

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

M.K. Narayanan Quits

- Governor of West Bengal M.K.Narayanan resigned post Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) probe where they recorded his statement as a witness into kickbacks received in the 2010 AgustaWestland chopper deal.
- He is first governor to be questioned by an investigating agency and the 4th to resign.
- The chopper deal meeting was held in 2005 in which Mr.Narayanan and the Goa Governor B.V. Wanchoo, who will soon be questioned by the CBI too, participated.

Exams Perspective:

1. Office of Governor
2. Governor's Political versus Constitutional Role
3. Intelligence Bureau (IB)
4. Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI)
5. National Security Adviser (NSA)
6. AgustaWestland chopper deal

Katchatheevu a Settled Issue: Centre Tells the High Court

- The maritime boundary issue between India and Sri Lanka, and consequently sovereignty over the Katchatheevu Island, is a settled issue, reiterated Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- According to an affidavit filed in response to petitions, under 1974 and 1976 agreements between the two countries, fishermen were allowed to fish on their side of the IMBL.
- The agreement spoke only of the "traditional rights of vessels, not fishermen" and no fishing rights in Sri Lankan waters were bestowed on Tamil Nadu fishermen
- Fisherman Care of Pallavaram filed the petitions in 2012, to clarify the then External Affairs Minister's statement in Parliament on Tamil Nadu fishermen crossing the IMBL.
- Sri Lanka alleged that Indian fishing vessels entered its waters whereas, under the agreements, Indian fishermen were not allowed to exploit resources by crossing over the waters of the other country.
- The authorities should take diplomatic steps to secure the release of Tamil Nadu fishermen languishing in Sri Lankan jails and find a permanent solution to the problem of frequent attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.
- The MEA stated that fishing rights of Indian fishermen around the island was untenable and the matter is posted for further hearing by the First Bench, comprising Acting Chief Justice, Satish K. Agnihotri, and Justice M.M. Sundresh.

Exams Perspective:

1. Katchatheevu
2. India Srilanka Bilateral Relations
3. India Srilanka Fishermen Dispute

Plight of Attappady Tribals

- Special police team (set up by Kerala Home Department) has detected irregularities in expenditure of funds under Tribal Special Plan.
- More than 100 homeless tribal in Pudurgrama Panchayat have not been benefitted from the housing project
- Certain documents which will help for a vigilance probe, were missing from Panchayat office
- 1.62 acres was purchased by the Panchayat for the project paying Rs.30,000 for each five-cent plot
- Around 5 cents has been allotted to 29 beneficiaries under a housing scheme in 2011 at Padavayal village
- The documents in Panchayat shows the land is owned by a relative of a local contractor and a panchayat member, but during inspection it was shown as alienated with no awareness about the scheme by any beneficiary
- Panchayat had purchased 3.21 acres paying Rs.21, 07,500 to construct houses for 79 homeless tribal people
- Evidence was found against a contractor who built 107 houses for tribal people in the Anaikatty- Gottiyankandi belt
- Tribal people in Attappady have no dearth of schemes, but agencies that monitor should have power for periodic audit and asset verification

Exams Perspective:

1. TSP (Tribal Sub Plan)
2. Plight of Tribals
3. Education among Tribals
4. Land Alienation
5. Tribal Poverty

Kerala Files Review Petition on Mullaperiyar Verdict

- Raise in water level in Mullaperiyar dam from 136 ft to 142 ft case has reached the Supreme Court by Kerala government.
- Review petition was filed by Kerala Govt since the previous judgment suffered from assumptions that Tamil Nadu becomes the successor of the 1886 agreement signed between Madras Presidency and Princely state of Travancore.
- If the Standstill Agreement takes a political course, then enforcement of the said agreement is barred by proviso to Articles 131 and 363 of the Constitution.
- Agreement has been in force even after 1947, & if the error is not corrected there will be a huge damage done to the rights and interests of the Petitioner Defendant State of Kerala as well as its inhabitants.
- The Empowered committee headed by Just. A.S.Anand has not put forth proper information and is contrary to rules of natural justice and fair procedure, in turn violating Article 14, making its appraisals and conclusions on the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam of no legal consequence.
- Further the petition said that although A.S.Anand Committee submitted its report, Kerala was not given any opportunity to lead the evidence or to cross examine the authors of the study. Even investigations, tests & studies (ITS) were not disclosed to Kerala, a is violation of natural justice

- Kerala has requested an oral hearing of the review petition as normally such petitions are heard in the judge's chamber

Exams Perspective:

1. Mullapiyar Dam issue
2. Review Petition
3. Empowered committee headed by Just. A.S.Anand