

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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#DAILY UPDATES

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1) **INDIA, CHINA RAMP UP INFRA ON NORTH BANK OF PANGONG LAKE: The Hindu – Page 11**

Why is it in news?	While China is rushing to complete a bridge across the Pangong Tso, connecting the north and south banks, India is also building a black-topped road on its side on the north bank.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	Prelims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current events of National and International Importance. Mains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Studies-III: Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
Important concepts	Pangong Lake
<p align="center">PRELIMS PYQ EXERCISE-FIND ANSWER:</p> <p>Q. Zoji La is a Pass between (1990)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kashmir valley and Ladakh Lahul valley and Spiti Chumbi valley and Sikkim Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet 	
<p align="center">TODAY'S PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION:</p> <p>Q. Consider the following statements about Pangong Lake:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The lake's water, which is crystal clear, serves as a major source of drinking water. K2, the world's second highest peak, ends at the south bank of Pangong Tso. <p>Which among the statements mentioned above is/are incorrect?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 only 2 only Both 1 and 2 Neither 1 nor 2 <p>Correct answer: C</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pangong Tso literally translates into a "conclave lake". Pangong means conclave in Ladakhi and Tso means lake in Tibetan language. Situated at over 14,000 feet, the Lake is about 135 km long. 	

- The lake's water, while crystal clear, is brackish, making it undrinkable. K2, the world's second highest peak, ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso.



Source: The Hindu

Mains PYQ exercise:

- For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. (Answer in 150 words)10 (2020)

Today's mains practice question:

- Both India, China are recently increasing infrastructure on the north bank of Pangong lake. Discuss its implications for India.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Pangong Lake:

- Pangong Tso literally translates into a “conclave lake”.
- Pangong means conclave in Ladakhi and Tso means lake in Tibetan language.
- Situated at over 14,000 feet, the Lake is about 135 km long.
- It is formed from Tethys geosyncline.
- The Karakoram Mountain range, which crosses Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and India, with heights of over 6,000 meters including K2, the world's second highest peak, ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso.
- Its southern bank too has high broken mountains sloping towards Spangur Lake in the south.
- The lake's water, while crystal clear, is brackish, making it undrinkable.
- There is a dispute here because the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which is the line that separates Indian and Chinese troops since 1962 – generally runs along the land except for the width of Pangong Tso. Here, it runs through water.

- Both sides have marked their areas announcing which side belongs to which country.
- India controls about 45 km stretch of the Pangong Tso and China the rest.
- China wants to encroach areas alongside Pangong Tso because Pangong Tso is strategically crucial as it is very close to Chusul Valley, which was one of the battlefronts between India and China during the 1962 war.
- China appears to keep India constricted in the region by taking strategic advantage of looking over the Chusul Valley, which it can do if it advances along Pangong Tso.
- China also does not want India to boost its infrastructure anywhere near the LAC. China fears it threatens its occupation of Aksai Chin and Lhasa-Kashgar highway.
- Any threat to this highway also puts Chinese rather imperialist plans in Pakistan-occupied territories in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, and beyond in Pakistan.

2) **MAKE OLDER CHILDREN IN CARE HOMES LEGALLY FREE FOR ADOPTION, SAYS IRANI: The Hindu – Page 11**

Why is it in news?	Addressing a regional symposium on “Child protection, safety and child welfare”, attended by members of child welfare committees and officials from child care institutions, Ms. Irani asked the committees to visit child care homes and review the cases of older children who could be made free for adoption at the earliest.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	<p>Prelims: Economic and Social Development-Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.</p> <p>Mains: General Studies-II: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resource</p>
Important concepts	<p>National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)</p> <p>Mission Vatsalya</p>

TODAY'S PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION:

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been constituted by the Government of India, under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
2. Mission Vatsalya aims to provide care and protection to old people.

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: A

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been constituted by the Government of India, under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 to exercise and performs the powers and functions assigned to it under CPCR Act, 2005.
- The commission consist of the following members namely, a chairperson who, is a person of eminence and has done a outstanding work for promoting the welfare of children; and Six members, out of which at least two are woman, from the following fields, is appointed by the Central Government from amongst person of eminence, ability, integrity, standing and experience in-
 - i. Education;
 - ii. Child health, care, welfare or child development;
 - iii. Juvenile justice or care of neglected or marginalized children or children with disabilities;
 - iv. Elimination of child labour or children in distress;
 - v. Child psychology or sociology; and
 - vi. Laws relating to children.
- Mission Vatsalya is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Mission Vatsalya aims to provide care and protection to children in need.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) emphasizes the principle of universality and inviolability of child rights and recognizes the tone of urgency in all the child related policies of the country.
- For the Commission, protection of all children in the 0 to 18 years age group is of equal importance.
- Thus, policies define priority actions for the most vulnerable children.
- This includes focus on regions that are backward or on communities or children under certain circumstances, and so on.
- The NCPCR believes that while in addressing only some children, there could be a fallacy of exclusion of many vulnerable children who may not fall under the defined or targeted categories.
- In its translation into practice, the task of reaching out to all children gets compromised and a societal tolerance of violation of child rights continues.
- This would in fact have an impact on the program for the targeted population as well.
- Therefore, it considers that it is only in building a larger atmosphere in favour of protection of children's rights, that children who are targeted become visible and gain confidence to access their entitlements.

- The Functions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights are laid out in the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been constituted by the Government of India, under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 to exercise and performs the powers and functions assigned to it under CPCR Act, 2005.

Mission Vatsalya:

- The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) conducted a three-day Refresher Training Programme on Mission Vatsalya, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, at its Regional Centre in Mohali from 29th to 31st May 2023.
- The objective of the programme was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the functionaries involved in the implementation of Mission Vatsalya, which aims to provide care and protection to children in need.
- The programme was attended by 33 participants from various states and union territories.
- The programme also included interactive sessions, group work, case studies, field visits and feedback from the participants.
- They also suggested some areas for improvement such as more time for field visits, more practical exercises and more exposure to innovative models of child care and protection.
- The programme covered various topics related to the mission, such as: the roles and responsibilities of statutory bodies such as Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Special Juvenile Police Units, etc.
- The quality standards and guidelines for service delivery services such as Child Care Institutions, Adoption Agencies, Foster Care, Sponsorship, etc.
- The strategies and best practices for upscaling institutional care and services for children who cannot be placed in family-based care.
- The challenges and opportunities for encouraging non-institutional community-based care such as family preservation, reunification, kinship care, etc.
- The training and capacity building needs and methods of duty holders such as social workers, counsellors, caregivers, etc.

3) MPS ON STANDING COMMITTEE GIVEN PAPER THAT SAYS UCC IS 'NOT NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE': The Hindu – Page 12

Why is it in news?	The parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice, headed by Sushil Modi, BJP MP, will meet soon to begin deliberations on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
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UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	Prelims: Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution Mains: General Studies-II: Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
Important concepts	Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

PRELIMS PYQ EXERCISE-FIND ANSWER:

Q. Consider the following provisions under the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the Constitution of India (2012)

1. Securing for citizens of India a uniform civil code
2. Organizing village Panchayats
3. Promoting cottage industries in rural areas
4. Securing for all the workers reasonable leisure and cultural opportunities.

Which of the above are the Gandhian Principles that are reflected in the Directive Principles of State Policy?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

TODAY'S PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION:

Q. Consider the following statements about the Uniform Civil Code (UCC):

1. It provides for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters.
2. The opposition to the UCC has been the strongest in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, which have around 80% of Muslim population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc. The opposition to the UCC has been the strongest in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, where Christians account for 74.59%, 86.97%, and 87.93%, respectively, of the population, according to the 2011 Census. The northeast is one of the most culturally diverse regions in the world and is home to 220 ethnic communities. Many fear that the UCC would affect their customary laws protected by the Constitution.

Mains PYQ exercise:

- Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy (2015)

Today's mains practice question:

- Discuss the issues and challenges regarding the implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in our country.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Uniform Civil Code (UCC):

- Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- Article 44 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- DPSP as defined in Article 37, are not justiciable (not enforceable by any court) but the principles laid down therein are fundamental in governance.
- The UCC is envisaged to be a common set of personal laws on marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and succession that would be applicable to all citizens irrespective of religious affiliations.
- India's colonial era saw discussions of a uniform civil code.
- As a result, it has a long history and got its start when the British government submitted a report in 1835 calling for the codification of Indian laws in a standard manner to facilitate the administration of justice.
- Prior to independence, that is, during the colonial era, criminal laws were codified and made universally applicable.
- While the personal laws were still governed by several community-specific ordinances.
- The Indian Constitution was written during the Post-Colonial period (1947–1985).

- The opposition from religious fanatics and the uninformed masses was a major factor in the notable leaders' campaign for a uniform civil code.
- The Hindu Code Bill, Succession Act, Hindu Marriage Act, Minority and Guardianship Act, and Adoptions and Maintenance Act, to name a few, were some of the reforms that were implemented at that time.

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. Discuss the issues and challenges regarding the implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in our country.

<p>Why this question</p>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p>UPSC PYQs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy (2015) 						
<p><u>First step is to understand the demand of the question</u></p>	<p>Question has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is uniform civil code in India? 2. Issues and challenges regarding implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) 						
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc. Uniform civil code is the proposal to replace the personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in India with a common set governing every citizen. Article 44 of Indian constitution mention UCC and left on state for its implementation.</p>						
<p>Body</p>	<p>Issues & Challenges regarding UCC</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Issues & Challenges</td><td>Gender inequality</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>National integration</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Dimension	Content	Issues & Challenges	Gender inequality		National integration
Dimension	Content						
Issues & Challenges	Gender inequality						
	National integration						

	No common ground
	Threat to communal harmony of India
	May not consider the diversities of India
	Not enforceable by courts of law
	Can harm the national integration
	Public still not fully aware of UCC
	Fear of losing their culture in public
Conclusion:	In the context of the misconceptions of people regarding the implementation of Uniform Civil Code, the Government has to bring about small reforms, correcting some inherent irrationality in some of the personal laws, and make them suitable for modern times. The major focus should also be on removing disparities between different religions. This might lay the foundation of implementing a UCC at a later date, as the nation is not fully ready for the implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as of now.

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