

30-06-2022

Living Lands Charter

Why in Newspapers?

Commonwealth members agreed to voluntarily dedicate 'living lands' in their respective countries to future generations in line with the strategy set for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Quick Issue?

- The 'Living Lands Charter' was announced at the conclusion of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022 in Kigali (Rwanda).
- The United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2021-30 as the 'UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration'.
- Its purpose is to promote the environmental goals of the United Nations.
- It calls for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems around the world, in particular to provide global cooperation for the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems.

Historical Background?

- The non-binding 'Living Lands Charter' states that member states will protect global land resources and prevent land degradation by working towards sustainable management of climate change, biodiversity loss and
- The Living Lands Charter helps cover a joint effort to keep the global average temperature rise to 1.5 °C.
- The charter aims to achieve climate goals by mixing policy impact, funding, technical assistance, governance and knowledge sharing by nations.
- Commonwealth governments have been asked to submit their emissions reduction targets by 23 September 2022.
- It aims to support member countries to effectively fulfill their commitments under the three Rio Conventions – United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations

Other Key Facts?

Commonwealth

- It is an international intergovernmental organization of countries that were mostly territories under the former British Empire.
- It was established in 1949 by the London Declaration.
- Queen Elizabeth II is the head of the Commonwealth.
- Many countries in Africa, Asia, America, Europe and the Pacific are included in the Commonwealth.
- It currently has 56 countries as its members. Membership is based on free and equal voluntary cooperation.
- In CHOGM 2022, two African countries Gabon and Togo have been included in the Commonwealth of Nations as the 55th and 56th members respectively.
- Its headquarter is in London.



Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. .

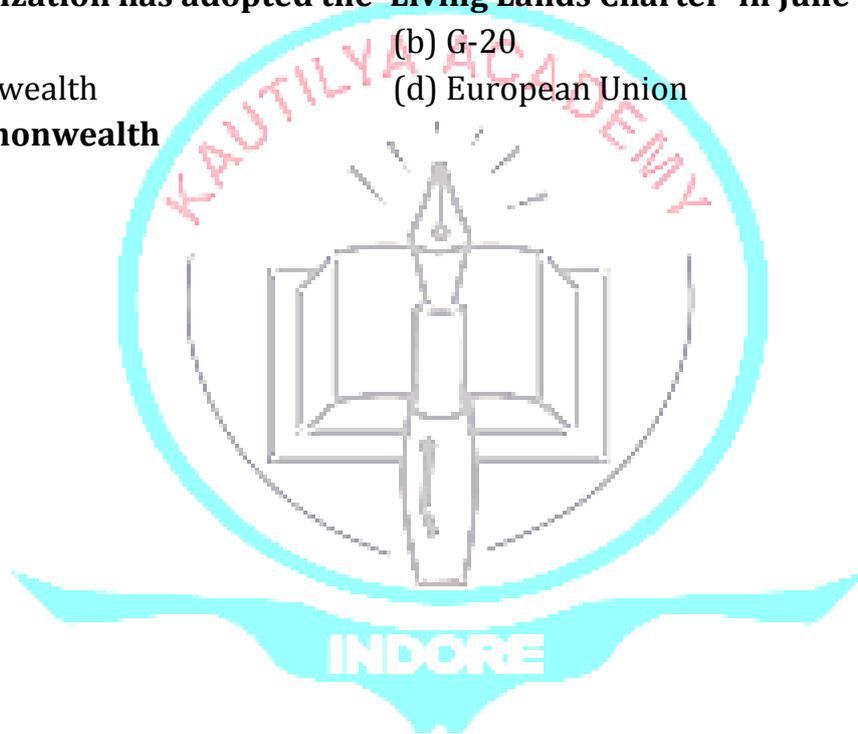
- CHOGM 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is the biennial summit of the Heads of Government of all Commonwealth countries.
- CHOGM 2022 was organized in Rwanda with the theme- 'providing a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, and transforming.'
- It has risen over US\$4 billion as a pledge to fight against malaria and other tropical diseases.
- There have been 24 CHOGMs since 1971, the latest meeting being held in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2018.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Which organization has adopted the 'Living Lands Charter' in June 2022?

- (a) G-7
- (b) G-20
- (c) Commonwealth
- (d) European Union

Answer: (c) Commonwealth





Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill, 2021

Why in Newspapers?

The Juvenile Justice Act amendment is making it more complicated to report abuse in child care institutions by making misbehaviour and cruelty by employees or persons in charge of Child Care Institutions (CCI) non-cognizable offences.

Quick Issue?

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021 was passed to amend various provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), since the start of registering these crimes in the year 2017, there was an increase of over 700 per cent till the year 2019.
- NCRB registered 278 cases of crimes committed by CCI in-charge across India in the year 2017 which involved 328 child victims. By the year 2019, these cases increased to 1,968, in which 2,699 were child victims.

Historical Background?

- **Non-cognizable offences:** ~ Offences against children which are mentioned in Chapter "Other offenses against children" of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, for which an offense punishable with imprisonment of three to seven years is "non-cognizable". Will happen.
- **Adoption/Adoption:** ~ The amendment provides protection to the provision of protection and adoption of children. Several adoption cases are pending before the court and the power to expedite the proceedings of the court has been transferred to the District Magistrate.

Other Key Facts?

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

- Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to replace the Juvenile Offenses Act and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
- The Act allows juveniles between the ages of 16-18 years to be tried on the same lines as adults involved in heinous crimes.
- The eligibility of parents for adoption and the method of adoption have been included in this act.
- The Act replaced the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (1956) and the Ward's Guardians Act (1890) with more universally accessible adoption legislation.
- The Act makes the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) the statutory body for adoption related matters, as a nodal agency for the upbringing, care and adoption of Indian orphans.
- **Child Care Institutions (CCIs):** ~ All child care institutions, whether run by the State Government or voluntary or non-governmental organizations, must be compulsorily registered under the Act within 6 months from the date of commencement of the Act.



- The amendment provides that the District Magistrate has the power to issue orders for such adoption.
- Challenges related to Juvenile Justice Amendment Act, 2021: The challenge in particular amendment is one of section 86 of the Juvenile Justice Act, according to which offenses under the special law shall be made non-cognizable with punishment between three to seven years. has been reclassified as
 - While the victims themselves are unable to report them directly due to imbalance in power, most such crimes are reported to the police by parents or child rights bodies and child welfare committees (CWC).
 - **Parents of these children:** They are mostly daily wage workers, either unaware of how to report crimes to the police or not.
 - They do not want to get involved in the legal process as it will force them to take time off from work, which will result in loss of wages.
 - **Child Welfare Committees (CWC):** The first instinct of CWC in most cases is to "talk and compromise" rather than escalate the matter to the police.
 - Making these offenses non-cognizable along with many other serious offenses under the special law would make it even more difficult to report the offense to the police.
 - The Code of Criminal Procedure lays down rules for the conduct of proceedings against any person who has committed an offense under any criminal law.
 - **Cognizable offences:**
 - A cognizable offense is an offense in which a police officer under the First Schedule or under any other law for the time being in force can arrest the guilty without warrant and initiate investigation without the permission of the court.
 - Cognizable offenses are usually heinous or serious in nature such as murder, rape, kidnapping, theft, dowry death etc.
 - First Information Report (FIR) is registered only in case of cognizable offences.
 - **Non-cognizable offences:**
 - A non-cognizable offense is an offense listed under the First Schedule of the Indian Penal Code and is bailable in nature.
 - In case of non-cognizable offence, police cannot arrest the accused without warrant and also cannot initiate investigation. A criminal complaint is filed with the magistrate, who orders the concerned police station to initiate investigation. The offenses like forgery, fraud, defamation, public nuisance etc. come under the category of non-cognizable offences.
 - As per section 155(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, when a case consists of two or more offences, at least one of which is of a cognizable nature, and the other of a non-cognizable nature.
 - Then the whole matter should be disposed of as a cognizable case and the Inquiry Officer shall have all the powers and authority to inquire into a cognizable case.
 - **Other legal frameworks for the care and protection of children:~**
 - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2013

