

**24– 09 – 2022 to 27 – 09 – 2022**

**News:** Kerala High Court deems PFI's hartal contempt of its order

## **Rules regarding hartal made by Kerala High Court**

- The Kerala High Court had earlier directed that political parties or any person or association of persons which calls for hartal and general strike should give public notice seven days in advance.
- The notice period would enable citizens to approach the court with their objections and the court could examine the legality of the strike call.
- It would also enable an opportunity for the State to take measures to safeguard the interests of citizens.
- The court had made it clear that hartals / strikes called without adhering to the above procedure would be deemed illegal and unconstitutional.
- Besides, the people or organisations which called for such illegal hartal / strikes would be liable for loss or damage caused to the public and government.

**News:** G4 countries highlight 'urgent need' for reform in UN Security Council

- Reform of the United Nations has been a central theme of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the United Nations this week, and on Thursday,

he met with his counterparts from Germany, Brazil and Japan under The Group of Four (G4) banner following the BRICS meeting.

- The group is primarily focused on UN Security Council (UNSC) reform, and permanent membership for G4 members.
- On Thursday, they reiterated their commitment to pushing forward reform and expressed dissatisfaction.

## **G4 Countries**

- India is a member of G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) which support each other's bids for permanent seats on UNSC.
- However, each of their bids are being opposed by Uniting for Consensus (or simply Coffee Club) a group of around 50 states, who are opposing the resolution of increasing the permanent seats in UNSC. It is led by Italy. Other core members of Coffee club include South Korea, Canada, Spain, Mexico, Turkey, Argentina, Pakistan and Malta.
- These countries propose to increase non-permanent members from 10 to 20 while keeping the permanent membership to 5.

**News:** Quad signs agreement for disaster relief and assistance

- Foreign Ministers of the Quad group of countries – India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan – met on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday to **sign a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership into effect.**

## **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)**

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the **informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia** with a shared objective to ensure and support a **“free, open and prosperous”** Indo-Pacific region.
- The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
- In December 2012, Shinzo Abe again floated the concept of Asia's “Democratic Security Diamond” involving Australia, India, Japan and the US to safeguard the maritime commons from the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific.
- In **November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending "Quad" Coalition to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China).**

- Exercise **Malabar**, a bilateral **naval exercise** has been conducting annually since **1992 between India and US**. Japan joined the club making it a **trilateral exercise in 2012**. Australia has once attended the event in 2015. In **2020, it made a permanent comeback**, making the exercise a purely QUAD naval exercise.

## Quad Plus

- Quad plus is the extended QUAD which has India, Japan, US and Australia as its members.
- The Quad Plus countries are **Vietnam, South Korea and New Zealand**.

### News: India gets its first avalanche monitoring radar in Sikkim

- An **avalanche monitoring radar, the first of its kind in India, has been installed in North Sikkim by the Army and Defence Geoinformatics and Research Establishment**.
- It can **detect avalanches within three seconds of its trigger** and will assist in saving lives of troops and reducing damage to property.
- The **radar was made operational by DGRE, a lab under the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO)**, which is involved in forecasting and mitigation of avalanche hazards faced by the Army in the Himalayan region.

**News:** Teacher-student ratio goes for a toss in Haryana district

- Nuh (a district in Haryana) continues to face a severe paucity of teachers despite it being one of the 112 most underdeveloped districts in the country under Aspirational Districts Programme of NITI Aayog.

## Aspirational Districts Programme

- Aspirational Districts are those in India, which are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.
- These are called aspirational districts, as a development in these districts would lead to the development of overall India.
- There are 117 such districts from 28 states, at least one from each State.
- The objective of the programme is to monitor the real-time progress of aspirational districts.
- ADP is based on 49 indicators from 5 identified thematic areas, which focuses closely on improving people's Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure.
- At national level, ADP is monitored by NITI Aayog.
- Recently, UNDP - India lauded the Aspirational Districts programme.

**News:** Odisha offering cash incentive to PVTGs for marrying after 18

- Keeping the rampant child marriages among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Odisha in mind, the State government is providing an incentive of ₹20,000 for late marriage.

## **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**

- Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness.
- PVTGs are **more vulnerable** among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In India, the tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

- PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mold, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.
- The Ministry of Tribal affairs further clarifies the scope and extent of the definition of habitat rights in the context of PVTG in a FAQ released in the year 2012 – The right to community tenures of habitat and habitation may be recognized over customary territories used by the PVTG for habitation, livelihoods, social, economic, spiritual, cultural and other purposes.
- In some cases, the habitats of PTGs may overlap with forest and other rights of other people/communities.

**News:** ED justifies summons to former Kerala FM in masala bond case

## **Masala Bonds**

- Masala Bonds are rupee-denominated bonds i.e the funds would be raised from overseas market in Indian rupees.
- Any corporate, body corporate and Indian bank is eligible to issue Rupee denominated bonds overseas.

- The Rupee denominated bonds can **only be issued in a country and subscribed by a resident of such country that is a member of financial action task force and whose securities market regulator is a member of International Organisation of Securities Commission.**
- While residents of such countries can subscribe to the bonds, **it can also be subscribed by multilateral and regional financial institutions where India is a member country.** Example – World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Asian Development Bank.
- While companies can raise funds through these bonds, **there are limitations for the use of such proceeds.**
- **RBI mandates that the money raised through such bonds cannot be used for real estate activities other than for the development of integrated township or affordable housing projects.**
- It also **cannot be used for investing in capital markets, purchase of land and on lending to other entities** for such activities as stated above.
- According to RBI, the **minimum maturity period for Masala Bonds raised up to Rupee equivalent of USD 50 million in a financial year should be 3 years and for bonds raised above USD 50 million equivalent in INR per financial year should be 5 years.**



- Recently, Kerala became **the first Indian state to tap into the market for masala bonds.**
- The state-owned Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) debuted its masala bond issue of Rs 2,150 crore.
- KIIFB is a state agency that mobilises fund for infrastructural projects, over and beyond funds earmarked in the budgets.