

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

July 11<sup>th</sup>



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**#DAILY UPDATES**

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**2023**

## 1. SC issues notice to Centre on Delhi Ordinance, impleads L-G in case: The Hindu – Page 9

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The Supreme Court (SC) recently agreed to hear on July 17 an interim plea made by the Delhi government seeking a stay of Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena's executive order "firing" 437 independent consultants of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Indian Polity and Governance</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies II - Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 Article 239AA

### Today's prelims practice question:

**Q.** Consider the following statements:

1. Part VII of the Constitution, consisting of Articles 239 to 241 deals with the Union Territories.
2. The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 furnished a unique status to the Union Territory of Delhi.

Which among the statements mentioned above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Part VIII of the Constitution, consisting of Articles 239 to 241 deals with the Union Territories.

UTs in India are administered by the President through an administrator appointed by him/her. The administrator is not elected but rather a representative of the President. Article 239AA which holds that the power and control over services should be vested in the elected government. The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 furnished a unique status to the Union Territory of Delhi and redesignated it as the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Article 239AA). Also, the administrator of Delhi has been redesignated as the lieutenant (lt.) governor. It also created a legislative assembly and a council of ministers for Delhi.

<b>Mains PYQ exercise:</b>	Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that had led to recent reported conflicts between the selected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics. (2016)
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<b>Today's mains practice question:</b>	What do you think are the issues with the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023? Discuss the possible consequences of the ordinance.
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## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023:

#### Promulgation of the Ordinance:

- The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 was promulgated by the President in May 2023 to provide for a comprehensive scheme of administration of services in Delhi.
- The ordinance came after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi, excluding police, public order and land, to the elected government.

#### About the Ordinance:

- The ordinance seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA) for the transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers from services in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

- The issuance of the Ordinance empowers the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi with control over services, thereby challenging the elected government's authority in matters of officials' transfer and posting.
- This development raises significant constitutional apprehensions regarding the delicate balance of power between the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor.

## Issues with the Ordinance:

- **Power Struggle:**
  - ✓ The ordinance has led to a power struggle between the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor.
  - ✓ The elected government claims that the ordinance undermines their authority and violates the Constitution.
  - ✓ The Lieutenant Governor argues that the ordinance is necessary to ensure proper governance in Delhi.
- **Constitutional Issues:**
  - ✓ The elected government claims that the ordinance violates the Constitution, which gives them the power to make appointments and transfer officials.
  - ✓ The Lieutenant Governor's increased powers are a violation of the principle of federalism, which is enshrined in the Constitution.
- **Issue of “Triple Chain of Accountability”:**
  - ✓ In May 2023, the Supreme Court explicitly recognised this by formulating the concept of the “triple chain of accountability”.
  - ✓ The triple chain of accountability is integral to representative democracy and proceeds as follows:
    - Civil servants are accountable to the cabinet.
    - The cabinet is accountable to the legislature, or the Legislative Assembly.
    - The Legislative Assembly is (periodically) accountable to the electorate.
- Any action that severs this “triple chain of accountability” fundamentally undermines the core constitutional principle of representative government, which is at the bedrock of our democracy.
- **Governance Issue:**

- ✓ The ordinance has created confusion and uncertainty among the civil service officers working in Delhi government departments.
- ✓ The ordinance has also affected the delivery of public services and welfare schemes in Delhi.

### Consequences of the Ordinance:

- It may create a constitutional crisis and a power tussle between the Centre and the Delhi government over the control of civil services in the national capital.
- It may undermine the autonomy and democracy of the Delhi government and the will of the people who elected it.
- It may hamper the effective administration and governance of Delhi, as the civil service officers may face uncertainty and confusion over their roles and responsibilities.
- It may invite legal challenges and judicial scrutiny, as the ordinance seems to violate the Supreme Court's judgment and Article 239AA of the Constitution.

### Article 239AA of the Constitution:

- Article 239 AA was inserted in the Constitution by the Constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991 to give Special Status to Delhi following the recommendations of the S Balakrishnan Committee that was set up to look into demands for statehood for Delhi.
- It says that the NCT of Delhi will have an Administrator and a Legislative Assembly.
- Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislative Assembly "shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the NCT with respect to any of the matters in the State List or Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories" except on the subject of police, public order, and land.
- Further, the Article 239AA also notes that L-G has to either act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, or he is bound to implement the decision taken by the President on a reference being made by him.
- Also, Article 239AA, empowers the L-G to refer a difference of opinion on 'any matter' with the Council of Ministers to the President.
- Thus, this dual control between L-G and the elected government leads to a power tussle.

## 2. SC seeks govt. response on plea to protect wetlands: The Hindu – Page 10



<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The Supreme Court recorded that the number of wetlands in the country has expanded from ₹2.01 lakh to ₹2.31 lakh since 2017, and sought the Centre's response on a plea to protect the enhanced wetland areas which act as a natural protection from floods.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies III - Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.</li> <li>The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based on the recommendations of Ramsar Convention.</li> <li>The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Today's prelims practice question:</b></p> <p>Q. Consider the following statements about Wetlands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The World Wetlands Day is observed on 10<sup>th</sup> July every year all over the world to commemorate the signing of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971.</li> <li>India is a party to the Ramsar Convention since 1982.</li> </ol> <p>Which among the statements mentioned above is/are incorrect?</p>	

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year all over the world to commemorate the signing of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971. India is a party to the Convention since 1982 and has so far declared 75 wetlands as Ramsar sites covering 23 states and Union Territories. The 2023 theme for World Wetlands Day is 'Wetland Restoration' which highlights the urgent need to prioritize wetland restoration. It is a call on an entire generation to take proactive action for wetlands, by investing financial, human and political capital to save the wetlands from disappearing and to revive and restore those that have been degraded.

**Today's mains**

Discuss the salient features of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management)

**practice question:**

Rules 2017.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017:

#### Notification of the rules:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands in India.

#### Definition of Wetlands:

- Wetlands are defined as an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water.
- It could be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt.
- It includes areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.

- The rules apply to:
  - ✓ wetlands categorised as “wetlands of international importance” under the Ramsar Convention.
  - ✓ wetlands as notified by the central and state governments and UT administration.

## Objectives of the Rules:

- This is a significant step to conserve, manage and maintain the ecological character of the wetlands without restricting the wise use.
- These rules fortify the legal framework for environmental concerns and strengthen the institutional framework through State / UT Wetland Authorities and a National Wetland Committee.
- Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 have enhanced the focus of management of wetlands from a central authority to state bodies.
- The rules provide for an advisory role for the National Wetland Committee, to guide the state bodies on the integrated management of wetlands based on wise-use principle and review the progress of integrated management of Ramsar Convention sites among other roles.
- The Guidelines for the Rules have been drafted to support the State Governments / Union Territory (UT) Administrations in the implementation of the Rules by providing guidance on various aspects like identifying wetlands for notification under the Rules, delineating wetlands, wetland complexes and zones of influence, preparation of Brief Document, developing a list of activities to be regulated and permitted, constitution and operational matters of the Wetlands Authorities among other issues.

## Provisions of the Rules:

- **State Wetlands Authority (SWA):**
  - ✓ It stipulates setting up of SWA in each State/UTs headed by State’s environment minister and include range of government officials.
  - ✓ State government will also nominate one expert each in fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socioeconomics.
  - ✓ Functions of SWA are develop comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within notified wetlands and their zone of influence.



- **Prohibited Activities:**

- ✓ The rules prohibit activities like conversion of wetland for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind, setting up and expansion of industries, waste dumping and discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements.

- **Digital inventory of all wetlands:**

- ✓ Mandatory for state authorities to prepare list of all wetlands and list of wetlands to be notified within six months.
- ✓ Based on it, a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands will be created and will be updated every ten years.

- **National Wetlands Committee (NWC):**

- ✓ The rules stipulate for setting up of NWC, headed by MoEFCC Secretary, to monitor implementation of these rules and oversee work carried out by States.
- ✓ NCW will also advise Central Government on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands, recommend designation of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention, advise on collaboration with international agencies on issues related to wetlands etc.

### 3. Import of urea may ease by 2025, alternative forms will replace it, says Mandaviya: The Hindu – Page 10

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Manukh Mandaviya says a special package estimated at ₹3.7 lakh crore for farmers have to be brought in as the use of fertilizers has become unbalanced in the country.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Economic Geography  <b>Mains:</b> General Studies III - Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country.
<b>Important concepts</b>	Nano urea
<b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b>	

Q. Recent discovery of method of reducing salination of soil is

- a) Spreading of husk on the soil
- b) Extensive use of fertilisers
- c) Intensive use of fertilisers
- d) None of the above

### Today's prelims practice question:

Q. Consider the following statements about Nano Urea:

1. The world's first nano urea liquid plant was inaugurated recently at Mathura.
2. Liquid nano urea is more efficient than conventional urea.

Which among the statements mentioned above is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Nano Urea is a nanotechnology based revolutionary agri-input which provides nitrogen to plants. While liquid nano urea up to 85% efficient, its conventional counterpart is only about 25% efficient. This higher effectiveness is mostly due to nanotechnology, which makes it possible to design extremely small particles with greater surface-to-mass ratios, which aids in the regulated delivery of crop nutrients. Chemically, packed urea contains 46% nitrogen, so a 45 kg sack contains approximately 20 kg of nitrogen. In comparison, Nano Urea in 500 mL bottles contains only 4% nitrogen (or around 20 gm). In May 2022, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's first nano urea liquid plant by Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) at Kalol in Gujarat. Recently, PM has launched the country's first liquid nano urea plant at Kalol, Gujarat not only to substitute imported urea, but to also produce better results in farms.

**Today's mains  
practice question:**

Examine the advantages of nano urea over conventional fertilizers in the context of the inauguration of world's first nano urea liquid plant in India.

### DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Nano urea:

Why in news?

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Manukh Mandaviya recently said our attempt is to end import dependence on urea by 2025 and replace it with nano urea and other alternative forms of urea.
- Nano urea too will not fully replace conventional urea.

Nano Urea:

- Nano Urea is a nanotechnology based revolutionary Agri-input which provides nitrogen to plants.
- When compared to conventional urea prill, it has a desirable particle size of about 20-50 nm and more surface area (10,000 times over 1 mm urea prill) and number of particles (55,000 nitrogen particles over 1 mm urea prill).
- Nano Urea Liquid can curtail the requirement of the same by at least 50%.
- It contains 40,000 ppm of nitrogen in a 500 ml bottle which is equivalent to the impact of nitrogen nutrient provided by one bag of conventional urea.
- Nano nitrogen (Nano Urea) can enhance farmer's crop yields beside nitrogen saving to the extent of 50%.

Importance of Nano urea:

- The excess conventional urea causes environmental pollution, harms soil health, and makes plants more susceptible to disease & insect infestation, delayed maturity of the crop & production loss.
- Nano Urea Liquid makes the crops stronger, and healthy and protects them from the lodging effect.
- It will lead to a reduction in Global Warming.
- It will improve the quality of underground water by polluting it less.
- It will cut down post-harvesting costs and increase farmers' income.
- Increased availability to crop by more than 80% resulting in higher Nutrient Use efficiency.

- Its application to crops as foliar fertilization enhances crop productivity to the tune of 8% with commensurate benefits in terms of better soil, air and water, and farmers profitability.

Concerns:

- When absorbed, urea is water soluble and already has the lowest concentration.
- It is unclear how even smaller nanoparticles can boost nitrogen uptake efficiency.
- Furthermore, scientists are unsure whether the product can reduce farmers' reliance on urea on its own.
- As basal nitrogen from urea is required during the early stages of crop development, conventional urea cannot be avoided.

Adoption of Nano urea:

- Awareness has to be built among farmers about nano urea and they will start using it.
- Farmers had not accepted chemical fertilizers too very soon.
- Nano urea was approved after all scientific studies by several governmental institutions and departments.
- It will not harm soil health.
- A 500-ml bottle of nano urea will replace one bag of 45 kilograms of urea. It will reduce the transportation costs as well.
- Farmers will happily accept nano urea according to the Minister.
- The country cannot compromise on food security, and farmers' income should also not come down.

## MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

**Q. What do you think are the issues with the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023? Discuss the possible consequences of the ordinance.**

<p><b>Why this question</b></p>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p>UPSC PYQs</p>
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	Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that had led to recent reported conflicts between the selected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics. (2016)								
<u>First step is to understand the demand of the question</u>	Question has two parts: <div>1. Issues with the ordinance</div> <div>2. Consequences of the ordinance</div>								
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	<b>Issue of “Triple Chain of Accountability”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May 2023, the Supreme Court explicitly recognised this by formulating the concept of the “triple chain of accountability”.</li> <li>The triple chain of accountability is integral to representative democracy and proceeds as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil servants are accountable to the cabinet.</li> <li>The cabinet is accountable to the legislature, or the Legislative Assembly.</li> <li>The Legislative Assembly is (periodically) accountable to the electorate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Any action that severs this “triple chain of accountability” fundamentally undermines the core constitutional principle of representative government, which is at the bedrock of our democracy.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Governance Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ordinance has created confusion and uncertainty among the civil service</li> </ul>	

	<p>officers working in Delhi government departments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ordinance has also affected the delivery of public services and welfare schemes in Delhi.</li> </ul> <p><b>Consequences of the Ordinance:</b></p> <p>It may create a constitutional crisis and a power tussle between the Centre and the Delhi government over the control of civil services in the national capital.</p> <p>It may undermine the autonomy and democracy of the Delhi government and the will of the people who elected it.</p> <p>It may hamper the effective administration and governance of Delhi, as the civil service officers may face uncertainty and confusion over their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>It may invite legal challenges and judicial scrutiny, as the ordinance seems to violate the Supreme Court's judgment and Article 239AA of the Constitution.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p>	<p>The ordinance seeks to establish for the first time the National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA). It will be headed by the Chief Minister of Delhi, with the Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary of Delhi being the other two members. The ordinance stated that the LG will pass orders to give effect to the recommendations passed by the NCCSA.</p> <p>However, LG can ask for the relevant material with regard to officers belonging to All India Services and DANICS serving the Delhi government. In case the LG differs with the recommendation made, he/she may return the recommendation to the Authority for reconsideration by the Authority. For this, reasons will have to be recorded in writing.</p> <p>However, as per the ordinance, in case of difference of opinion, the decision of the LG shall be final. There is no specific provision in the ordinance</p>



regarding the transfer posting, discipline etc. of Group B and Group C officers, which seems to indicate that the elected government of Delhi would continue to have control over these officers.

