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Dialy News Pedia

Supreme Court scrapped the use of 'None of the above' (NOTA)

(GS Prelims and Mains 2– Indian Polity; Role of Supreme Court; Electoral Reforms)



Supreme Court scrapped the use of 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option in the coming **Rajya Sabha** elections. Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra held that **the NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.**

The use of NOTA cannot be sanctioned by way of the impugned circulars which has the effect of **overriding the provisions of Article 80(4), the provisions of Representation of People Act 1951 and the Conduct of Election Rules 1961.**”

<p>Where it counts</p> <p>NOTA: It allows voters to register their protest if none of the candidates is acceptable to them</p> <p>IN DIRECT ELECTIONS NOTA has only symbolic value in a direct election Regardless of NOTA numbers, candidate polling most votes is elected</p>		<p>IN RAJYA SABHA POLLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this indirect poll, legislators elect candidates to the Upper House • Single transferable vote involves marking order of preference among candidates • NOTA will alter outcome, as candidates need a particular number of votes to be elected. If first preference is for NOTA, the vote becomes invalid
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Why NOTA	Is NOTA good?
NOTA gives people dissatisfied with contesting candidates an opportunity to express their disapproval.	NOTA ensure people’s ‘right to freedom of speech and expression’. This will increase the polling percentage.

UDAN scheme for international routes

(GS Prelims and Mains 2– Government policies, Economy)

The Centre unveiled a draft scheme for extending the affordable air travel programme UDAN to international circuits, with state governments identifying the routes for operation.

The draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme envisages increasing the international ticketing to 20 crore by 2027.

The scheme has proposed to set up an *International Air Connectivity Fund (IACF)* -- a dedicated fund for providing subsidy support under the scheme. It will be created through the contributions of state governments.

“The subsidy support shall be provided to selected airlines only for the passenger seats, which remain unsold at the time of IAC flight operation, from the total number of passenger seats for which subsidy has been requested by the selected airline as part of its proposal,”

The subsidy support will be extended only up to three years.

The Airport Authority of India will be the implementing agency of the scheme

Note: UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam naagrik) Scheme

UDAN RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme) was launched in **October 2016 to develop the regional aviation market**. It is vital component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016. It aims to make flying affordable by providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of country through revival of existing airstrips and airports so that persons in regional towns are able to take affordable flights.

It seeks to reserve a minimum number of UDAN seats i.e. seats at subsidized rates and also cap fare for short distance flights. It has unique market-based model to develop regional connectivity. **It has Viability Gap Funding (VGF) mechanism to meet the VGF requirements under the scheme**. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is implementing agency of the scheme.



Ban on Diwali Firecrackers

(GS Prelims and Mains 3 – Environment and pollution)

Centre rules out the idea of complete national ban on firecrackers.

It suggested other steps to curb pollution – such as production of “green crackers”; community fireworks events etc.

Centre called for working with institutions such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, **National Environment Engineering Research Institute and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) to reduce pollution.**

It suggested setting up of raw material characterisation facilities to check the presence of high content of unburned material, partially combusted material or poor quality of raw material in fire crackers.

Clearing the path

(GS Prelims and Mains 3 – Environment and pollution)

Supreme Court has taken initiative to protect elephant corridor.

To restore ecology, Supreme Court has directed to close 27 resorts operating in elephant corridor in Nilgiri to allow hassle free movement to elephants.

Elephant movement is essential for survival and it also helps to regenerate forest on which other species are dependent. Challenges impacting Elephant migratory Corridor - Weak regulation of ecotourism, Fragmentation of forest, Structures like hotels and homes, Human-Elephant conflict due to which Elephant looks for alternate path.

Wildlife Trust of India and Elephant Project reports finding says:

- a. There are 101 elephant corridors and 70 % of them are being used on a regular basis.
- b. Report says, three-quarters of corridors are evenly divided between southern, central and north-eastern region. Rest are in north-west Bengal and other region.
- c. Some passages are very narrow of 100 meters wide.
- d. Estimation of 6500 elephants just in Brahmagiri-Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats



International Labour Organization (ILO)

(GS Prelims and Mains 4 – Social issue)

Stronger implementation of minimum wage laws and boosting frameworks for collective bargaining are needed

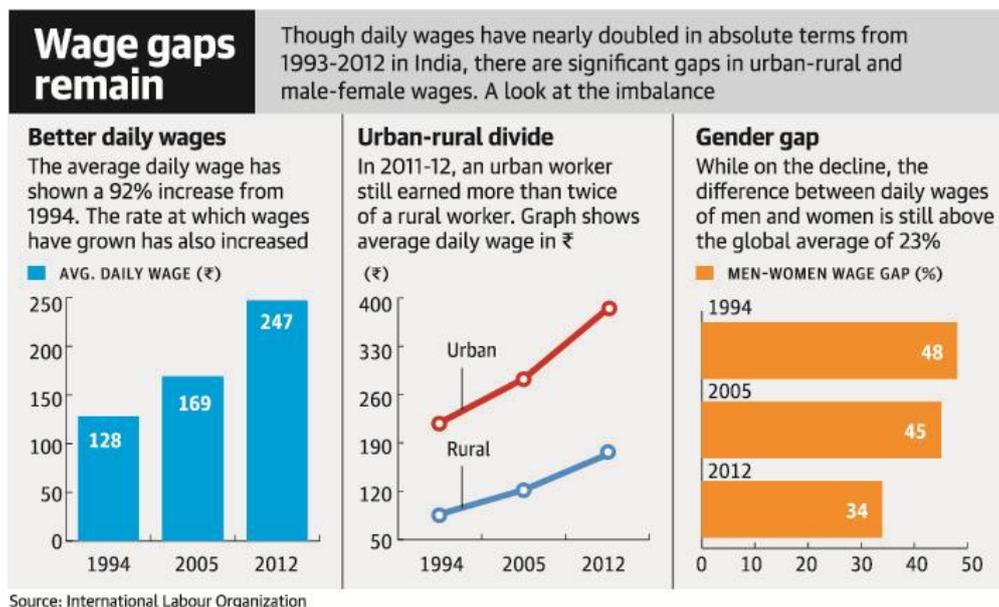
Real average daily wages in India almost doubled in the first two decades after economic reforms, but low pay and wage inequality remains a serious challenge to inclusive growth, the International Labour Organization warned in its India Wage Report published on Monday.

The ILO has called for stronger implementation of minimum wage laws and strengthening of the frameworks for collective bargaining by workers. This is essential to combat persistent low pay in some sectors and to bridge the wage gaps between rural and urban, male and female, and regular and casual workers.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) was founded in 1919, its Constitution forming part of the Treaty of Versailles.

The ILO became the first specialised agency of the UN in 1946.

ILO deals with labour problems, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all.





EDITORIAL

To Read

Beyond words

India and Pakistan must build on diplomatic courtesy to restore equilibrium to ties

In the midst of the **inane controversy over Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu's presence at Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's swearing-in ceremony**, there have been more substantive exchanges between New Delhi and Islamabad. In his first statement **after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf emerged as the single largest party**, Mr. Khan singled out India as a foreign policy relationship he hoped to work on, offering to walk **"two steps for every one step" that India took**. Narendra Modi responded with a phone call, and they spoke of a shared vision of **"peace and development"**.

Next, the Indian High Commissioner called on Mr. Khan and presented him a cricket bat with the signatures of the Indian team members. Mr. Khan's new appointee on the Pakistan Cricket Board has said that **resuming bilateral cricket is high on the leader's agenda for improving people-to-people ties**. Last week, **a delegation led by a Minister in Pakistan's caretaker government came to Delhi to attend Atal Bihari Vajpayee's funeral**. On Sunday, Pakistan's new Foreign Minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, said Mr. Khan had received a congratulatory letter from **Mr. Modi calling for the two countries to pursue "constructive engagement"**. And on Tuesday **Mr. Khan tweeted that trade and resolution of differences through dialogue are the "best way" to "uplift the people in the subcontinent"**. All these gestures confirm that both the Prime Ministers are at least sticking by diplomatic courtesy against the backdrop of an otherwise acrimonious relationship.

Well-chosen words, however, will not be enough. To begin with, **there appears to be very little trust in any quarter of both capitals**. Both leaders face political realities that could inhibit them from taking any major risks. **Mr. Modi, who dealt with the Pathankot airbase attack just days after his visit to Lahore in December 2015**, may well prefer to avoid such overtures, especially with Lok Sabha elections due in less than a year. **Mr. Khan, who commands a thin majority in Parliament, and has frequently criticized his predecessors for close ties with India**, may choose to remain conservative. Even so, the steps needed are clear. To begin with, **the situation at the Line of Control urgently needs attention, and a restoration of the ceasefire would be a major move forward for both countries**. Mr. Khan could earn Pakistan an economic breather if he adheres to **the international Financial Action Task Force's demands on ending terror financing**; he would earn more goodwill by directly addressing **India's concerns on the support to terrorists in Pakistan, and those being pushed over the LoC**. These actions could set up an even bolder move, no matter how unlikely it currently seems: for Mr. Modi to agree to **restore the SAARC process by attending the long-delayed summit due in Islamabad this year**. Much work, preferably behind the scenes, is needed if Mr. Modi and Mr. Khan hope to realize any of the objectives they have spoken of over the past month.



PRELIMS QUESTIONS

1. Rajya Sabha members are elected by means of
 - a. Universal adult franchise
 - b. Proportional representation of list system
 - c. Proportional representation of single transferable vote
 - d. Both b and c

2. choose the correct statement regarding UDAN RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme)
 - a. It has Viability Gap Funding (VGF) mechanism to meet the VGF requirements under the scheme
 - b. The scheme has proposed to set up an *International Air Connectivity Fund (IACF)*
 - c. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is implementing agency of the scheme.
 - d. All the above

3. choose the correct statement regarding ILO
 - a. (ILO) was founded in 1919, its Constitution forming part of the Treaty of Versailles
 - b. ILO deals with labour problems, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all.
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. None of the above

4. which of the following are true statement regarding PESO
 - a. It is statutory authority body
 - b. Its headquarter located at Nagpur (Maharashtra)
 - c. It has five Circle Offices located in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Faridabad and Agra and 18 Sub-circles Offices in the country
 - d. All the above

5. which of the following country has common membership in both SAARC and BIMSTEC
 - a. Afghanistan
 - b. Srilanka
 - c. Pakistan
 - d. Maldives

MAINS

Writing practice.

Q. Describe the Undoing a legacy of injustice in present situation of India.



YesUPSC