

## SUB-CATEGORIZATION OF OBCs

### SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT, GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS)

**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved an extension to the **Justice G Rohini commission** appointed to examine sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), up to 31st January 2023.

This is the eleventh extension for the commission, which was initially due to submit its report in March 2018.

### KEY POINTS

- It will enable the Commission to submit a comprehensive report on the issue of sub-categorization of OBCs, after consultation with various stakeholders.
- Its objectives include working out a mechanism, criteria, norm, and parameters through a scientific approach for sub-categorization within the OBCs and identifying the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of OBCs and classifying them into their respective sub-categories.

### NEED FOR SUB-CATEGORIZATION

- OBCs are currently granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under the central government.
- However, it is perceived that only a few affluent communities in the central list of OBCs have secured a major part of this reservation.

### ABOUT THE COMMISSION

- Rohini Commission was constituted under **Article 340 of the Constitution** with the approval of the President on 2nd October 2017.
- It had been constituted to complete the task of sub-categorizing 5000-odd castes in the central OBC list to ensure more equitable distribution of opportunities in central government jobs and educational institutions.
- In 2015, the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** had recommended that OBCs should be categorized into extremely backward classes, more backward classes, and backward classes.

### ABOUT ARTICLE 340

- The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India and the difficulties under which

they labor and to make recommendations as to the steps that should be taken by the Union or any State to remove such difficulties.

- A Commission so appointed shall investigate the matters referred to them and present to the President a report setting out the facts as found by them and making such recommendations as they think proper.
- The President shall cause a copy of the report so presented together with a memorandum explaining the action taken thereon to be laid before each House of Parliament.

## MONSOON GETTING HOTTER THAN SUMMER

### SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (CLIMATE CHANGE)

**CONTEXT:** The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an environmental group, observed an increase in temperatures during the months of June-September.

### KEY FINDINGS

- When compared from 1950 to 1980 level, average temperature in India during the season has risen by **0.3 degree Celsius** than the average summer temperatures (March to May).
- According to the records of **Indian Meteorological Department, India's average temperature has risen by 0.62 degrees Celsius** from 1901 to 2020.
- As per the CSE analysis, there has been an increase in 0.79 degrees and 0.58 degrees in the post-monsoon and winter temperatures, respectively. The summer temperatures have risen by 0.49 degrees only.
- From 2015-2020, 2,137 heat related deaths have been reported in the northwest part of the country while the southern part of the country has reported 2,444 deaths due to excess environmental heat.
- Most of these deaths have been reported among working age men (30-60 age group).

### ABOUT INDIAN MONSOON

- Across the world, monsoons are experienced in tropical areas between 20° N and 20° S.
- India gets **southwest monsoon winds in the summers and northeast monsoons during the winters**. The former arises because of the formation of an **intense low-pressure system over the Tibetan Plateau**. The latter arises due to the **high-pressure cells that are formed over the Siberian and Tibetan plateaus**.
- The factors influencing the South-West Monsoon formation are as follows:

1. The differential heating and cooling of land and water.
2. The shift of the position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in summer, over the Ganga plain.
3. The presence of the high-pressure area, east of Madagascar, at 20°S over the Indian Ocean.
4. The Tibetan plateau gets intensely heated during summer, which results in strong vertical air currents and the formation of low pressure over the plateau at about 9 km above sea level.
5. The movement of the westerly jet stream to the north of the Himalayas and the presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer.
6. Southern Oscillation (SO): Normally when the tropical eastern south Pacific Ocean experiences high pressure, the tropical eastern Indian Ocean experiences low pressure. But in certain years, there is a reversal in the pressure conditions and the eastern Pacific has lower pressure in comparison to the eastern Indian Ocean. This periodic change in pressure conditions is known as the SO.

## 2022 EDITION OF THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD (SOFI) REPORT

### SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (HEALTH)

**CONTEXT:** A report titled 'The State of Food Security Nutrition in the World 2022 (SOFI)' has been released.

The report is presented by the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, and the World Health Organization.**

### KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

- The world is moving backwards, away from the Sustainable Development Goal, in its efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030.
- The intensification of the major drivers behind recent food insecurity and malnutrition trends (i.e., **conflict, climate extremes and economic shocks**) **combined with the excessive cost of nutritious foods and growing inequalities** will continue to challenge food security and nutrition.
- In 2021, 828 million people were affected by hunger globally, an increase of about 46 million since 2020.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Incentivize production, supply, and consumption of nutritious food** to make healthy diet more affordable and equitable for all.
- **Reduce trade barriers** to lower the price of nutritious food.
- Encourage engagement of small and medium sized enterprises and civil society groups to balance out unequal power with agrifood systems.

## INDIA RELATED FINDINGS

- Undernourishment in total population: **16.3%**
- Wasting (low weight for height) in children (under 5 years of age): **17.3%**
- Stunting (low height for age) in children (under 5 years of age): **30.9%**
- Exclusive breastfeeding among infants: **58%**

## PRELIMS FACTS

### WOLBACHIA BACTERIA

- Scientists at **Vector Control Research Centre (Indian Council of Medical Research)** have cross bred local **Aedes aegypti** mosquitoes with mosquitoes that carry the **Wolbachia** bacteria from Australia's Monash University.
- Wolbachia bacteria **blocks proliferation of harmful viruses** but does not harm the mosquitoes themselves.
- It is a common bacterium that is found in 60% of insects naturally.
- **Aedes aegypti** is known as vector of several viruses such as yellow fever virus, dengue virus, chikungunya virus and zika virus.

### INTERNATIONAL POLICE EXPO 2022

- The event was organized by **Nexgen Exhibitions** from **6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July** at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.
- International Police Expo is an interactive platform for police representatives and technology suppliers that provides business opportunities related to internal security, training, protection, and rescue.
- This event hoisted over 350 world-class companies from various countries such as UK, US, Israel, Germany, France, Dubai, UAE, Singapore, Australia, Russia, Spain, Italy, Denmark, and Sweden.
- In the expo 2022, Mob Controlling equipment's and technologies, Anti-Drone Guns, Narco Drug Test, Mobile Forensic Technology, Cyber Security, Armored

Vehicles, and a plethora of disruptive technologies in cybersecurity, homeland security, safety, and rescue space from over 18 countries have become the key attraction of disaster rescue authorities, law enforcement agencies and central armed forces at the two-day event in New Delhi.

## MY GOV GUJARAT

- My Gov, the world's largest citizen engagement platform, was launched in 2014 with the idea of bringing the government closer to common people.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> My Gov state instance has been launched.
- My Gov is part of **Digital India Corporation**, a Section 8 company (non-profit) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

## FISHBONE CHANNEL PLANTATION METHOD

- This method has been used to **revive mangroves in the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh**.
- The water from the creeks is diverted to gaps in mangroves through fish bone shaped channels, so that the saline barren land becomes fertile to support planted mangrove species.
- The shape allows the water to reach every nook and corner of the area.
- This technique is used to artificially inundate the areas that do not get regular tidal inundation. By flooding dried up wetlands near the inter-tidal zones, new mangroves can be reforested.

