



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 16-12-2024

GS-2

1. India Supports UNGA Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza Conflict
2. Yuva Sahakar: Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

GS-3

3. Rising Women's Workforce Participation in India
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India Supports UNGA Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza Conflict

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations.

Context:

- India has recently joined majority of nations in supporting a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution aimed at achieving a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Overview of UNGA Resolutions

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recently adopted two key resolutions addressing the escalating Gaza conflict:

- **Ceasefire Resolution:**
 - Demanded an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.
 - Supported by 158 nations, opposed by nine, with 13 abstentions.
- **Support for UNRWA:**
 - Focused on aiding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.
 - Backed by 159 nations, opposed by nine, with 11 abstentions.

Voting Dynamics

- The resolutions highlighted diverse global perspectives on the conflict.
- **Opposition:** The United States and Israel opposed both resolutions, reflecting their geopolitical interests.
- **Abstentions:** Some nations opted for neutrality, indicating the complexities of the situation.

India's Position

- India condemned the October 7 attacks, labeling them as acts of terror.
- Advocated for:
 - **Immediate Ceasefire:** To halt violence and restore peace.
 - **Humanitarian Assistance:** Ensuring aid reaches affected populations.
 - **Hostage Release:** Urging the safe and immediate return of hostages.

- India stressed adherence to **international law** and the need for diplomatic solutions.

Humanitarian Concerns and Importance of Access

- UNGA debates underscored the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
- Many nations called for **unhindered humanitarian access** to provide relief to civilians.

Significance of UNGA Resolutions

- While not legally binding, these resolutions reflect global consensus and influence diplomatic strategies.
- The General Assembly vote follows the United States' veto of a similar ceasefire resolution in the UN Security Council.

Conclusion

India's support aligns with its historical advocacy for peace and humanitarianism. The ongoing Gaza conflict underscores the urgent need for international cooperation to address humanitarian crises and promote long-term stability in the region.

Yuva Sahakar: Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions, GS-3: Innovation and employment.

Context:

- Launched by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), the Yuva Sahakar scheme aims to promote innovative cooperative ventures, particularly targeting **young entrepreneurs**. The initiative encourages the establishment of fresh, dynamic cooperative societies across India.

Objectives

- **Support for New Cooperatives:**
 - Focused on cooperatives operational for at least **three months**.
 - Encourages **innovation** and **fresh ideas** in the cooperative sector.

➤ **Development of Cooperative Ventures:**

- Promote projects with high growth and employment potential.

Loan Features

➤ **Loan Tenure:**

- Long-term loans with a repayment period of up to **five years**.

➤ **Interest Subsidy:**

- Borrowers enjoy a **2% subsidy** on the applicable loan interest rate.

Eligibility Criteria

➤ **Operational Status:**

- Cooperative societies must be operational for a **minimum of three months**.

➤ **Entrepreneurial Focus:**

- Societies should be formed by **young entrepreneurs**.

➤ **Complementary Support:**

- Loans can be combined with other **government subsidies** for enhanced financial backing.

Regional Participation

➤ **Current Status:**

- No proposals have been received from Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the need for **greater awareness**.

➤ **Opportunity:**

- Enhanced outreach and engagement strategies can boost participation from these regions.

Significance

➤ **Promotes Youth Involvement:**

- Encourages **young minds** to venture into the cooperative movement.

➤ **Strengthens Cooperative Economy:**

- Supports sustainable development in rural and semi-urban areas.

➤ **Boosts Employment:**

- Creates opportunities for **job generation** and **economic inclusivity**.

This scheme reflects a significant step towards integrating innovation within India's cooperative framework while fostering youth-led economic development.

Rising Women's Workforce Participation in India

Syllabus: GS-3: Employment – Woman in Labour force.

Context:

- India has experienced a significant rise in women's workforce participation, particularly in rural areas.
- This development is linked to government initiatives, regional trends, and socio-demographic factors.

Government Initiatives

- **Mudra Loans**
 - Provision of financial support to women entrepreneurs.
 - Encouraged self-employment and micro-enterprises.
- **Drone Didi Initiative**
 - Focused on imparting technology-based skills to rural women.
- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana**
 - Promoted economic empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

- **Definition:** Measures the proportion of women (aged 15 and above) engaged in the workforce.
- **National Trends:**
 - **Rural LFPR:** Increased from **24.6% to 41.5%** (69% growth).
 - **Urban LFPR:** Rose from **20.4% to 25.4%** (modest improvement).

Regional Variations

- **Rural Trends**

- **Jharkhand:** LFPR increased by over 230%.
- **Bihar:** Sixfold improvement in LFPR.
- **Nagaland:** LFPR surged from **15.7% to 71.1%**.
- **Urban Trends**
 - **Gujarat:** Significant rise in urban LFPR compared to national averages.
- **Challenges:**
 - Northern states like Punjab and Haryana report persistently low LFPR.

Age and Marital Status Effects

- **Age Trends:**
 - Women's LFPR peaks between ages 30–40 but declines sharply after.
 - Men's LFPR remains high until age 50.
- **Impact of Marriage:**
 - Marriage boosts men's LFPR but reduces women's, especially in urban areas.
- **Effect of Children:**
 - Presence of children under 14 significantly lowers participation, particularly for younger women.

Conclusion and Policy Implications

- Understanding the interplay of gender, age, and marital status in workforce participation is crucial for policy-making. Strengthening childcare support, enhancing skill-based initiatives like **Drone Didi**, and addressing regional disparities can further improve women's employment opportunities.
- Focused efforts on northern states with low LFPR and married women's workforce challenges are vital for inclusive development.

First Mako Shark Tagged in Mediterranean Sea

Syllabus: GS-3: Wildlife conservation.

Context:

- In a groundbreaking development, researchers from Virginia Tech tagged a young shortfin mako shark in the Mediterranean Sea.



Tagging Process

- **First Tagging in the Mediterranean:** Researchers from Virginia Tech tagged a young shortfin mako shark during a summer 2023 trip focused on white sharks.
- **Tagging Mechanism:** A pop-off archival tag was attached to the shark, recording data on water temperature, depth, and light levels. The tag detaches after a set duration or if the shark dives below 1,800 meters, transmitting the data via satellite.
- **Conservation Goal:** The collected data will enhance understanding of mako shark movements, aiding in conservation efforts. Brendan Shea, the lead researcher, emphasized the need for further tagging to build a comprehensive dataset.

Movement Patterns Observed

- **Extensive Migration:** The tagged mako shark covered over 750 miles in just 54 days, a significant distance for a young shark (1-2 years old).

- **Implications for Conservation:** The findings suggest that protecting nursery areas alone may be insufficient, as young mako sharks demonstrate extensive migratory behavior.

Importance of Sharks in Ecosystems

- **Role in Ocean Health:** Sharks are apex predators that play a critical role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, which, in turn, support diverse human activities.
- **Interconnected Ecosystems:** Understanding shark movement patterns is vital for identifying how different marine habitats are connected, guiding targeted conservation strategies.
- **Broader Impacts:** Effective shark conservation promotes ecological balance and supports human welfare by maintaining robust marine environments.

Future Directions

- The research underscores the necessity of **continued tagging and tracking** to develop refined conservation strategies for endangered species like the shortfin mako.

Disaster Management Amendment Bill, 2024

Syllabus: GS-3: Disaster Management.

Context:

- The Union Government introduced the **Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024** in Lok Sabha to amend the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.

Key Features of the Amendment Bill

Objectives

- Mainstream disaster management into developmental planning, aligning with the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations.
- Clarify and harmonize the roles of disaster management authorities and committees.

Comparison Between DM Act, 2005 and Amendment Bill, 2024

Provisions	DM Act, 2005	DM (Amendment) Bill, 2024
Preparation of DM Plans	National and State Executive Committees prepare plans.	NDMA and SDMA will prepare national and state disaster management plans.
Functions of NDMA/SDMA	Review DM plans, set guidelines, recommend funds.	Adds new functions: periodic risk assessment, technical assistance, relief standards, and disaster databases.
Disaster Databases	No provisions.	Creation of national and state databases with detailed disaster-related data.
Appointments to NDMA	Central government provides necessary personnel.	NDMA empowered to determine personnel, subject to central approval.
Urban DM Authorities	No provisions.	States to establish Urban Disaster Management Authorities for capitals and major cities.
State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)	No provisions.	State governments to create SDRFs with defined roles and terms of service.
Statutory Committees	No provisions.	NCMC and HLC granted statutory status for crisis management and financial assistance.

Notable Additions in the Bill

- **Urban Disaster Management Authorities (UDMAs)**
 - To manage disasters in state capitals and municipal corporation areas (excluding Delhi and Chandigarh).
- **State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)**
 - Specialized force at the state level for disaster response and mitigation.
- **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)**

- Nodal body for managing disasters of national significance, led by the Cabinet Secretary.
- **High-Level Committee (HLC)**
 - Provides financial assistance to states, chaired by the Minister of Disaster Management.

Issues with the Bill

- **Financial Challenges**
 - Urban local bodies may lack resources to establish and sustain UDMA.
- **Centralization of Authority**
 - Delegated rule-making powers to the Central Government may encroach upon states' legislative autonomy.
- **Constitutionality Concerns**
 - Disaster management falls under Entry 23 (Concurrent List) but lacks explicit mention in the Seventh Schedule.
- **Restricted Definition of Disaster**
 - Does not account for emerging climate-induced disasters like heatwaves.

Disaster Management Act, 2005: Overview

- **Establishment of Authorities**
 - NDMA (headed by PM), SDMA (headed by CMs), and DDMA (led by District Magistrates).
- **Specialized Forces**
 - Creation of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for disaster-specific operations.
- **Funding Mechanisms**
 - National and State Disaster Response Funds to support relief efforts.
- **Research and Training**
 - National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) established for capacity building and awareness.

Conclusion

The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, seeks to enhance disaster risk reduction by institutionalizing new structures and addressing emerging challenges. However, effective implementation will depend on resolving issues like financial constraints, intergovernmental coordination, and addressing evolving disaster risks.