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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 17-07-2024

GS-2

1. Money bill
2. Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme
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GS-3

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Money bill

Syllabus: GS-2; Parliament

Context

- *The Supreme Court agreed to consider a submission for setting up a constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act as money bills allegedly to bypass the Rajya Sabha.*

Money Bill in India

- *A Money Bill is a special type of financial legislation that exclusively deals with matters related to taxation, borrowing, expenditure, and appropriation of funds by the government.*
- *It is a critical tool for the government to manage its finances and allocate resources effectively.*

Constitutional Provisions Related to Money Bills

Article 110: Definition of Money Bills

- *The primary constitutional provisions governing Money Bills in India are enshrined in Article 110 of the Constitution.*
- *This article outlines the specific conditions under which a bill is deemed to be a Money Bill. It includes provisions related to:*
- *Imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, or regulation of any tax.*
- *Regulation of borrowing of money by the Central Government.*
- *Custody of the Consolidated Fund or Contingency Fund of India.*
- *Appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India.*
- *Declaring any expenditure to be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.*
- *Receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India.*
- *Any matter incidental to the matters mentioned above.*
- *While Article 110 is the core provision, other articles also indirectly relate to Money Bills:*

Article 109: Deals with the procedure regarding the passage of bills.

Article 117: Relates to Financial Bills, which are broader than Money Bills.

- *Essentially, Article 110 is the cornerstone of the legal framework for Money Bills in India.*

Key Features of a Money Bill:

- **Originates in Lok Sabha:** Unlike other bills that can be introduced in either House of Parliament, Money Bills must originate in the Lok Sabha (Lower House).
- **Exclusive Domain:** It can only contain provisions related to the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, or regulation of any tax; the regulation of any duties of excise; the imposition of any surcharge for any purpose; the borrowing of money by the Central Government; the appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India; and the declaring of any expenditure to be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Limited Rajya Sabha Role:** The Rajya Sabha (Upper House) can only consider a Money Bill for a maximum of 14 days and can suggest amendments. However, the Lok Sabha has the power to accept or reject these amendments.
- **Speaker's Certificate:** The Speaker of the Lok Sabha certifies whether a bill is a Money Bill, and this certificate is final.

Importance of Money Bills:

- **Financial Stability:** They help maintain fiscal discipline and control public expenditure.
- **Resource Allocation:** They facilitate the allocation of funds for various government programs and projects.
- **Revenue Generation:** They contribute to the government's revenue through taxation and other financial measures.

Significance of the Money Bill Process:

- The process for passing a Money Bill ensures that the Lok Sabha, being directly elected by the people, has primary control over financial matters.
- This reflects the principle of democratic accountability.

Issues Related to Money Bills in India

- **Inclusion of Non-Financial Matters:** The most contentious issue is the inclusion of non-financial provisions in Money Bills. This allows the government to circumvent the Rajya Sabha's scrutiny, as Money Bills cannot be amended or rejected by the Upper House.
 - Examples: The Aadhaar Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) amendments, and Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) amendments were introduced as Money Bills, despite having significant non-financial implications.
- **Erosion of Rajya Sabha's Powers:**

- **Limited Role:** *The Rajya Sabha's role in the Money Bill process is restricted to a maximum of 14 days, without the power to amend or reject the bill. This significantly weakens the Upper House's position in financial matters.*
- **Implications for Federalism:** *Critics argue that this undermines the federal structure of India, as the Rajya Sabha represents the states and their interests.*

➤ **Definition of Money Bill:**

- **Ambiguity:** *The definition of a Money Bill in Article 110 of the Constitution is often subject to interpretation, leading to disagreements between the government and the opposition.*
- **Political Implications:** *The classification of a bill as a Money Bill has significant political implications, as it determines the role of the Rajya Sabha.*

➤ **Impact on Financial Discipline:**

- **Overspending:** *Some argue that the government's ability to easily pass Money Bills can lead to overspending and fiscal indiscipline.*
- **Lack of Scrutiny:** *The limited scrutiny by the Rajya Sabha may reduce accountability in financial matters.*

➤ **Public Opinion and Transparency:**

- **Lack of Awareness:** *The public is often unaware of the intricacies of Money Bills and their implications, leading to a lack of public debate and scrutiny.*
- **Need for Transparency:** *There is a need for greater transparency in the process of identifying and classifying bills as Money Bills.*

Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

➤ *The Education Ministry has stopped funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the flagship school education programme, to Delhi, Punjab and West Bengal because of their reluctance to participate in the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme.*

What is the PM-SHRI scheme?

- According to the Ministry of Education, the scheme will cover 14,500 existing schools, which will be **redeveloped to reflect the key features of the new National Education Policy, 2020**.
- The plan to launch the PM SHRI scheme was first discussed with the education ministers of states and UTs, at a conference which was organised by the Ministry of Education at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in June 2020.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had then said that the initiative will be taken forward after consulting states.
- Pradhan also added that while there are exemplary schools such as **Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kendriya Vidyalayas, PM SHRI** will act as NEP labs.

How will PM-SHRI benefit schools and students?

- The institutions which will be developed under the scheme, will become 'model schools' and will capture the essence of NEP.
- The schools will adopt a **modern, transformational and holistic approach of imparting education**.
- The schools will lay an emphasis on a **discovery-oriented, learning-centric way of teaching**.
- Smart classrooms, sports, and latest technology will also be the focus.
- The schools will be upgraded with labs, libraries, and art rooms.
- They will be developed as green schools with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure, and integration of the organic lifestyle as part of the curriculum.
- According to NEP's vision, the PM-SHRI scheme aims to provide high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive, and joyful school environment, one that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs and different academic abilities of children.
- It also aims to ensure that students are participants in their learning process.

What is a centrally sponsored scheme?

- Since the PM-SHRI scheme is sponsored by the Central government, the 60 per cent cost of the implementation cost will be borne by the Centre, while the remaining 40 per cent will be borne by the state or UT.
- However, in some states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast, the contribution of the Central govt can go up to 90 per cent.

What are some other central schemes for students?

- In September 2021, the government approved a new meal scheme, the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme (PM Poshan Scheme)** for government and government-aided schools. The original midday meal scheme is a part of this programme.
- Under this initiative, the government provides hot-cooked meals to students, which is expected to benefit about 118 million students, studying in classes 1 to 8 across the country.
- The centre has also launched some scholarship schemes, which include **PRAGATI (Scholarship for Girl Students)** and **PM Yashasvi Scheme** for students from the Other Backward Classes, economically backward classes, and non-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes among others.

India-Austria relations

Syllabus: GS-2: Bilateral relations – India and Austria.

Context:

- The Prime Minister of India paid an official visit to Austria. This was the **first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Austria in 41 years**.
- The visit marks the **75th year of diplomatic relations** between India and Austria.

Prime Minister's Visit to Austria: Key Highlights

Support for Indo-Pacific Stability

- **Commitment to Free and Open Indo-Pacific:**
 - Ensuring maritime security
 - Adhering to international laws, particularly UNCLOS

Political and Security Cooperation

- **Regional Assessments:**
 - Developments in Europe and West Asia
 - Focus on restoring peace and adherence to international law
 - Special emphasis on the **Ukraine conflict**

➤ **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC):**

- *Welcomed launch of IMEC*
- *Austria's interest in engaging with the initiative*

Economic Collaboration

➤ **Future-Oriented Partnership:**

- *Focus on green and digital technologies*
- *Infrastructure development*
- *Renewable energy and smart cities*

➤ **Business Forum:**

- *First high-level bilateral Business Forum convened*
- *Promoted partnerships across sectors*
- *Encouraged CEO-level interactions for exploring new opportunities*

Climate Commitments

➤ **Collaboration under UNFCCC:**

- *Focus on renewable energy*
- *Austria's Hydrogen Strategy and India's Green Hydrogen Mission*

➤ **Climate Goals:**

- *Limiting global temperature increase to below 2°C*
- *EU's target for climate neutrality by 2050, Austria's goal for 2040, and India's net zero emissions aim by 2070*

Technology and Innovation

➤ **Fostering Innovation:**

- *Start-Up Bridge initiatives*
- *Exchanges under Austria's Global Incubator Network and India's Start-Up India*

➤ **Digital Technologies in Industry:**

- *Emphasis on Industry 4.0*

- *Sustainable economy initiatives*

Cultural Exchanges

➤ **Cultural Diplomacy:**

- *Promotion of yoga, Ayurveda, and other cultural exchanges*

Multilateral Cooperation

➤ **Commitment to Multilateralism:**

- *Supported comprehensive UN reforms*
- *India supported Austria's UNSC candidature for 2027-28*
- *Austria supported India's candidature for 2028-29*

➤ **International Solar Alliance (ISA):**

- *India invited Austria to join ISA*
- *Collaboration in renewable energy and sustainable development*

India-Austria Relations: Historical Overview

Political Relations

➤ **Diplomatic Relations:**

- *Established in 1949*
- *Celebrating 75th year of bilateral relations from November 2023 to November 2024*

➤ **Historical Support:**

- *India's role in Austria's negotiations with the Soviet Union for independence in 1955*

Economic Cooperation

➤ **Significant Economic Partner:**

- *Austria, a key link for India in Europe, especially central and Eastern Europe*

➤ **Indo-Austrian Joint Economic Commission (JEC):**

- *Established in 1983 for bilateral interaction between governmental Ministries and Chambers of Commerce and Industry*

➤ **Trade Statistics:**

- *2021: Indian exports to Austria - USD 1.29 billion, imports from Austria - USD 1.18 billion, total trade - USD 2.47 billion*
- *2022: Bilateral trade reached USD 2.84 billion, a 14.97% rise from the previous year*

➤ **Key Exports and Imports:**

- **Indian exports:** *Electronic goods, apparel, textiles, footwear, rubber articles, vehicles, and railway parts*
- **Austrian exports to India:** *Machinery, mechanical appliances, railway parts, iron, and steel*

Space Cooperation

➤ **Satellite Launches:**

- *Austria's first two satellites, TUGSAT-1/BRITE and UniBRITE, launched from India's Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, in 2013*

Cultural Relations

➤ **Historical Ties:**

- *Indo-Austrian cultural relationship dates back to 1505 with Balthasar Springer*
- *Sanskrit teaching at Vienna University started in 1845, reaching a high point in 1880 with an independent chair for Indology*

➤ **Rabindranath Tagore's Visits:**

- *Nobel Laureate visited Vienna in 1921 and 1926*
- *Lectures on "The Religion of the Forest" emphasizing nature, union, and compassion*

➤ **Popularity of Ayurveda and Yoga:**

- *Numerous Yoga schools in Vienna promoting Indian cultural practices*

Austria Geographic Location:

- *Located in southern Central Europe*
- **Borders eight countries:** *Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein.*



Physical Geography

➤ Mountainous Terrain:

- *Highly mountainous due to its location within the Alps mountain range*
- *Austrian Alps, also known as the Central Alps, form the country's backbone*

Capital: Vienna

Practice Question

Q. Discuss the evolving strategic partnership between India and Austria, highlighting key areas of cooperation and their significance in the context of regional and global dynamics. (10 marks, 150 words)

Injection borewells

Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture, Ground water management

Context

- *Citizens adopt injection borewells to meet growing water needs of Visakhapatnam*

About

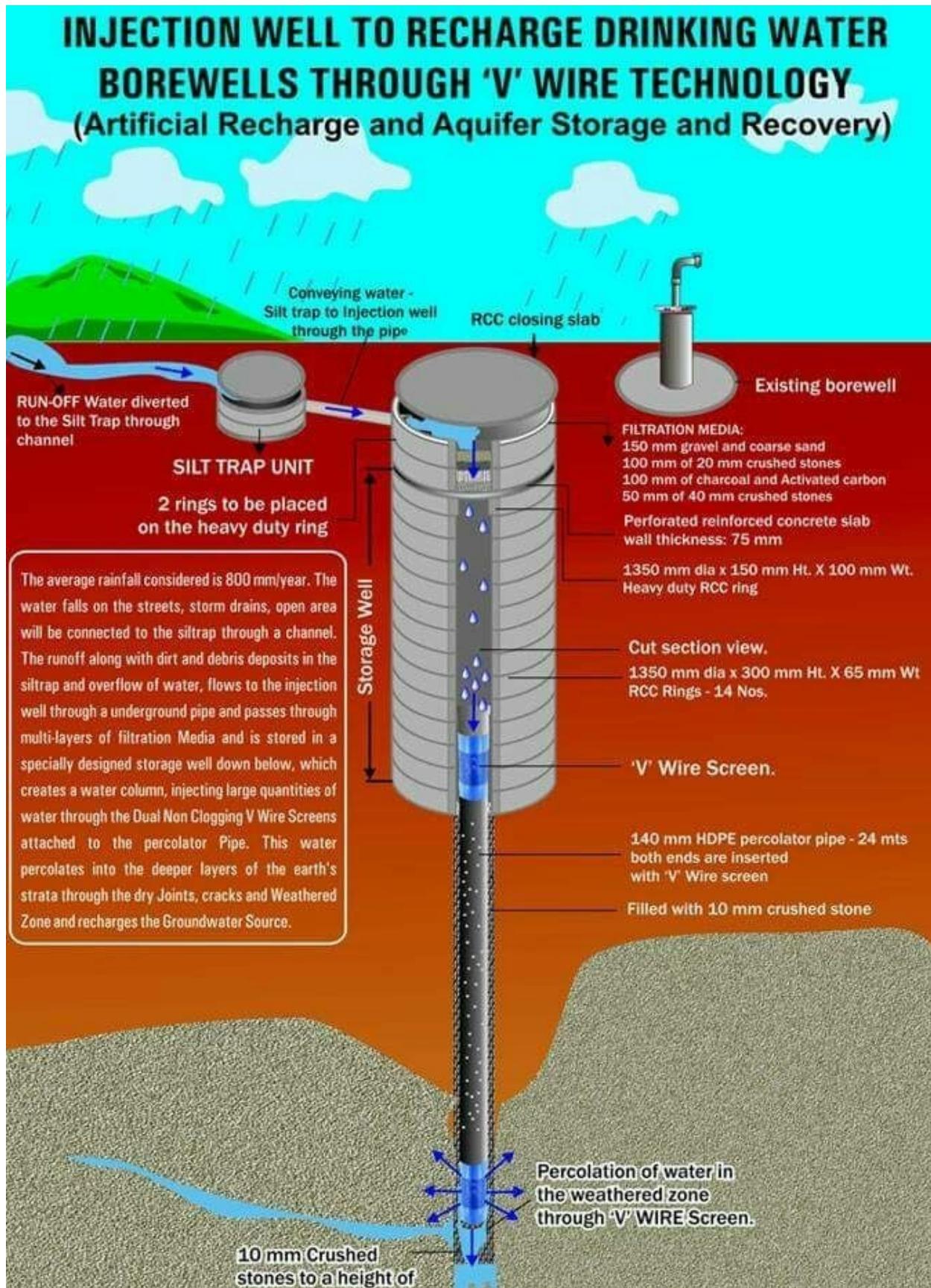
- *Injection borewells are essentially wells that are used to artificially recharge groundwater.*
- *Unlike traditional borewells that extract water, these wells pump water back into the aquifer.*
- *This process is crucial in areas facing water scarcity and declining groundwater levels.*

How do Injection Borewells Work?

- **Water Collection:** Rainwater or treated wastewater is collected from rooftops, open areas, or other sources.
- **Filtration:** The collected water undergoes filtration to remove impurities and contaminants.
- **Injection:** The clean water is then pumped into the injection borewell, which is designed to penetrate deep into the aquifer.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** The injected water replenishes the underground water reserves, helping to maintain or increase groundwater levels.

Significance of Injection Borewells

- **Groundwater Level Restoration:** By replenishing aquifers, injection borewells help to raise declining groundwater levels.
- **Water Scarcity Mitigation:** They provide a sustainable solution to water scarcity, especially in arid and semi-arid regions.
- **Reduced Dependence on Surface Water:** By augmenting groundwater resources, reliance on surface water bodies can be reduced.
- **Improved Water Quality:** In some cases, injection of treated wastewater can help improve groundwater quality through dilution.
- **Environmental Benefits:** They contribute to ecosystem health by maintaining groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
- **Cost-Effective:** Compared to traditional water storage methods, injection borewells are often more cost-effective in the long run.



Challenges and Considerations

- **Site Selection:** Proper site selection is crucial to ensure effective recharge and prevent waterlogging.
- **Water Quality:** The quality of injected water must be carefully monitored to avoid contamination of the aquifer.
- **Maintenance:** Regular maintenance is required to prevent clogging and ensure optimal performance.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Adherence to local regulations and guidelines is essential.

Conclusion

- *Injection borewells are a valuable tool for managing groundwater resources and combating water scarcity. Their increasing adoption highlights the growing recognition of the importance of groundwater recharge in sustainable water management.*

Why are dengue cases on the rise worldwide

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – diseases.

Context:

- *In the past few weeks, cases of dengue have been rising in some parts of the country.*
- **Karnataka, in particular, has been experiencing a rapid surge in cases in the last few days, while the cases have been climbing up in Kerala and Tamil Nadu as well.**

Global Dengue Situation

World Health Organization (WHO) Data

- **Overview:** As of April 30, 2024, over 7.6 million cases of dengue reported worldwide.
 - *Confirmed cases: 3.4 million.*
 - *Severe cases: Over 16,000.*
 - *Deaths: Over 3,000.*
- **Affected Regions:** 90 countries have known active dengue transmission.
 - *Many countries underreport due to weak detection and reporting mechanisms.*

Key Insights from WHO

- **Monsoon Impact:** *Monsoon season in at least five countries, including India, enhances mosquito breeding conditions.*
- **Urbanization:** *Increasing urban areas and population movements contribute to higher transmission rates.*
- **Incidence Growth:** *Dengue incidence has grown dramatically in recent decades.*
 - *Half of the world's population is now at risk.*
 - *Annual infections: Estimated 100-400 million.*
 - *Most affected regions: Americas, South-East Asia, and Western Pacific.*
 - *New areas affected: Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, and South America.*

Dengue Transmission and Treatment

Transmission

- **Vector:** *Dengue virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes aegypti mosquito.*
- **Symptoms:**
 - *Common: Headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, and hemorrhagic manifestations.*
 - *Severe: Shock, severe bleeding, organ impairment.*
- **Clinical Features:**
 - *Acute febrile illness lasting 2-7 days.*
 - *Requires two or more symptoms for diagnosis as per National Guidelines for Clinical Management of Dengue Fever.*

Treatment

- **Management:** *Varies based on illness severity.*
 - *Mild cases: Managed through symptomatic and supportive treatment.*
 - *Severe cases: Require more intensive medical intervention.*

Emerging Patterns and Prevention

Research Focus

➤ **Areas of Attention:**

- *Surveillance of dengue trends.*
- *Vector control measures to reduce mosquito populations.*
- *Prevention strategies to limit disease transmission.*
- *Ensuring access to proper medical care.*
- *Early and prompt diagnosis.*
- *Effective management of dengue cases.*

Risk Factors

- **Vector Distribution:** *Changing patterns of Aedes aegypti distribution.*
- **Urbanization:** *Expansion of urban areas creates conducive environments for mosquitoes.*
- **Climate Change:** *Shifts in weather patterns influence mosquito breeding and survival.*