



Current Affairs of the Day

GS II

- Push for citizenship to minority migrants
- Expedite the process of filling up judicial vacancies, CJI tells CJs

GS III

- Delta variant led to most post-vaccine infections in Delhi
- No decision on the indemnity to vaccine makers yet
- RBI's view on cryptocurrency stays, have major concerns: Das



Push for citizenship to minority migrants

News: Migrants belonging to six non-Muslim minority communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who came to India on valid documents before 2014 are eligible to apply online for citizenship from any part of the country.

Legal migrants citizenship

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) wrote to all States, including Assam, sensitising them of the relevant provisions under the Citizenship Act, 1955 that could help the six communities- Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis, who entered India before 2014 and are here on long term visa (LTV), expedite their citizenship application.
2. The official asserted that this particular awareness drive was not related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) that is intended to benefit undocumented (illegal migrants) from the six persecuted communities who entered India before December 31, 2014.
3. The CAA is yet to come into force as the rules that govern the law have not been notified by the Ministry yet.

Spread across the country:

1. A survey was done and it was found that such migrants live in many parts of the country. The States have been made aware that provisions exist that could help the migrants in acquiring citizenship if they fulfil the criteria.
2. This is to help the applicants who have applied online from any part of the country, as the verification is also done by the local police who have to send the report to the Home Ministry.

Assam NRC

1. Assam is the only state where a National Register of Citizens (NRC) has been compiled. More than 19 lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants in the State have been excluded from the final register.
2. The State government has demanded re-verification of the process as a large number of Hindus were left out. The excluded persons from the six communities, who are yet to be declared illegal migrants, will benefit from the CAA as and when it is implemented as legislation benefits such migrants from the three neighbouring countries who entered India illegally before 2014.



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Citizenship

1. Citizenship is a Home Ministry subject but it can delegate powers to States for a specific objective.
2. Though the precise number of such migrants who availed of the LTV and are eligible for citizenship is not known, officials estimate the number to be around two lakh.

Expedite the process of filling up judicial vacancies, CJI tells CJs

1. The Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, asked the Chief Justices of High Courts to ensure that recommendations for judicial appointments to the High Courts reflect the social diversity of the country.
2. The CJI also reminded the Chief Justices to expedite the process of filling up vacancies, particularly in the High Courts.
3. The session also saw the CJI convey to the Chief Justices his vision to draw from the experience of the pandemic and build modern, self-contained courts with a permanent facility to hold virtual hearings in every courtroom.
4. He reiterated his wish to create a National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation and take forward a “national plan” for judicial infrastructure.
5. The High Court Chief Justices also flagged the apparent “digital divide” seen in rural and tribal areas. They said the lack of digital connectivity had impacted judicial functioning.

RBI's view on cryptocurrency stays, have major concerns: Das

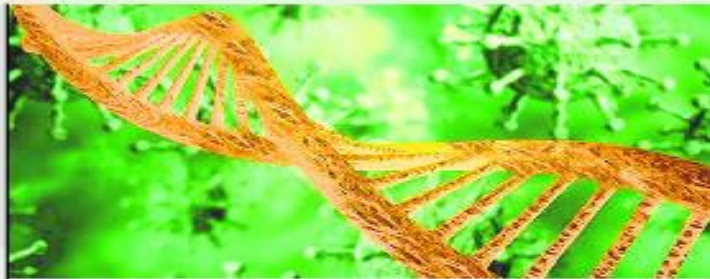
1. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das made it clear that the central bank's view on cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin remains unchanged and it continues to have ‘major concerns’ on the volatile instruments.
2. The RBI had first come out with a circular on the issue in 2018, cautioning people against investing in cryptocurrencies, that do not have sovereign character.
3. It had barred entities regulated by it from dealing in such instruments. However, the Supreme Court, in 2020, struck down the circular.



Delta variant led to most post-vaccine infections in Delhi

Cause for concern | B.1.617.2, also known as the 'Delta' variant of the coronavirus, is now the most dominant one in India

- It has **12 mutations in its spike protein compared to SARS-CoV-2**, which was first discovered in Wuhan, China
- There appeared to be **more ACE2 enzymes aiding the entry of coronaviruses** around these mutations L452R and T478K that characterised the variant



- A study by Public Health England showed that the **Pfizer and Astra-Zeneca vaccines were only 33% effective against symptomatic disease from B.1.617.2 three weeks after the first dose**, whereas they were 50% effective against B.1.1.7

News:

1. Variant Delta (B.1.617.2), the most pervasive variant of the coronavirus in India, constituted nearly three in four breakthrough infections in Delhi, according to a research study by scientists in Delhi.
2. The variant was also characterised by high transmissibility, an accelerated surge in infections and, the scientists say, "...prior infections, high seropositivity and partial vaccination were insufficient impediments to its spread."

Breakthrough infections

Breakthrough infections are instances of people testing positive for the virus after getting vaccinated.



No decision on the indemnity to vaccine makers yet

1. The Union government was still in negotiations and no final decision had been taken on the indemnity to either foreign or local COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers.
2. While the priority of the government was to provide vaccine cover to the vulnerable elderly population and those with comorbidities, Bharat Biotech and Zydus have already started testing vaccines on children.