

METTUR DAM - RIVERS PRELIMS

News: *Outflow from Mettur dam increased to 1.23 lakh cusecs*

What's in the news?

- Water level in the Mettur dam reached its maximum capacity of 120 ft. on Saturday, and the surplus water is being released into the Cauvery.
- A flood alert was issued in 11 districts, asking the Collectors to monitor low-lying areas and shift the people living there to safe places.

Go back to the basics:

Mettur dam:

1. The Mettur dam is already known as **Stanley reservoir**.
2. The Mettur Dam is located across the **river Cauvery** in the place of Mettur in Salem District of **Tamil Nadu, India**.
3. The construction work of the Mettur dam was commenced in 1925 and the entire work was completed and opened for irrigation by the Governor of Madras, Sir George Stanley in 1934.
4. The Mettur Dam is also one of the largest dams in the and having a total length of 1700 meters long.
5. It irrigates 1,310 sq.km of land each year.
6. Its installed capacity for hydro-power generation is 32 MW.
7. **The maximum level of the dam is 120 ft (37 m) and the maximum capacity is 93.4 tmc ft.**





Cauvery River:

- It is also known as 'Ponni' in Tamil and **it is the third largest river of southern India.**
- It is a sacred river of southern India. It rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka state, flows in a southeasterly direction through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls and drains into Bay of Bengal through Pondicherry.
- Some of its tributaries are **Arkavathi, Hemavathi, Lakshmana Theertha, Shimsa, Kabini and Harangi.**

ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE - ENVIRONMENT

News: The Kozhikamuthi camp in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu has 26 elephants

What's in the news?

- **Kozhikamuthi, a Malasar tribal settlement** in the core area of the **Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu**, is known for the occupation its men have been taking up for generations - capturing, taming and handling wild elephants for the Forest Department.
- This is the second elephant camp of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, after the one at **Theppakadu in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.**

Go back to the basics:

Anamalai Tiger Reserve:

- Anamalai Tiger Reserve, earlier known as **Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park (IGWLS&NP)** and previously as Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, is a protected area located in the Anaimalai Hills of Tamil Nadu, India.
- It lies South of the Palakkad gap in the Southern Western Ghats.
- The Anamalai Tiger Reserve falls within the **Western Ghats** mountain chain of South West India, a region designated as one of 25 Global Biodiversity Hotspots.
- It forms part of the **Anamalai Parambikulam Elephant Reserve** declared in 2003.
- It supports **diverse habitat types** viz. Wet evergreen forests, semi evergreen forests, moist deciduous, dry deciduous, dry thorn and shola forests.



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- Anamalais, a biodiversity hotspot in Western Ghats is a home for **six different indigenous people** viz. Malasar, Malai malasars, Kadars, Eravallars, Pulayars and Muduvars, and is fit to be designated as an anthropological reserve.
- Malai Malasars are a primitive tribal group endemic to Anamalais alone.

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:

- It is located in the **Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state, at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.**
- It is a **part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1st Biosphere Reserve in India) along with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the West, Bandipur National Park (Karnataka) in the North, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley in the South.**
- The name Mudumalai means "the ancient hill range". Indeed, it is as old as 65 million years when Western Ghats were formed.
- The **Moyar River** flows into the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and serves as a natural boundary between Mudumalai and Bandipur Sanctuary.
- Because of its strategic location as a wildlife corridor between several other protected areas, Mudumalai Park is a valuable wildlife sanctuary and an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is considering the Western Ghats Nilgiri Sub-Cluster, which encompasses all of Mudumalai National Park, for designation as a World Heritage Site.

VICE PRESIDENT POLL - POLITY

News: *Why BJP picked Dhankhar for Vice President*

What's in the news?

- The Election Commission recently announced that the poll for the post of Vice-President will be held on August 6 2022, as the present vice president term is coming to an end on August 10 2022.
- As per **Article 68** of the Constitution, an election to fill the vacancy of the outgoing Vice-President is required to be completed before the expiration of the term.



Election of Vice-president:

- The vice president is **elected indirectly, by an electoral college consisting of members (elected as well as nominated) of both Houses of Parliament, by the system of proportional representation using single transferable votes and the voting is by secret ballot.**
- The nomination of a candidate for election to the office of the vice president must be subscribed by at least 20 electors as proposers and 20 electors as seconders.

Qualifications of Vice-president:

A person cannot be elected as Vice-President unless he

- is a citizen of India
- has completed the age of 35 years, and
- is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).
- a person is not also eligible if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or a State Government or any subordinate local authority.

Removal of Vice-president:

- Unlike the President of India who can be impeached formally, there is **no formal impeachment for the Vice President.**
- Rajya Sabha simply can pass a resolution with an effective majority and Lok Sabha can pass it.

Powers and Functions of Vice President:

Ex-officio Chairman: He acts as the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. In this capacity, his powers and functions are similar to those of the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Acts as President: He acts as President when a vacancy occurs in the office of the President due to his resignation, removal, death or otherwise. He can act as President only for a maximum period of six months, within which a new President has to be elected. Further, when the sitting President is unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause, the Vice-President discharges his functions until the President resumes his office.



BAIL LAW REFORM - GS II MAINS

News: *Explained* / Why is the Supreme Court seeking a separate bail law?

What's in the news?

- The Supreme Court urged the Centre to bring a new law to simplify and streamline the process of bail, referring to the Bail Act of the U.K.
- A Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and M.M. Sundresh said there is a “pressing need” to reform bail laws considering the “abysmally low” conviction rate.
- Stating that such detentions reflect a colonial mindset and create the impression of a “police state”, the apex court issued directions to courts and investigation agencies to prevent “unnecessary” arrests.

U.K Bail law:

- In the United Kingdom, the Bail Act of 1976 Governs the procedure for granting or denying bail.
- The Act recognises a “General Right” to bail and aims to reduce the number of inmates to prevent clogging of jails.
- It mentions the presumption that an accused should be granted bail unless there is a justified reason to refuse it.
- Bail can be rejected if the court finds substantial grounds for believing that the defendant will fail to surrender, commit an offence, or interfere with witnesses if released on bail.
- The court has to give reasons in case it withholds or alters bail conditions.

Present Bail law:

- Though there isn't any separate law in the Indian legal system that defines bail, the bail related provisions are mentioned in the CrPC and punishments under the IPC.
- The CrPC categorises offences as **bailable and non-bailable**. As per Section 436, bail is a right in bailable offences and the police or court, whoever has custody, is bound to release the accused following furnishing of a bail bond, with or without surety.
- **For a non-bailable offence, an accused cannot claim bail as a right. The discretion lies with the courts.** In such cases, Section 437 empowers the Magistrate to deal with pleas, except for offences ‘punishable with death or imprisonment for life’.
- A provision mandates the court to consider granting bail to an accused below 16 years, someone who is sick, or is a woman.



- The CrPC also lists provisions for the cancellation of bail.

SC observation:

- The Court observed that arrest is a “draconian” measure that should be used “sparingly”.
- It held that bail continues to be the rule and jail an exception, the touchstone of Article 21, and highlighted the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.
- It said unwarranted arrests are carried out in violation of Section 41 (empowers police to arrest without a warrant) and Section 41A (deals with the procedure for appearance before police) of the CrPC.

Guidelines: The Supreme Court noted that despite modifications, the CrPC continues to retain its pre-independence form.

- It observed that “**unwarranted arrests**” curtail liberty under Article 21.
- **Separate law for Bail** - Stressing the need to ensure due procedure for arrests and a time limit for disposal of bail applications, the Court asked the Centre to consider introducing an **enactment in the nature of a “Bail Act”** to streamline the process.
 1. Bail applications have to be disposed of **within two weeks** except when provisions mandate otherwise, the Court stated.
 2. On **anticipatory bail**, it said a plea has to be decided **within six weeks**.
 3. The Court said that there need not be any insistence on a bail plea while considering a plea under Sections 88, 170, 204 and 209 of CrPC.
 4. This significantly increases the bail prospects of an accused, as courts typically tend to remand the accused on production by the police or on appearance before it in response to a summons or a warrant, and consider bail only if the accused files an application.
 5. Investigating agencies and officers have to comply with Sections 41 and 41A, it said, adding that action will follow any dereliction of duty. It ruled that non-compliance with Sections 41 and 41A at the time of arrest will entitle the accused to bail.
 - a. **Section 41** deals with the arrest in a cognisable offence where punishment is imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years.
 - b. **Section 41A** relates to the procedure of the notice of appearance before a policeman in cases where the arrest is not required. Notably, a police officer is required to record reasons for arrest or not to arrest in writing as per the rule.
 6. The Bench directed State Governments and Union Territories to facilitate standing orders for the procedure to be followed under Sections 41 and 41A to avoid unwarranted arrests.



7. The Court directed high courts to identify undertrials who are unable to comply with bail conditions and take action to facilitate their release.

Payment in Rupees - GS III Mains

Context of the news:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday issued a circular that detailed 'additional arrangement' for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in Indian rupees.

How does it work?

1. Indian importers could make payment in rupees to the **Special Vostro account** of the correspondent bank of the partner country, against invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller.
2. Indian exporters shall be paid proceeds in rupees from the balances in the designated vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country.

Why this move?

- First, It may be recalled that soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, the Belgium-based SWIFT, or Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, a system that allows instant messaging among banks, began excluding Russian banks from transacting through this channel. The aim was to make it difficult and tedious for Russian entities to transact with the rest of the world. The RBI's circular could be taken to mean that partnering banks may use any messaging system they deem fit and not confine themselves to the SWIFT platform.
- Two, "**RBI has allowed for surplus to be invested**". That is, the rupee surplus balance held in the vostro accounts may be used by the foreign entities for payments for projects and investments in India as also for investment in Indian Government Treasury bills and Government securities.
- Three, **vostro accounts did not need permission earlier. Now the RBI has specified that banks acting as authorised dealers need to secure prior approval from the regulator to put in place this mechanism.** This is likely because the RBI may seek to understand



which countries are interested in this mechanism, and whether the accounts are being used for the purpose for which the RBI intended them to be.

Note: What is Vostro account and Nostro Account?

Vostro vs Nostro

<h3>India</h3> <p>Vostro means Your Account with Us</p> <p>Vostro accounts are generally held by a foreign bank in our country (with a domestic bank). It generally maintained in Indian Rupee (if we consider India).</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 80%; margin: 10px auto;"><p>Account maintained by Bank of Srilanka in SBI</p></div> <p><u>SBI in India</u></p>	<h3>Sri Lanka</h3> <p>Nostro means Ours Account with you</p> <p>Nostro accounts are generally held in a foreign country (with a foreign bank), by a domestic bank (from our perspective, our bank). It obviates that account is maintained in that foreign currency.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 80%; margin: 10px auto;"><p>Account maintained by SBI in Bank of Srilanka</p></div> <p><u>Bank of Srilanka in Srilanka</u></p>
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Conclusion:

- Larger banks may not immediately set up vostro accounts. If the sanctions by the West on Russia widen, such banks would not want to be caught in an environment where other parts of their international business get impacted.
- Smaller banks may be ideal for the purpose and could provide the service with a little bit of push by the Indian Government, if need be.



Prelims Questions:

1. Consider the following statements with respect to Mettur Dam.

1. It is located in Tamilnadu across the Cauvery river.
2. River Cauvery is the third largest river of South India.
3. The Cauvery basin flows across three states in South India.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Anamalai Tiger Reserve.

1. It is located in the south of Palakkad gap in Tamil Nadu.
2. It comes under tropical moist deciduous category of forest.
3. Malai Malasars are the primitive tribal groups endemic to Anamalai and Nilgris Biosphere Reserve.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3
- D. 3 only

3. Consider the following statements with respect to Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

1. It is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.



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2. The Noyar River acts as a natural boundary between Mudumalai and Bandipur sanctuary.
3. Mudumalai National park is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Which of the above statements given is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

4. Consider the following statements with respect to the Vice-president of India.

1. The Vice-president is elected directly by the members of both the houses of the parliament.
2. There is no formal impeachment process to remove the Vice-president.
3. He/She can act as a president for a maximum of six months when a vacancy occurs in the office of the president.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

5. Consider the following statements with respect to provisions of Bail in India.

1. The bail for non-compoundable offences lies with the discretion of the courts.
2. The court is mandatory to give a bail for an accused below 16 years age or someone who is sick or a woman.
3. The CrPC consists of the provisions for the cancellation of bails.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?



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- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 3 only

Answers: 1.C, 2.B, 3.C, 4.B, 5.C

Mainstreaming:

1. Discuss the reasons for the need for reforms in Bail laws in the light of the recent Supreme Court judgement. (15 marks, 250 words).
2. RBI issued a circular that detailed 'additional arrangement' for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in Indian rupees. Explain its impact in the present geo-political scenario. (10 marks, 150 words).



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