



Current Affairs of the Day

GS Paper II

- Govt. will revert to centralised procurement of vaccines: Modi
- Farmer protests increased fivefold since 2017: CSE report
- Draft Rules for live-streaming court proceedings out
- SC urged to stop illegal adoption

GS Paper III

- Google to change global advertising practices in landmark antitrust deal



Govt. will revert to centralised procurement of vaccines: Modi

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India would revert to a system of centralised procurement of vaccines against COVID-19, with free vaccines to be provided for the 18-44 age group as well and with 25% of procurement kept open for the private sector. This system will be operationalised by June 21.
2. He also announced the extension of the free ration distribution scheme for 80 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana till Diwali, in November.

Farmer protests increased fivefold since 2017: CSE report

1. Apart from the three contentious Central farm laws, procurement and agricultural market price-related failures have contributed to a fivefold increase in major farmers' protests since 2017, according to data collated by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
2. In 2017, there were 34 major protests across 15 States. The number has now shot up to 165 protests across 22 States and Union Territories.
3. There are various reasons like state legislation and inadequate Budget allocations for the agricultural sector, market failures and demand for fair prices, and battles against the acquisition of farmland for development projects, including highway and airport construction.
4. Also, at least seven agitations have been to demand loan waivers or to protest poor insurance coverage and delayed compensation. Farmers have gathered at least four times to protest the unavailability or increased prices of farm inputs and infrastructure. The arrests of protesting farm leaders have also led to further stirs.
5. The report notes that India now has more farm labourers than landowning farmers and cultivators. This is true in 52% of the country's districts, as well as in all districts of Bihar and Kerala.
6. More than 28 agricultural workers and cultivators end their lives every day. The latest data available shows that 5,957 farmers and an additional 4,324 farm labourers died by suicide in 2019.

The CSE has called for better maintenance of agricultural data, noting that 14 States had actually witnessed a deterioration in the quality of their land records.



India is sitting atop a massive time-bomb of agrarian crisis and disquiet, and the clock is ticking away.

Draft Rules for live-streaming court proceedings out

1. Draft Rules released by the Supreme Court e-Committee for live-streaming and recording court proceedings propose a 10-minute delay in transmission and exclusion of communally sensitive cases and matters that involve sexual offences and gender violence against women.
2. The Rules are part of the National Policy and Action Plan for the implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judiciary.
3. Now, the apex court has invited inputs and feedback on the 'Draft Model Rules for Live-Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings.
4. The Rules would cover live-streaming and recording of proceedings in High Courts, lower courts and tribunals.
5. Justice Chandrachud said the right of access to justice, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, encompasses the right to access live court proceedings. The Rules intend to balance between access to information and concerns of privacy and confidentiality.
6. Matrimonial matters, cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act would also be exempted from the live stream.
7. The Bench can exempt, for reasons recorded in writing, any case it considers antithetical to the administration of justice.

SC urged to stop illegal adoption

The Supreme Court agreed to intervene after the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) sounded the alarm on a spate of complaints about the illegal adoption of COVID orphans through private individuals and organisations.

'Violates JJ Act'

1. Social media posts are circulating that children are up for adoption. This is plainly illegal and violates the Juvenile Justice Act.



2. The adoption of orphaned/abandoned/ surrendered children is lawful only after the adoption procedure as given under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 is followed and the final adoption order is passed by the prescribed authority.
3. NCPCR statistics show that 3,621 children were orphaned, 26,176 children lost either parent and 274 children were abandoned during the second wave.
4. The national child rights body said information about these children, including their personal details, are being leaked from within government sources to private bodies, which circulate them.
5. NCPCR urged the court to direct the States and Union Territories to not place any confidential information about children in the public domain which would make them susceptible to trafficking.
6. The Commission asked the court to direct the States and UTs to create State Juvenile Justice Funds to enable the credit of donations/ contributions/ subscriptions directly in the notified account.

Google to change global advertising practices in landmark antitrust deal

1. Google said it would make changes to its global advertising business to ensure it did not abuse its dominance, bowing to antitrust pressure for the first time in a landmark settlement with French authorities.
2. The deal with the French competition watchdog could help rebalance the power over advertising in favour of publishers, which held sway over the business in the pre-Internet era but lost control with the rapid rise of Google and Facebook.
3. The settlement is the first time the U.S. tech giant has agreed to make changes to its huge advertising business, which brings in the bulk of its revenue.
4. The decision to sanction Google is of particular significance because it's the first decision in the world focusing on the complex algorithmic auction processes on which the online ad business relies.
5. The French authority said the decision opens the way for publishers who felt disadvantaged to seek damages from Google.