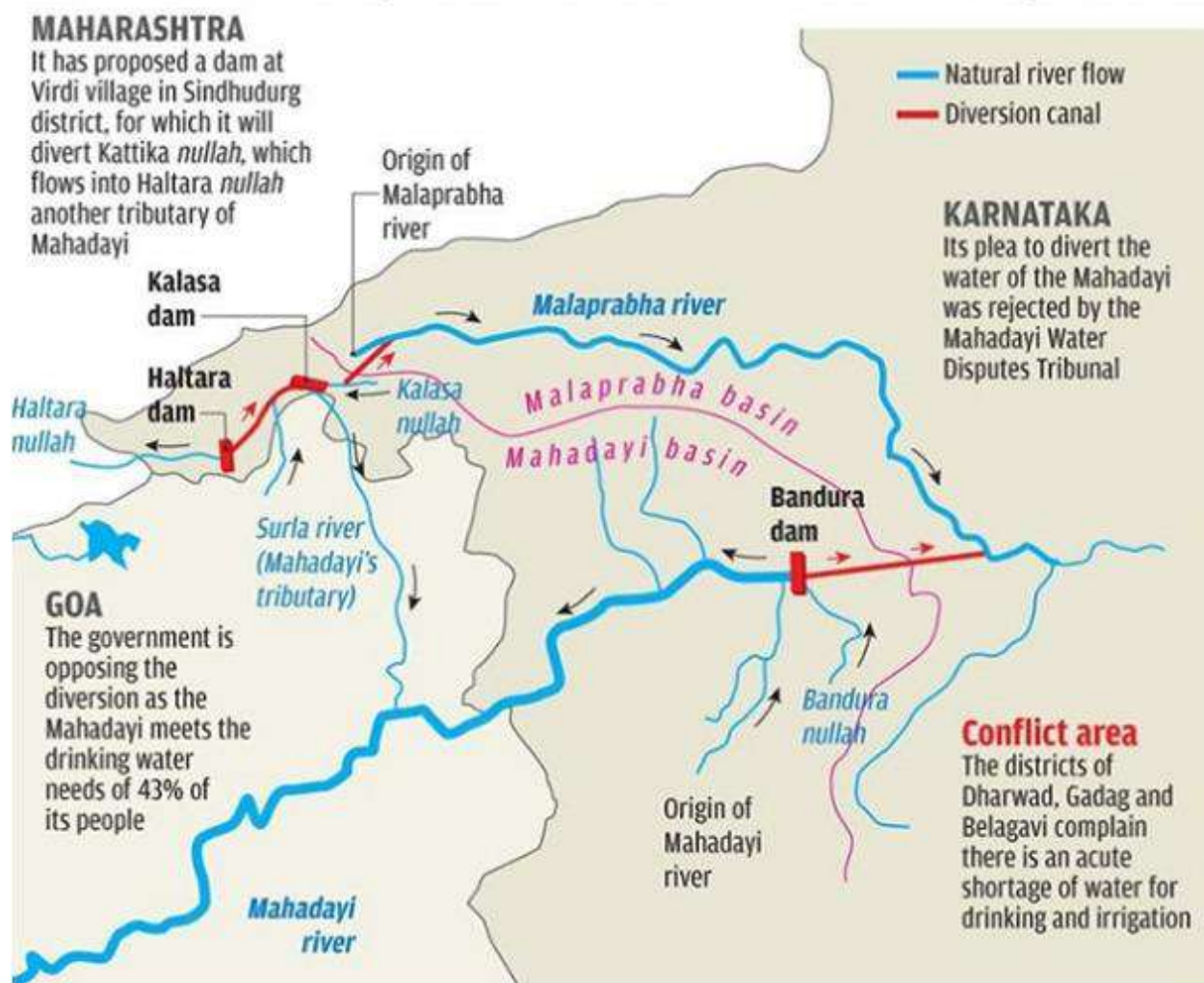
From Karnataka side:

- **Kalasa Nala**
- **Banduri Nala**
- **Haltar Nala**
- **Potni Nala**

From Goa side:

- **Surla River**
- **Sankhali River**
- **Ragadya River**
- **Sanjevani River**
- **Mapusa River** (important tributary near Mapusa town)
- **Khandepar River**
- **Valvanti River**

Mahadayi River Water Dispute



Background

- Karnataka proposed the **Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project** to divert water to the **Malaprabha River** for drinking water needs in **Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi & Gadag**.
- Goa objected, citing **ecological damage** to its forests and wildlife sanctuaries.

Tribunal & Verdict

- In 2010, the **Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT)** was constituted.
- **August 2018 Verdict:**
 - Karnataka: 13.42 TMC (includes 5.5 TMC for diversion)
 - Goa: 24 TMC
 - Maharashtra: 1.33 TMC

Ecological & Economic Significance

- Supports **Western Ghats biodiversity** – an **ecologically sensitive zone**.
- Crucial for **drinking water, agriculture, and hydropower** (Goa's Saluli dam).
- Source of **eco-tourism and cultural activities** in Goa.

Article 143

Syllabus: GS-2: Judiciary – Supreme court and its powers.

Context:

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday (July 22, 2025) issued notices to the Union and all State governments on a Presidential Reference seeking clarity on various issues.

Background

- The issue pertains to the **powers and timelines** for actions by the **President and Governors** regarding **State Bills** under **Articles 200 and 201**.
- Triggered by earlier Supreme Court rulings that:
 - Governors **must act within a reasonable time** on Bills – they cannot delay assent indefinitely.
 - The **President must act within three months** on Bills reserved by the Governor.
 - In exceptional cases, the Supreme Court can declare "**deemed assent**" under Article 142 to prevent legislative paralysis.

Presidential Reference

- On May 13, 2025, the President referred the matter to the Supreme Court under **Article 143** (Advisory jurisdiction).
- The reference sought clarity on 14 constitutional questions, including:
 - Whether the **President/Governor is bound by timelines** in dealing with State legislation.
 - Whether **judicial review** applies to delays in granting assent.
 - Legitimacy of "**deemed assent**" declared by the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court Proceedings

- A **five-judge Constitution Bench** began hearings on the reference.
- The Court issued **notices to all States and the Union Government** to submit responses.
- Further directions were scheduled for **July 29, 2025**, and **substantive hearings are likely in mid-August**.
- Some States are expected to question the **maintainability** of the Presidential reference.

Key Legal Issues Under Consideration

- **Judicial Review:** Can courts review inaction or delay by the President or Governors?
- **Timelines:** Are there enforceable constitutional deadlines for granting assent to Bills?
- **Discretionary Powers:** Are Governors/Presidents bound by the **advice of the Council of Ministers** in such cases?
- **Article 142 and Deemed Assent:** Can the judiciary impose a "deemed assent" if no action is taken?
- **Scope of Article 143:** Whether seeking judicial advice in such cases is constitutionally valid.

Importance of the Case

- **Federal Balance:** Clarifies limits of central influence over State legislation through Governors.
- **Legislative Efficiency:** Ensures that welfare laws passed by State legislatures are not indefinitely stalled.
- **Judicial Activism vs. Restraint:** Will test how far the judiciary can go in **interpreting silence or delay** as assent.
- **Precedent Value:** The outcome will influence future Centre–State dynamics and constitutional conventions.

Vitamin D

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – Human Biology.

Context:

Consilient evidence links lack of vitamin D to neurodevelopmental issues: The Lancet study.



Vitamin D – Overview

- **Type:** Fat-soluble vitamin
- **Also Known As:** *Sunshine Vitamin*
- **Chemical Forms:**
 - **D2 (Ergocalciferol)** – plant-based
 - **D3 (Cholecalciferol)** – synthesized in skin on exposure to sunlight

Sources

- **Natural:** Sunlight (UVB rays convert 7-dehydrocholesterol to D3 in skin)
- **Dietary:**
 - Fatty fish (salmon, mackerel)

- Fortified milk & cereals
- Egg yolks
- Mushrooms (D2)

Functions

- Promotes **calcium and phosphorus absorption**
- Maintains **bone and dental health**
- Supports **immune system** function
- Plays a role in **cell growth modulation**

Deficiency

- **In Children:** Rickets (soft, weak bones, skeletal deformities)
- **In Adults:** Osteomalacia (bone pain, muscle weakness)
- **Other Issues:** Increased risk of cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune disorders, and depression

Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA)

- Varies by age and sunlight exposure; generally around **600–800 IU/day**

Toxicity (Hypervitaminosis D)

- Rare, usually due to overdose of supplements
- Leads to **hypercalcemia** (nausea, kidney damage)

National Programs & Initiatives

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Addresses Vitamin D and other micronutrient deficiencies
- **Food Fortification Initiative:** Fortification of milk, edible oils with Vitamin D

Apache Helicopter

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Defence Technology.

Context:

Indian Army on Tuesday (July 22, 2025) received the first batch of Apache Helicopters from United States at Hindon Airbase.



AH-64E Apache Helicopter – Overview

- **Type:** Multi-role combat helicopter
- **Developer/Manufacturer:** Boeing, USA
- **First Inducted:** By US Army in 1984 (as AH-64A)
- **Current Variant:** AH-64E (Guardian) – most advanced version

Key Features

Advanced Targeting and Sensors

- Equipped with **AN/APG-78 Longbow Fire Control Radar**
- **Thermal imaging, night vision, and target acquisition system**
- Can **detect 256 targets** and **prioritize 16 threats** in seconds

Lethal Weapon Systems

- 30mm M230 chain gun
- 70mm Hydra rockets
- AGM-114 Hellfire missiles – precision-guided, anti-armor capability

Operational Flexibility

- Functions in **day/night, all-weather, and high-altitude** environments
- Suitable for **low-visibility combat zones**

Survivability and Endurance

- **Crash-resistant** frame and **redundant systems**
- **Infrared suppression** and **defensive aids suite (DAS)**
- **Wing-mounted fuel tanks** for extended range

Strategic Significance for India

Enhancement of Combat Capability

- Boosts **border strike potential**, especially along **Pakistan and China fronts**
- Effective in **anti-tank, counter-insurgency**, and **close air support**

Army and Air Force Synergy

- Complements IAF's Apache fleet
- Enhances **Army Aviation Corps' offensive profile**

International Interoperability

- Seamless integration in **joint exercises** with **QUAD** and **NATO** partners
- Compatible with US-origin platforms

India-US Defence Ties

- Reflects deepening **strategic and technological cooperation**
- Follows key defence pacts like **COMCASA, LEMOA**, and **BECA**

Conclusion

The AH-64E Apache strengthens India's aerial combat capability, modernizes military aviation, and reinforces strategic partnerships—key elements for India's defence preparedness in a dynamic geopolitical environment.