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## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 23-09-2024**

### **GS-2**

- 1. Appointment of judges**

### **GS-3**

- 2. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**
- 3. White revolution 2.0**
- 4. Pheromone dispenser**
- 5. Amur Falcon**

## Appointment of judges

**Syllabus: GS-2; Judiciary**

### **Context**

- Recently The Supreme Court asked the government to explain its reasons for sitting on names reiterated by the apex court Collegium for months or even years together, reminding the Centre that it cannot treat the Collegium like a mere "search committee" whose recommendations can be ignored or accepted at the Union's discretion.

### **About**

#### **Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Article 124:** Deals with the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court of India.
- **Article 217:** Pertains to the appointment of judges to the High Courts.
- **Article 222:** Provides for the transfer of judges from one High Court to another.

#### **Appointment of Supreme Court Judges:**

- The President of India appoints the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and other judges of the Supreme Court.
- The President consults the Chief Justice of India and other senior judges for these appointments.
- The senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is typically appointed as the CJI, following the seniority principle.
- For other judges, the Collegium System plays a key role in recommending appointments.

#### **Collegium System:**

- It is a judicial innovation, introduced through Supreme Court judgments, and is not mentioned in the Constitution.
- The system was established through three key judgments known as the Three Judges Cases:
  - **First Judges Case (1981):** The court ruled that the President's appointment power was dominant and did not have to follow the Chief Justice's recommendation.
  - **Second Judges Case (1993):** This overturned the earlier verdict, establishing the primacy of the Chief Justice's opinion in consultation with senior judges.

- **Third Judges Case (1998):** This reaffirmed the supremacy of the Collegium, expanding it to include the Chief Justice and four senior-most judges for appointments.

### Composition:

- For Supreme Court appointments, the Collegium comprises the CJI and four senior-most judges.
- For High Court appointments, the Collegium includes the CJI and two senior-most Supreme Court judges.

### Process of Appointment:

#### For Supreme Court Judges:

- The Collegium recommends names to the government.
- The government may seek clarifications or return names for reconsideration but must appoint the judges if the Collegium reiterates its recommendation.

#### For High Court Judges:

- The process involves the respective High Court Collegium, the Supreme Court Collegium, and the state government.
- Recommendations are made by the High Court Collegium and passed to the Supreme Court Collegium, which forwards them to the Union Law Ministry for the President's approval.

### National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC):

- The NJAC was proposed through the **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014**, to replace the Collegium system.
- The NJAC was to consist of:
  - Chief Justice of India (Chairperson).
  - Two senior-most Supreme Court judges.
  - The Union Law Minister.
  - Two eminent persons nominated by a committee of the Prime Minister, CJI, and Leader of the Opposition.
- **Supreme Court Verdict:** In 2015, the NJAC Act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in a 4:1 majority verdict, citing that it violated the independence of the judiciary, a basic structure of the Constitution.

### Issues with the Collegium System:

- **Transparency:** The Collegium's workings lack transparency, with no formal criteria or record of discussions.

- **Accountability:** *The system is seen as being largely self-regulatory with little external oversight.*
- **Nepotism:** *Concerns about favoritism and lack of objectivity in the selection process.*
- **Delay in Appointments:** *Often, there is a long delay in filling judicial vacancies, leading to a large number of pending cases in courts.*

### **Recent Developments:**

- *The judiciary and the government often clash over the **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)** for the appointment of judges.*
- *The MoP is supposed to streamline the process, but disagreements have delayed its finalization.*
- *Increasing debate over whether to reintroduce a reformed NJAC to balance transparency and judicial independence.*

### **Appointment of High Court Judges:**

- *Judges of the High Court are appointed by the President after consulting the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the state, and, in case of the appointment of a judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court.*
- *The process typically follows a bottom-up approach, where the High Court collegium initiates the recommendation, which then passes through the Supreme Court Collegium.*

### **Transfer of Judges:**

- *Under Article 222, the President, after consulting with the Chief Justice of India, may transfer a judge from one High Court to another.*
- *The objective of transfers is often to prevent the possibility of favoritism, local bias, or undue influence of local factors.*

### **Retirement and Post-Retirement Roles:**

- *Supreme Court judges retire at the **age of 65**, while High Court judges **retire at 62**.*
- *After retirement, judges are often appointed to key positions in various tribunals, commissions, and boards, which has raised concerns over post-retirement benefits impacting judicial independence.*

### **Key Committees and Recommendations:**

- **Law Commission of India:** *Has repeatedly recommended reforms to make the process more transparent and efficient.*

- **Constitutional Review Commissions:** *Have debated on whether the Collegium system or the NJAC model should be adopted, while stressing the need for judicial independence.*

## **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

### **Syllabus: GS-3; Economy**

#### **Context**

- *The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), following the release of its mutual evaluation report of India, said the country had achieved a high level of technical compliance across the FATF recommendations and had taken significant steps to implement measures to tackle illicit finance.*

#### **About**

- *The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1989 with the primary objective of combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and other threats to the integrity of the global financial system.*
- *FATF sets international standards and works to promote the effective implementation of legal, regulatory, and operational measures to combat these issues.*

#### **History and Objectives**

- **Established:** July 1989
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Parent Organization:** G7 Summit
- **Members:** 39 Members (37 countries + 2 regional organizations)

#### **Key Objectives**

- *To set global standards for anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT).*
- *To ensure that jurisdictions implement these standards effectively through evaluation and monitoring.*
- *To identify emerging threats to the financial system and develop policies to address them.*

#### **FATF Standards (Recommendations)**

- The FATF has developed a comprehensive framework of 40 recommendations that countries should adopt. These recommendations are divided into two main parts:
  - **AML Measures:** For combating money laundering activities.
  - **CFT Measures:** For countering the financing of terrorism.
- Key areas include:
  - Customer due diligence (Know Your Customer - KYC).
  - Record-keeping and reporting of suspicious transactions.
  - Regulation and supervision of financial institutions.
  - International cooperation between jurisdictions.
  - Freezing and confiscating assets linked to illegal activity.

## FATF Monitoring and Evaluation

- FATF conducts regular peer reviews of member countries, known as Mutual Evaluations, to assess their compliance with FATF standards. These evaluations include:
  - Technical compliance with FATF recommendations.
  - Effectiveness of national systems in combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
  - Based on these evaluations, the FATF assigns ratings and issues reports that highlight areas where countries must improve.

## FATF Lists

FATF maintains two types of lists to monitor jurisdictions that pose risks to the global financial system:

- **Grey List (Increased Monitoring):**
  - Countries that have deficiencies in their AML/CFT systems but have committed to an action plan to address these.
  - Grey-listed countries face enhanced scrutiny from FATF and must implement the necessary reforms.
- **Black List (High-Risk Jurisdictions):**
  - Countries that are non-cooperative or have severe deficiencies in their AML/CFT measures.
  - Blacklisted countries face serious economic consequences, including restricted access to international financial markets and banking systems.

## FATF and Global Impact

- **International Cooperation:** FATF collaborates with organizations like the IMF, World Bank, and the UN to ensure global compliance with its standards.

- **Impact on Countries:** *Non-compliance with FATF standards can lead to sanctions, reduced foreign investment, and restricted international trade.*
- **Success Stories:** *Countries like Pakistan have improved their financial oversight by following FATF's action plans, enabling them to be removed from the Grey List.*

## FATF and Emerging Threats

*FATF also monitors emerging global threats to financial security, including:*

- **Cryptocurrencies:** *Development of guidelines to regulate digital assets and prevent their misuse for money laundering and terrorist financing.*
- **Proliferation Financing:** *Targeting the illegal financing of weapons of mass destruction.*
- **Environmental Crime:** *Addressing the growing financial flows associated with environmental crime, such as illegal wildlife trafficking and deforestation.*

## Membership and Observers

- *FATF has 39 members, including major economies like the USA, China, India, the UK, and the EU.*
- *Several international and regional organizations, including the IMF, World Bank, and the UN, participate as observers.*

## Challenges and Criticisms

- **Effectiveness:** *Some critics argue that while FATF has improved global awareness, implementation of its standards remains inconsistent across different jurisdictions.*
- **Political Influence:** *There are concerns about potential politicization, with countries accused of influencing FATF decisions for geopolitical reasons.*

## Conclusion

- *The FATF plays a critical role in safeguarding the integrity of the global financial system by setting international standards and promoting compliance.*
- *Through its monitoring, countries are encouraged to improve their legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms against money laundering, terrorism financing, and other financial crimes.*
- *As global threats evolve, FATF continues to adapt its recommendations to address emerging risks.*

## **White revolution 2.0**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture, Economic development**

### **Context**

- *Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0' stating that milk dairies will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition.*

### **About**

- *White Revolution 2.0 is an initiative aimed at **reinvigorating India's dairy sector** and replicating the success of the first White Revolution, also known as **Operation Flood**, which transformed India into the largest milk producer in the world.*
- *White Revolution 2.0 emphasizes modernizing and boosting milk production, improving dairy infrastructure, and promoting dairy entrepreneurship to meet the growing demand for milk and milk products, both domestically and globally.*

### **Background**

- *White Revolution 2.0 builds on the legacy of the original **White Revolution** led by **Dr. Verghese Kurien**. **Operation Flood**, launched in 1970 by the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**, is credited with making India self-sufficient in milk production.*
- *White Revolution 2.0 was introduced to tackle contemporary challenges in the dairy sector, such as stagnation in productivity, climate change impacts, and a shift in consumer demand towards high-quality and value-added dairy products.*

### **Objectives**

- **Increase Milk Production:** *Focus on enhancing the productivity of dairy animals through improved breeding, feeding practices, and healthcare.*
- **Promote Dairy Entrepreneurship:** *Encourage small farmers and rural entrepreneurs to engage in dairy farming through various schemes, grants, and subsidies.*
- **Improve Infrastructure:** *Modernize dairy processing facilities, cold storage chains, and transportation to ensure better quality and longer shelf life of milk and dairy products.*
- **Boost Export Potential:** *Position India as a global exporter of milk and value-added dairy products, tapping into international markets.*
- **Sustainable Dairy Practices:** *Promote eco-friendly and sustainable dairy farming techniques, addressing environmental concerns like methane emissions from cattle.*

## Key Components and Initiatives

- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM):** This mission focuses on the development and conservation of indigenous breeds, increasing their productivity, and promoting better breeding programs through artificial insemination.
- **National Dairy Plan Phase II (NDP II):** The NDP is designed to improve the genetic potential of dairy animals and increase milk productivity by improving feeding systems and infrastructure.
- **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF):** Launched by the Government of India, DIDF provides financial assistance to dairy cooperatives and milk producer companies to modernize processing plants and equipment.
- **Pashu Sanjivani Scheme:** Under this initiative, health cards are issued for livestock, helping monitor their health and productivity.
- **Breed Improvement Programs:** Promoting cross-breeding and genetic improvement of livestock to increase milk yield.

## Challenges Addressed

- **Low Productivity:** One of the primary challenges in the dairy sector is low productivity per animal. White Revolution 2.0 aims to tackle this through scientific breeding and feeding practices.
- **Fragmented Dairy Sector:** The dairy sector in India is largely unorganized, with small and marginal farmers dominating. The new revolution focuses on integrating these farmers into the organized sector.
- **Supply Chain Infrastructure:** Lack of adequate cold chain infrastructure leads to wastage and poor quality of milk. Improving this is a key focus of White Revolution 2.0.
- **Quality Control:** Ensuring the quality of milk and dairy products, both for domestic consumption and export, is a major priority.

## Importance of White Revolution 2.0 for India

- **Rural Employment:** The dairy sector provides employment to millions of rural households, especially women. White Revolution 2.0 enhances this by providing more opportunities for entrepreneurship and improving income levels.
- **Food Security and Nutrition:** With milk being a key source of nutrition, particularly in rural diets, boosting milk production ensures a steady supply of affordable, high-quality protein.
- **Global Competitiveness:** By improving productivity and infrastructure, India can become a global leader in milk production and dairy exports, competing with other large dairy-producing countries.

## Role of Technology and Innovation

- **Precision Dairy Farming:** *The adoption of modern technologies like automated milking machines, IoT for health monitoring of livestock, and data-driven solutions for better dairy farm management.*
- **Value-Added Products:** *Promoting the production of value-added dairy products like cheese, yogurt, and paneer to cater to changing consumer preferences and boost export potential.*

### Government Schemes Related to White Revolution 2.0

- **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD):** *Aimed at increasing productivity of milch animals and increasing milk production.*
- **Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS):** *Provides financial support for dairy entrepreneurs to set up modern dairy farms and processing units.*
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF):** *Encourages private sector involvement in establishing dairy processing and value addition infrastructure.*

## Pheromone dispenser

**Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture**

### Context

- **JNCASR & ICAR-NBAIR scientists** *develop novel sustainable and cost-effective insect lures containing pheromone dispensers for farmers to control pests that threaten their plants.*
- *It could act as an innovative solution to substantially reduce the costs of pest control and management.*

### About

- *A pheromone dispenser is a tool used in integrated pest management (IPM) to control insect populations by exploiting their natural communication system through pheromones.*
- *Pheromones are chemical signals emitted by insects, usually to attract mates.*
- *The dispenser slowly releases synthetic pheromones into the environment, disrupting the mating behavior of pest species or luring them into traps.*

### Types of Pheromone Dispensers

- **Mating Disruption Dispensers:**
  - *Release pheromones that confuse or overwhelm male insects, preventing them from finding females, thus reducing reproduction rates.*
- **Monitoring Traps:**
  - *Attract and capture specific insect species, enabling farmers to monitor pest populations and implement timely control measures.*
- **Mass Trapping:**
  - *Attract large numbers of pests, effectively reducing the overall population.*

### Uses of Pheromone Dispensers

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** *Minimizes the use of chemical pesticides, leading to environmentally friendly pest control methods.*
- **Pest Monitoring:** *Helps in tracking pest populations and predicting potential outbreaks.*
- **Crop Protection:** *Protects crops from damage by reducing pest populations and minimizing disease transmission by insects.*

### Significance

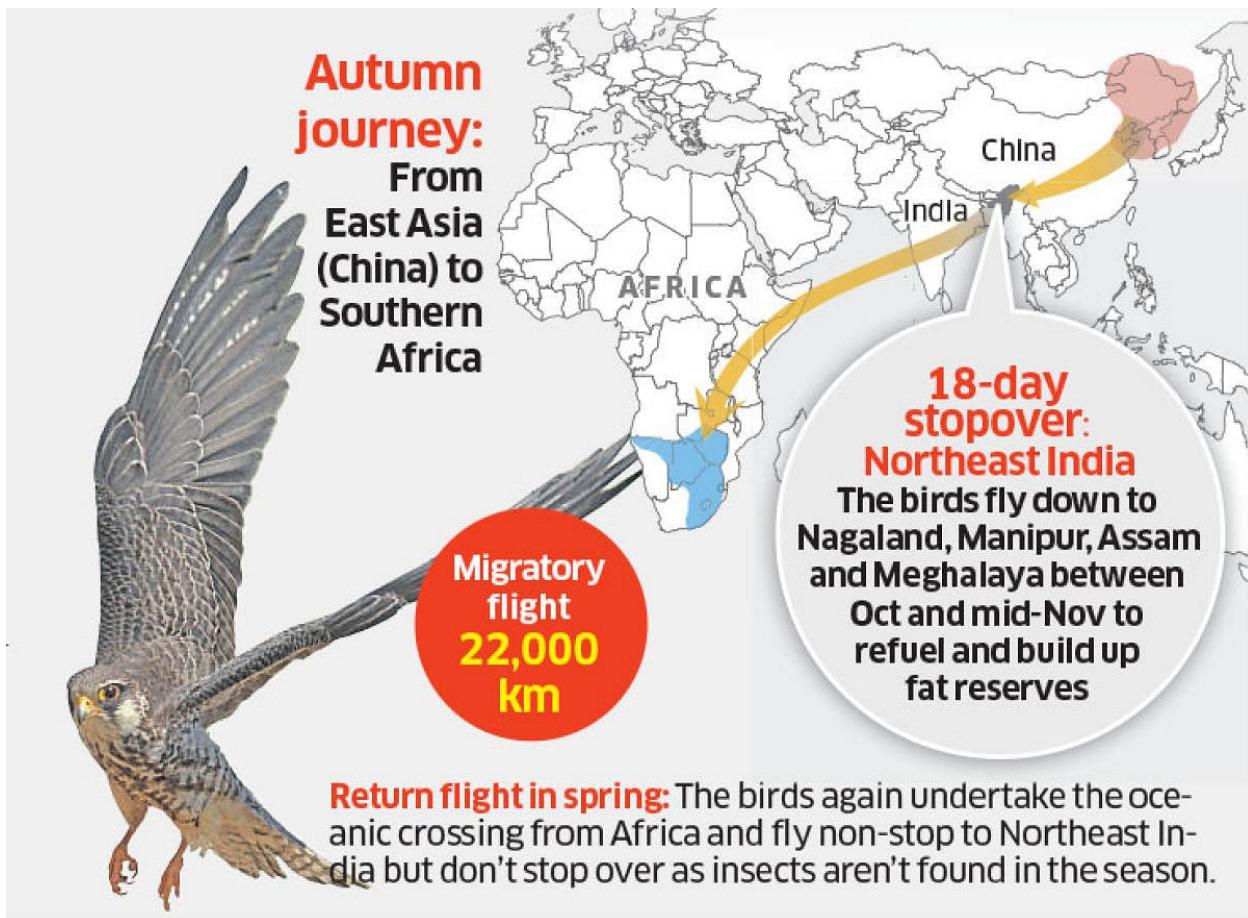
- **Environmental Conservation:**
  - *Pheromone dispensers help reduce the ecological damage caused by synthetic pesticides, making it a relevant topic for papers on environment, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation.*
- **Technological Advances in Agriculture:**
  - *In the context of agricultural reforms and technological interventions, pheromone dispensers represent modern advancements that align with organic farming practices.*
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - *The Government of India promotes IPM and the use of pheromone dispensers through schemes like the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana (PMKSY).*

## Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

### Context

- As Manipur's **Tamenglong district** gears up to welcome its winged guests, **Amur falcon (Falco Amurensis)**, the district administration imposed a ban on hunting, catching, killing and selling of the bird, locally known as '**Kahuaipuina**', with immediate effect.

### About



### Habitat and Distribution

- **Breeding Grounds:** Amur Falcons breed in eastern Russia and northern China, around the Amur River region.
- **Wintering Grounds:** They migrate to southern Africa, particularly South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia.
- **Migration Route:** Their migration is one of the longest of any raptor, traveling over 22,000 km annually. They pass through India (Northeast India, especially Nagaland and Manipur), where they stop for rest and food.

## Migration and Stopover in India

- **Nagaland (Doyang Reservoir):** *The Amur Falcon's stopover in Nagaland, particularly at the Doyang Reservoir, is one of the most famous. They arrive here in large numbers during October-November.*
- **Conservation Efforts in Nagaland:** *The region was once notorious for the mass hunting of these falcons. However, local and national conservation efforts have significantly reduced the killings.*  
*Nagaland is now known for the "Amur Falcon Festival," celebrating the bird and raising awareness.*

## Ecological Significance

- *Amur Falcons help control insect populations, particularly locusts, as they feed on large swarms during their migration.*
- *They contribute to the balance of ecosystems along their migratory route.*

## Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** *Listed as "Least Concern," but they are vulnerable to habitat loss and hunting.*
- **Threats:**
  - *Hunting during migration stopovers (earlier in Nagaland).*
  - *Habitat destruction and climate change affecting migratory patterns.*
- **Conservation Measures:**
  - *Awareness campaigns in India, particularly in Nagaland, have drastically reduced hunting.*
  - *International efforts under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).*

## Significance for India

- *India plays a critical role in the conservation of Amur Falcons as a significant migratory stopover.*
- *Efforts in Nagaland have demonstrated successful community-driven conservation models.*
- *The migration of Amur Falcons is a key ecological event and is of interest for ornithologists and conservationists.*

## Cultural Significance

- *In Northeast India, particularly Nagaland, the Amur Falcon has become a symbol of conservation success and ecological awareness.*