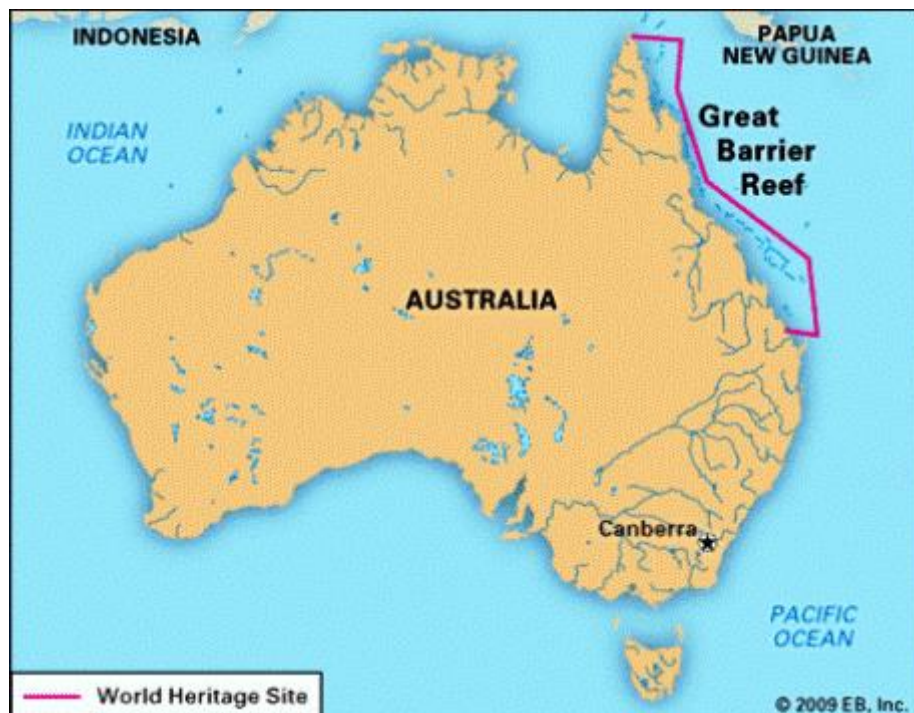




Current Affairs of the Day

91% of the Australian reef is bleached by heatwave

1. A prolonged summer heatwave in Australia left 91% of the Great Barrier Reef's coral damaged by bleaching, according to a new government monitoring report.



2. It was the first time on record the reef had

suffered bleaching during a La Nina weather cycle when cooler temperatures would normally be expected.

3. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, which published the report, conducted extensive surveys of the World Heritage-listed reef.

Is marital rape a crime? Delhi HC verdict split

1. The Delhi high court delivered a split verdict on the criminalisation of marital rape— with one judge calling an exception that exempts husbands from being prosecuted for non-consensual sex with their wives as “morally repugnant” and the other saying it did not violate any law, was not unconstitutional and could continue to exist.



2. Exception 2 of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) decriminalises marital rape and mandates that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 18, is not rape.
3. The fact that the law does not operate even-handedly for women who are similarly circumstanced i.e. subjected to forced sex is writ large and no amount of legal callisthenics will sustain marital rape exception (MRE). Therefore, MRE is bad in law as it violates Article 14 of the Constitution, one of the judges held.

NGO worried over rise in gender-based violence

1. It is worrying that over 98% of gender-based violence (GBV) survivors do not access healthcare Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) said based on data in the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-V).
2. This latest data reflect a dismal state in the practice of seeking medical care post-gender-based violence, including sexual violence. Current estimates reflect that healthcare-seeking behaviour (HSB) among the survivors is still near zero.
3. The MSF emphasised that over 98% of gender-based violence survivors, as recorded in the new survey data, do not access healthcare due to the absence of comprehensive medical care available in close proximity to vulnerable groups, as well as the fear of mandatory police reporting.
4. The uptake of medical care is essential as sexual violence and intimate partner violence have well-documented, long-term physical and psychological consequences.
5. Women exposed to sexual and physical violence need immediate medical care to prevent pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and mental health support to reduce psychological distress and restore dignity.

'Inflation is the biggest challenge now'

1. Inflation is now the biggest challenge for India's policymakers rather than the U.S. Federal Reserve's taper programme and measures like interest rate

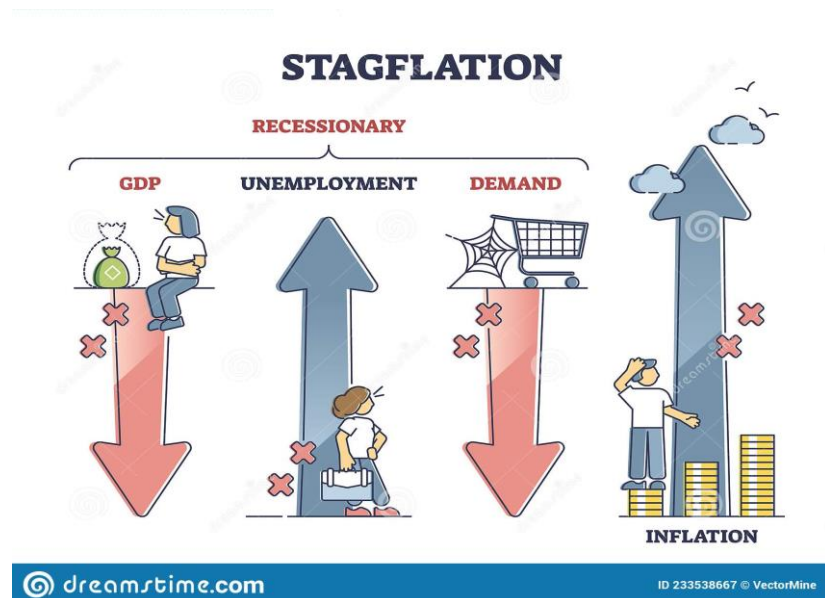


increases to stem rising prices could dent the fledgling consumption demand recovery from the pandemic not just in India but globally.

2. Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index had surged to 6.95% in March, the third month in a row that it had stayed above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6%, and most economists expect the pace of price increases to quicken in April.
3. Indonesia's decision to ban edible oil exports and the escalation in sunflower oil and coal supply constraints are major reasons. Inflation was high in manufactured goods earlier, but now it is food and crude inflation and is spreading across goods and services as producers are no longer able to hold off transmission of input costs.

'Stagflation scenario'

1. Globally, stagflation had moved from being a risk scenario to a baseline scenario, the official added.
2. While the RBI Governor had been nudging the Centre and States to cut taxes on petrol and diesel to ease inflationary pressures, the



official noted that the spurt in global fertiliser prices would push up subsidies sharply.

3. It's a difficult trade-off to make. If excise duty on petroleum products are cut by say ₹5 a litre and higher borrowings are resorted to, for funding the fertiliser subsidy bill, it will push up the fiscal deficit as well as yields on government debt, even more, the government pointed out.



MAINS DAWP	<p>Q1. Critically discuss the sedition provision in IPC, its origin and the need to abolish the provision.</p> <p>Q2. Exception 2 of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) violates many fundamental rights guaranteed under the Indian constitution. Comment.</p>
MCQs	<p>Q1. Which of the following is considered sedition by Indian courts under section 124A of IPC?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sloganeering against state2. Strongly worded criticism of government3. Incite to violence against the state <p>Select the correct answer from the codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. 1 and 2 onlyb. 2 and 3 onlyc. 3 onlyd. 1, 2 and 3