

1. SC panel indicts Telangana police (Page no.- 1)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity)

A Supreme Court-appointed Commission of Inquiry said on Friday that the Telangana police had killed the four suspects detained in the 2019 gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian in cold blood. Three of the four shot to death were juveniles.

The Inquiry Commission led by former Supreme Court judge, Justice V.S. Sirpurkar, said the police version that the four had thrown soil in the eyes of a dozen police personnel escorting them, snatched their guns and fired at them in several places was “absurd”.

The commission recommended that the police officers who were part of the extra-judicial killing should be tried for murder.

2. The neighbourhood in turmoil, lessons for India police (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

In late 2016, a senior Indian government official, in a meeting with the envoy of a neighbouring country, spelt out the consequences that the country would face if it crossed the Narendra Modi government’s newly “muscular foreign policy”. At the time, the Government had put Pakistan on notice on terror attacks, and cancelled Foreign Secretary-level talks; in Sri Lanka, the Rajapaksa government, that had been seen cozying up to China was voted out, with some reports that Indian intelligence played a role in facilitating opposition talks; and in Nepal, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's coalition government had fallen apart, with a similar nudge reported from New Delhi.

3. Talking peace, negotiating with the Maoists police (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 3 (Internal Security)

Recently, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, while meeting the people during his State-wide tour, announced that the State government was ready for peace talks with the Maoists provided they laid down arms and expressed their faith in the Constitution of India.

4. Act early, decisively (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity)

It is a matter of great concern that laws are being used to rake up religious controversies to give a fig-leaf of legitimacy to a communal onslaught on the country’s secular character. Obviously emboldened by the Supreme Court verdict handing over a disputed site in Ayodhya to Hindu claimants, determined and malicious efforts are being made by communal elements to capture sites in Varanasi and Mathura where the Gyanvapi mosque and Shahi Idgah Masjid are located.

5. A timely reminder (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

Pronouncing its verdict on a protracted dispute over the levy of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on ocean freight charges paid by importers, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that such a tax was untenable. Its 153-page judgment has also dwelt at length on the nature of the recommendations of the GST Council, the constitutional body set up to oversee the operations of the indirect tax regime.

6. Norms eased for GM crop research (Page no.- 12)

GS Paper- 3 (Science & Tech)

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has issued guidelines easing norms for research into genetically modified (GM) crops and circumventing challenges of using foreign genes to change crops profile.

The 'Guidelines for Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants, 2022' exempt researchers who use gene-editing technology to modify the genome of the plant from seeking approvals from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), an expert body of the Environment Ministry. The GEAC evaluates research into GM plants and recommends, or disapproves, their release into farmer fields. The final call, however, is taken by the Environment Minister as well as States where such plants could be cultivated. The Environment Ministry too has sanctioned this exemption.

7. Govt. reconstitutes Central Advisory Board on Archaeology research (Page no.- 12)

GS Paper- 3 (Governance)

The Central Advisory Board on Archaeology (CABA), that is meant to strengthen contacts between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and those in the field of archaeological research, was re-constituted this week, over seven years since its last meeting.

8. RBI cuts FY22 dividend payout to Centre to ₹30,307 crore (Page no.- 14)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said its board had approved the transfer of ₹30,307 crore as surplus to the Union government for the fiscal year 2021-22, while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50%. The RBI did not specify the buffer amount. The RBI had previously transferred ₹99,122 crore for the nine months ended March 31, 2021 (July 2020-March 2021). It moved to an April to March accounting year from 2021/22.