

## Current Affairs of the Day

### *CJI flags 'communal content' in media*

1. Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana said certain sections of the media communalised everything, and this would ultimately result in giving the country a bad name
2. The remark came while a three-judge Bench headed by him was hearing petitions highlighting how some media outlets aired communal content linking the spread of the novel coronavirus to a Tablighi Jamaat meeting in Delhi.
3. The problem is everything in this country is shown from a communal angle by a section of media. The country is going to get a bad name ultimately.
4. He upbraided social media platforms for a lack of accountability. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta drew the court's attention to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which provide a redressal mechanism and resolution of grievances of users of social media and over-the-top platforms.
5. The rules require these platforms to appoint a grievance redressal officer, who is a resident of India.

### *Durand Line: Friction point between Afghanistan, Pakistan*

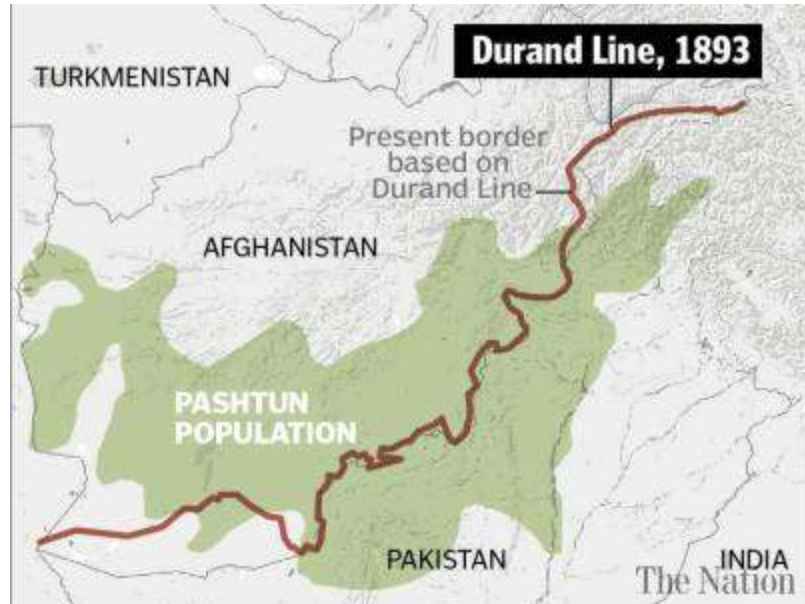
The issue has sowed distrust between Afghans and Pakistan for decades and is a potential flashpoint in relations between the Taliban and Pakistan.

#### *Line dividing Pashtun*

1. The Durand Line is a legacy of the 19th century Great Game between the Russian and British empires in which Afghanistan was used as a buffer by the British against Russian expansionism to its east.
2. The agreement demarcating what became known as the Durand Line was signed in 1893 between the British civil servant Sir Henry Mortimer Durand and Amir Abdur Rahman, then the Afghan ruler.



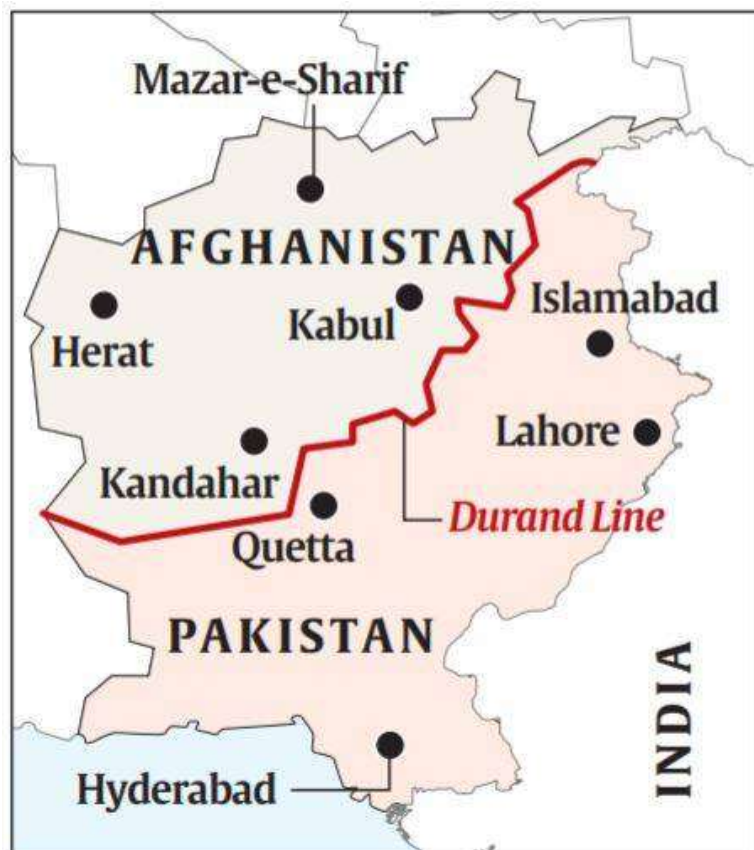
3. He was essentially a British puppet. His agreement with Durand demarcated the limits of his and British India's "spheres of influence" on the Afghan "frontier" with India. The line stretches from the border with China to Afghanistan's border with Iran.



4. In reality, the line cut through Pashtun tribal areas, leaving villages, families, and land divided between the two "spheres of influence". It also put on the British side the strategic Khyber Pass.

### Cross-border tensions

1. With independence in 1947, Pakistan inherited the Durand Line, and with it also the Pashtun rejection of the line, and Afghanistan's refusal to recognise it. Afghanistan was the only country to vote against Pakistan joining the United Nations in 1947.





2. 'Pashtunistan' — an independent country of the Pashtuns — was a demand made by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan at the time of Partition, although he later resigned himself to the reality of Partition.
3. The proximity of the 'Frontier Gandhi' to India was a point of tension between the two countries almost immediately. The fear of Indian support to Pashtun nationalism haunts Pakistan to date and is embedded in its Afghan policy.
4. Pakistan's creation and support for the Taliban are seen by some as a move to obliterate ethnic Pashtun nationalism with an Islamic identity. But it did not work out the way Pakistan had planned.
5. When the Taliban seized power in Kabul the first time, they rejected the Durand Line. They also strengthened Pashtun identity with an Islamic radicalism to produce the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, whose terrorist attacks since 2007 left the country shaken.

Practice MCQ

- Q1. The *Durand Line* is the international boundary between
- a. Afghanistan and Iran
  - b. Iran and Pakistan
  - c. Pakistan and Afghanistan
  - d. India and Afghanistan

## Medicinal plants promotion

1. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH has launched a national campaign to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants in the country as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This will help in increasing the income of farmers and realize the dream of Green India.
2. Under this campaign, cultivation of medicinal plants will be done on 75,000 hectares of land in the next year across the country.



3. These included mainly 5 species of plants - Night-flowering Jasmine (Parijat), Golden Apple (Bel), Margosa Tree (Neem), Indian Ginseng (Ashwagandha) and Indian Blackberry (Jamun).
4. The country has immense potential in the field of medicinal plants and the cultivation of medicinal plants on 75000 hectares of land will ensure the availability of medicines in the country and it will be a big source of income for the farmers.
5. Significantly, in the last 1.5 years, the market of medicinal plants has increased in a big way not only in India but all over the world. This is the reason that Ashwagandha has been the third best-selling product in America.

Practice  
MCQ

Q. Golden Apple (Bel), Indian Ginseng (Ashwagandha) and Indian Blackberry (Jamun) are

- a. Rare Himalayan plants
- b. Critically Endangered herbs
- c. Medicinal Plants
- d. Plants whose cultivation is prohibited