

01-10-2022

Popular Front of India - "PFI"

Why in Newspapers?

The NIA is raiding the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its links across the country. These raids are taking place in 11 states. So far 106 people associated with PFI have been arrested. It also includes PFI national president OMS Salam. NIA had got information about suspicious activities of people associated with PFI, that is why these raids are being conducted.

Quick Issue?

- According to officials, the organization is promoting incidents of alleged 'love jihad', forced conversions and violent protests in various parts of the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Apart from this, it was involved in many violent crimes in many other areas of the country, in the form of Islamist radicalization of youth, money laundering and links with banned groups.

Historical Background?

- Popular Front of India is an Islamic organization formed on 22 November 2006 by three Muslim organizations. These included National Democratic Front of Kerala, Karnataka Forum for Dignity and Manita Neeti Pasarai of Tamil Nadu. Presently the President of PFI is OMA Salam. PFI describes itself as a non-profit organization. This organization does not give information about how many members it has, but it claims that it has units in 20 states.
- Initially the headquarter of PFI was in Kozhikode, Kerala, but later it was shifted to Delhi. PFI also has its own uniform and every year it also organizes the PFI Freedom Parade on 15th August.
- In the year 2013, the Kerala government had banned this parade, because the PFI uniform has stars and emblems just like the police uniform.

Other Key Facts?

What happens when an organization is declared as a 'Terrorist Organization'?

- So far, a total of 42 organizations have been declared as 'terrorist organizations' under UAPA. Under various sections of this law, when an organization is declared a 'terrorist organization', then it is banned. Apart from this, his resources and assets can be confiscated. Fines can be imposed on the organization and its members. Members of the organization can be punished with imprisonment for life.

What are the legal options before the accused organization?

- After such declaration, the organization or the aggrieved person can make an application to the Central Government. After this, the central government can constitute a review committee under the chairmanship of a former high court judge. Based on the decision of this committee, the name of the accused organization can be removed from the list of 'terrorist organization'.

- PFI workers are facing charges ranging from connections to terrorist organizations to murders. In 2012, the Kerala government told the High Court that the PFI has a direct connection with 27 murder cases. Most of these cases were related to the killing of RSS and CPM workers.
- Action is being taken on this organization by NIA. The agency has named this biggest operation conducted by the NIA as 'Operation Octopus'.
- This action is being taken against PFI under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Let us tell you that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act i.e. UAPA was brought in the year 1967 with the objective of 'protecting the integrity and sovereignty of India'.
- Under this law, running or supporting any separatist activity is considered an offense. Along with this, claiming Indian territory as its own by a foreign power has also been declared a crime.
- Section 15 of this Act defines acts of terrorism as a terrorist act with intent to endanger the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of India, to spread terror or likely to spread terror in India. This law was amended for the fourth time in the year 2019.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Consider the following statements?

1. Popular Front of India is an Islamic organization formed on 22 November 2006 by three Muslim organizations.
2. Initially the headquarter of PFI was in Kozhikode, Kerala, but later it was shifted to Delhi.
3. Presently the President of PFI is OMA Salam. PFI describes itself as a non-profit organization.

Which of the above statement is true?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) All of the above (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) All of the above

New Attorney General of India

Why in Newspapers?

Senior Advocate R. Venkata-Ramani has been appointed as the new Attorney General of India. The notification of the Ministry of Law and Justice said that the President has appointed Mr. Venkata-Ramani as the new Attorney General for a period of three years.

Quick Issue?

- He will replace Attorney General KK Venugopal whose term ends on 30 September. Earlier there were speculations that senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi would be the next Attorney General of India. However, after this notification, the picture became completely clear.

Historical Background?

- Article 76 of the Constitution of India provides for the office of the Attorney General of India. It is the highest law officer of the country and a part of the central executive. In simple language, it works to fight the case of the Government of India in the court.
- The appointment of Attorney General is done by the President on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- To be appointed as Attorney General, a person has to possess certain qualifications such as he is eligible to become a judge of the Supreme Court, that is, he is a citizen of India; He/she should have five years' experience of working as a Judge of a High Court or 10 years' experience of advocacy in a High Court or should have knowledge of legal matters in the opinion of the President.

Other Key Facts?

Other Facts

- Attorney General is an officer in the Government of India who can participate in both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and can speak there. However, he does not have the right to vote in the Parliament. Apart from this, he is entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of any committee of the Parliament of which he has been nominated. All the privileges and immunities enjoyed by an MP are also available to the Attorney General. One thing is worth noting here that since the Attorney General does not come under the category of government servants, he can also do his own advocacy private practice, but he has to keep in mind that he is not a case against the government itself. Can fight The logic behind this is that he is a party to the government and how can he fight the case against the government. To assist in the work of Attorney General, there is a full team of lawyers in which Law Officers like Solicitor General of India and Additional Solicitor General work under him.
- It is worth mentioning that just as there is an Attorney General for the Central Government, in the same way there is an Advocate General for the State Government. It is mentioned in Article 165 of the Constitution and is appointed by the Governor. Thus, each state has its own Advocate General.

- There is no term of Attorney General fixed by the Constitution. It is during the pleasure of the President, that is, as long as the President wishes, the Attorney General will remain in his office.
- Neither the procedure for removing the Attorney General has been mentioned in the constitution nor has any basis been given for it.
- The Attorney General is the biggest public prosecutor of the Government of India. In such a situation, its most important work is to represent the Government of India in the Supreme Court or any High Court in all matters related to the Government of India.
- It has many other important functions such as it advises the Government of India in all legal matters referred to it by the President and performs such other legal duties as are assigned to it by the President.
- According to Article 143, the President has the power to take advice from the Supreme Court. The Attorney General represents the Government of India in this process. At the same time, whatever work is given to the Attorney General by the Constitution or any other law, he also discharges.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Which of the following statements about the Attorney General of India is correct?

1. The first Attorney General of India was MC Setalvad.
2. Article 76 provides for the office of the Attorney General of India.
3. The longest serving Attorney General of India is MC Setalvad.
4. R. Venkataramani is the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bihar before being appointed as the new Attorney General of India (AG).

Which of the above statement is true?

- (a) Statements 1, 2 and 3 (b) Statements 2, 3 and 4
 (c) Statements 1 and 3 (d) Statements 1, 2 and 4

Answer – (a) Statements 1, 2 and 3

'Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2022'

Why in Newspapers?

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti will celebrate 2 October 2022, the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, as Swachh Bharat Diwas (SBD). The department draws its inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi who once said, "Cleanliness is more than devotion". The Swachh Bharat Mission derives its strength from those who have made it a mass movement ensuring 'total cleanliness'.

Quick Issue?

- The Union Jal Shakti Minister will submit the 'Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2022' and JJM 'Functionality Assessment FY 2021-22' reports to the President.
- Best performing States/Union Territories and Districts will be honoured by the President.
- Jal Jeevan Survekshan 2023, Retrofit to Twin Pit Campaign and Clean Jal Se Suraksha Abhiyan will be launched.

Other Key Facts?

The department will also launch two campaigns on the occasion:

- "Retrofit to Twin Pit Campaign" to promote twin pit toilets in households towards better sewage management. This campaign will end on World Toilet Day i.e. 19 November 2022.
- **Safe Jal Se Suraksha:** This water quality based campaign will help in creating awareness on the importance of clean and safe drinking water and will also help in monitoring the quality of water supplied to rural households.

Historical Background?

- A one-day program is being organized by the department on October 2, 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan. The President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu will preside over the function as the Chief Guest. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel and Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs, Shri Bishweshwar Tudu will be present at the function.
- DDWS implements two major programs of the Central Government; The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) JJM were announced on 15 August 2019 by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort, with an aim to provide tap water connections to every rural household. Similarly, SBM (G) Phase II was launched in March 2020 to make rural India ODF+ to maintain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and ensure solid and liquid waste management in every village.
- During the programme, the Swachh Survekshan Gramin (SSG) 2022 report will be presented to the President by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti. The department is conducting Swachh Survekshan since 2018. To conduct the 2022 survey, the survey was launched on 9 September 2021 by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The Swachh Survekshan report will give details of ranking, field-survey,



evaluation and perception of citizens. Apart from this, details related to Swachh Survekshan Gramin (SSG) 2023 will also be shared.

- The report on 'Functionality Assessment FY 2021-22' will also be released in this program. The report is based on a third party survey conducted by the department to assess the number of tap connections working, the regularity and the stipulated quality of water supplied. During the survey 13,299 villages in 712 districts were screened. A total of 3,01,389 households and 22,596 public institutions were surveyed. 2,19,564 water samples were tested from households and 9,844 samples from public institutions. The sample size for 2022 is three times that of the previous year.
- Based on the findings of the Swachh Survekshan Gramin (SSG) 2022 and JJM Functionality Assessment Report, the implementation and progress of the two missions of the Department, the best performing States/UTs during the program to be held on 2nd October 2022 and Districts will be honoured.
- Jal Jeevan Survey 2023 will also be launched in the program. The survey will find out about the functionalities of tap water connections in all 'Har Ghar Jal' villages. It is a means to achieve the objective of Jal Jeevan Mission that every household in the village is getting enough potable water regularly.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, health-protection and cleanliness in cities and towns across India. Swachh Survekshan 2022 declared as the cleanest city in India.

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Indore

Answer: (d) Indore

INDORE