

Fundamental Duties

❖ Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court asked the Centre and States to respond to a petition to **enforce the fundamental duties of citizens, including patriotism and unity of the nation, through "comprehensive, well-defined laws"**.
- The need to enforce fundamental duties arises due to a new **illegal trend of protest by protestors in the garb of freedom of speech and expression**, by way of blocking of road and rail routes in order to compel the government to meet their demands.

❖ About Fundamental Duties

- **Background**
 - The fundamental duties were incorporated in **Part IV-A of the Constitution by The Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976**, during Indira Gandhi's Emergency.
 - These were based on the recommendations of the **Swaran Singh Committee**.
 - The **Russian Constitution** has the concept of fundamental duties.
- **Article 51(A)** describes 11 fundamental duties
- **Amendments:**
 - 10th came with the **42nd Amendment**; the 11th was added by the **86th Amendment in 2002**, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was Prime Minister.
- **Status:**
 - These duties are **not enforceable by law**. However, a court may take them into account while adjudicating on a matter.
- **Aim:**
 - They were made a part of the Constitution to **emphasize the obligation of the citizen** in return for the fundamental rights that he or she enjoys.

❖ 11 Fundamental Duties

- To **abide by the Constitution** and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- To **cherish and follow the noble ideals** which inspired our **national struggle for freedom**.
- To uphold and protect the **sovereignty, unity and integrity of India**.
- To **defend the country** and **render national service** when called upon to do so.
- To **promote harmony** and the **spirit of common brotherhood** amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to **renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women**.
- To value and preserve the **rich heritage of our composite culture**.
- To **protect and improve the natural environment** including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.
- To **develop the scientific temper, humanism** and the **spirit of inquiry and reform**.
- To safeguard **public property** and to **abjure violence**.
- To **strive towards excellence** in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement.
- Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for **education to his child** or, as the case may be, ward between the age of **six and fourteen years."**

Border Infrastructure & Management (BIM)

❖ Context

- Recently, The Union Government has approved the **continuation of the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of "Border Infrastructure and Management" (BIM)** over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26, at a cost of Rs.13,020 crore.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Significance of Border Structure:**
 - India's border with **Pakistan is 3,323 km long**, including about 775 km of the Line of Control. The length of the border is 4,096 km with Bangladesh, 3,488 km with China, 1,751 km with Nepal, 699 km with Bhutan, 1,643 km with Myanmar.
 - **Varied terrains, climatic conditions and hostile neighbors** make its borders complex and border management an **important part of its security**.
 - Officials said as part of the strategy to **secure the borders and also to create infrastructure in the border areas of the country**, the government has been taking many initiatives that include expeditious construction of fencing, floodlighting and roads along its borders with neighboring countries.

❖ About BIM

- **Nodal Ministry:**
 - Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Scheme Type:**
 - Central Sector Scheme.
- **Aims:**
 - To **strengthen the border infrastructure** for improving border management, policing and guarding the borders.
 - The BIM scheme will help in the **creation of infrastructure** such as border fence, border flood lights, technological solutions, border roads and border outposts (BOPs) and company operating bases to secure India's borders with Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

Face to Face Centres

Financial Action Task Force

❖ Context

- The Financial Action Task Force **working group & plenary meetings** began in Paris recently and will continue till 4th March.

❖ Key Highlights

- Meetings will **assess Pakistan's efforts** to prosecute leaders of un-designated terror groups.
- Pakistan has **often faced global flak for shortcomings in counter-terror financing & anti-money laundering measures.**
- FATF **retained Pakistan on the 'grey list' in 2021**, stating the nation has not complied with 2 action plans in their entirety.
 - It has now completed 26 of the 27 action items given to it in 2018.

❖ About FATF

- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is an **inter-governmental decision-making body.**
- It was **established in 1989 during the G7 Summit** in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- It is a **“policy-making body”** which works to **generate the political will** to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in money laundering.
- It has also **started dealing with virtual currencies.**
- The **FATF Secretariat is located in Paris.**
- **Objective of FATF:**
 - FATF sets standards and promotes effective implementation of :
 - I. Legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering.
 - II. The FATF works to identify national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse.
- **Members**
 - 37 Countries.
- **India became an Observer at FATF in 2006.**
 - Since then, it has been working towards full-fledged membership. On June 25, 2010 India was taken in as the 34th country member of FATF.

❖ FATF on Terror Financing

- FATF's role in combating terror financing **became prominent after the 9/11 terror attacks** in the US.
- In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.
- Financing of terrorism **involves providing money or financial support to terrorists.**
- As of 2019, **FATF has blacklisted North Korea and Iran** over terror financing.
- **Twelve countries are in the grey list**, namely: Bahamas, Botswana, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Pakistan, Panama, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Yemen.

❖ FATF 'grey list' and 'blacklist.'

- **Black List:**
 - Countries known as **Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs)** are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.
 - The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
- **Grey List:**
 - Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.
 - This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

❖ Considered in the grey list may face.

1. **Economic sanctions** from IMF, World Bank, ADB.
2. **Problem in getting loans** from IMF, World Bank, ADB and other countries.
3. **Reduction in international trade.**
4. **International boycott.**

News in Between the Lines

Doda Brand Product



❖ Context



- Recently, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing the **District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA)** meeting for Doda and Kishtwar districts, said **Lavender has been designated as Doda brand product.**

❖ Key Highlights

- The minister said, **Doda is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution (Aroma Mission)** and lavender can be promoted under **'One District, One Product'** initiative of the union Government
- It will attract **Agri- StartUps, entrepreneurs and farmers.**
- **CSIR-IIIM's Aroma Mission** is providing means of livelihood to budding farmers and Agri-Technocrats and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship giving a boost to Start-Up India campaign.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the Purple Revolution, the Minister emphasized that awareness/beneficiary programmes should be organised in Doda, Jammu and other districts and later in the rest of the country to showcase the lucrative aspects of lavender cultivation so that StartUps under Aroma Mission would be encouraged.
<p style="text-align: center;">International Mother Language Day</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, International Mother Language Day was commemorated on February 21. ➤ The United Nations-designated day recognises that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the Sustainable Development Goals' focus on leaving no one behind. ❖ About International Mother Language Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was the initiative of Bangladesh to set up the International Mother Language Day, which was approved at the 1999 UNESCO General Conference and has been celebrated ever since annually. • The first International Mother Language Day was observed throughout the world in 2000. • Theme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities. • Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day signifies how an intergovernmental body like UNESCO believes in the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity for sustainable societies. ▪ According to UNESCO, it is within its mandate for peace that it works to preserve the differences in cultures and languages that foster tolerance and respect for diversity. ▪ Linguistic diversity is increasingly coming under threat as more and more languages disappear. The UN reports that globally 40 percent of the population does not have access to an education in a language they speak or understand. ▪ It is through days like this that native languages are promoted and efforts to preserve them are made.
<p style="text-align: center;">Munich Security Conference</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, The 58th Munich Security Conference was held from 18 February - 20 February 2022, at its usual venue in Munich. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian External Affairs Minister spoke on an array of issues pertaining to India's strategic policies and diplomatic stances during a panel discussion at the Munich Security Conference. • He shared the stage with the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Japan and France. ❖ About Munich Security Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year, it brings together over 350 top officials from over 70 countries to engage in a discussion on various security concerns. • Heads of state, international organizations, and governments as well as members of parliament, ministers, high-ranking military representatives, civil society, science, the media, and business are among those expected to attend this conference. • The conference's goal is to address current major security concerns and evaluate major security difficulties, all while sticking to the concept of networked security. The discussions of ideas on the future of transatlantic relations, as well as European and global security in the twenty-first century, are a focal feature of the conference. • It is not a government-sponsored event. It is just used for debate, there is no authorization for binding intergovernmental decisions.

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Donetsk And Luhansk Region

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS
Donetsk and Luhansk at a glance
The two self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, located in eastern Ukraine, have been recognised as independent states by Russia.



❖ Context

- Recently, Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized the **Russian-speaking regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine** as independent states, signing documents declaring them no longer part of Ukraine.

❖ Key Highlights

- Moscow-backed separatists have controlled the southeastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, known collectively as Donbas, for almost eight years.
- The region comprises both Kyiv-controlled parts as well as separatist-controlled areas.
- Its main industries are **coal mining and steel production**.
- **Population:**
 - Most of the **3.6 million people** living in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions speak Russian, a result of a migration of Russian workers to the regions after World War II, during the Soviet era.
- **Rebel Control:**
 - Pro-Russian separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions took over government buildings in 2014 and proclaimed the regions as independent "**people's republics**."
 - The move followed Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.
- **Fighting:**
 - Since 2014, more than **14,000 people have been killed** in fighting in the Donbas region between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces.
 - Ukraine and the West accuse Russia of backing the separatists both militarily and financially, a charge Moscow denies.
- **Other Breakaway Regions:**
 - Russia has **previously recognized the independence of two Georgian breakaway regions — Abkhazia and South Ossetia —** after a brief war with Georgia in 2008.
 - Russia has since stationed troops in those regions and offered Russian citizenship to their populations.

Vigyan Sarvatra Pujate



❖ Context

- As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Government of India is holding a **week-long commemoration** titled **Vigyan Sarvatra Pujate** simultaneously at 75 locations across the country.

❖ Key Highlights

- The event will **display the country's scientific legacy and technology prowess** that has helped find solutions to defense, space, health, agriculture, astronomy, and other sectors.
- **Aim:**
 - To attract students towards scientific knowledge of articles of daily use and propagating scientific theories.
- **Organized by:**
 - **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Department of Biotechnology, CSIR, DRDO and other ministries under the leadership of the office of the Principal Scientific Officer to the Government of India and the Ministry of Culture.
- **Coordinating Agency:**
 - **Vigyan Prasar**, an autonomous organization of **DST** with a mandate to promote science communication in the country, is the coordinating agency.

