



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**



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53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

[www.tathastuics.com](http://www.tathastuics.com)

9560300770, 9560300554

[enquiry@tathastuics.com](mailto:enquiry@tathastuics.com)



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## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MAHAD SATYAGRAHA IN THE DALIT MOVEMENT

### Introduction:

- ❖ The Mahad Satyagraha, also known as Chavdar Tale Satyagraha, led by B. R. Ambedkar on March 20, 1927, in Mahad, Maharashtra, is hailed as a foundational event in the Dalit movement.
- ❖ It symbolizes the Dalit community's collective rejection of the caste system and assertion of human rights.

### About Mahad Satyagraha:

- ❖ **Objective:** Assert the right of untouchables to use water from a public tank.
- ❖ **Background:** Dalits were segregated and barred from using public water bodies and roads.
- ❖ **Satyagraha:** Ambedkar led a satyagraha in Mahad, chosen for its support from 'caste Hindus'.
- ❖ Ambedkar and thousands of untouchables drank water from the tank, challenging caste-based restrictions.
- ❖ He encouraged Dalit women to abandon untouchability customs and adopt saris like high-caste women, promoting social equality.
- ❖ Rumors of Ambedkar planning to enter a Hindu temple led to a riot, and the tank was purified with cow urine and cow-dung.
- ❖ Legal obstacles delayed a second conference planned by Ambedkar, but the Bombay High Court eventually ruled in favor of untouchables' right to use the tank water.

### Legacy:

- ❖ Ambedkar commemorated the Satyagraha with a rally in Mahad on March 19, 1940, known as "Empowerment Day".

### Key Initiatives Led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

- ❖ **Temple Entry Movement (1920s-1930s)** - Advocated for Dalits' right to enter Hindu temples, challenging discriminatory practices.
- ❖ **Kalaram Mandir Movement (1930)** - Demanded temple entry rights for Dalits at the Kalaram Mandir in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- ❖ **Annihilation of Caste (1936)** - Publication advocating for the abolition of the caste system and promoting social equality.
- ❖ **Formation of Independent Dalit Political Party (Independent Labour Party) (1936)** – Addressed political concerns and aspirations of Dalits, striving for their representation.
- ❖ **Push for Separate Electorate (1932)** - Advocated for separate electorates for Dalits to ensure their political empowerment and representation.



- ❖ **Legal Advocacy (1940s-1950s)** - Drafted Hindu Code Bills and contributed to the framing of the Indian Constitution, advocating for social justice and equality.
- ❖ **Conversion to Buddhism (1956)** - Symbolic rejection of the caste system through a mass conversion ceremony to Buddhism in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

#### Conclusion:

- ❖ The Mahad Satyagraha stands as a milestone in the Dalit movement, exemplifying the struggle for social justice and equality championed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- ❖ Ambedkar's various initiatives and movements aimed at dismantling caste-based discrimination and empowering marginalized communities, leaving a profound legacy in India's socio-political landscape.





## THE ROLE OF SCIENCE BASED TARGETS INITIATIVE (SBTi) IN THE CARBON OFFSETS MARKET

### Introduction:

- ❖ The recent gathering of major funders and promoters of the carbon offsets market in London has sparked discussions about the influence of the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) on the market's growth.
- ❖ While SBTi's stringent criteria for net-zero plans are lauded for enhancing emissions accountability, concerns have been raised about their potential limitation on the carbon offsets market's effectiveness in combating climate change.

### Carbon Offset: Understanding the Concept:

- ❖ **Definition:** A carbon offset involves a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or an increase in carbon storage to compensate for emissions occurring elsewhere.
- ❖ **Certification:** Carbon offset credits, certified by governments or independent bodies, represent an emission reduction of one metric tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> or equivalent GHGs.

### Science Based Targets Initiatives (SBTi):

- ❖ **Purpose:** Drives ambitious corporate action on climate change by providing a framework for setting science-based targets aligned with the Paris Agreement goals
- ❖ **Founding Organizations:** Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), World Resources Institute (WRI), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ❖ **Methodologies:** Offers guidelines for companies to set targets consistent with the latest climate science, aiming to limit global warming.
- ❖ **Global Reach:** Engages with companies worldwide, collaborating across sectors and industries to promote adoption of science-based targets.
- ❖ **Recognition:** Acknowledged as a leading platform for corporate climate action, encourages companies to set science-based targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Concerns Raised by Recent Discussions:

- ❖ Impact on Carbon Offsets Market
- ❖ **Potential Limitation:** Some argue that SBTi's stringent criteria may hinder the potential of carbon offsets in effectively combating climate change.
- ❖ **Market Growth:** Concerns have been raised about how SBTi's requirements may restrict the growth and adoption of carbon offsets, impacting the overall effectiveness of emission reduction strategies.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ The discussion surrounding the role of the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) in the carbon offsets market highlights the complexities and challenges in balancing emissions accountability with the promotion of effective climate mitigation strategies.
- ❖ While SBTi plays a crucial role in driving ambitious corporate action on climate change, there is a need for further dialogue and exploration of how its criteria can be optimized to maximize the potential of carbon offsets in achieving climate goals.



## ELON MUSK'S VISIT TO INDIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) INDUSTRY

### Introduction:

- ❖ Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, is set to arrive in India to announce plans for investing in electric vehicles (EVs), reflecting the growing importance of the Indian market in the global EV landscape.
- ❖ While Musk anticipates a warm welcome, there are concerns regarding challenges such as competition from local companies and digital disruptions impacting the EV sector.

### Characteristics of Electric Vehicles (EVs):

- ❖ EVs are vehicles powered by electric motors, utilizing energy stored in rechargeable batteries, eliminating the need for internal combustion engines and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

### EV Policy in India:

- ❖ The new EV policy in India includes a reduction in import duties to 15% for car models priced over \$35,000 if manufacturers commit to investing \$500 million in local factory setup.
- ❖ The policy aims to attract investments, promote Make in India initiative, strengthen the EV ecosystem, reduce crude oil imports, and mitigate air pollution.

### Key Takeaways:

- ❖ The policy represents a partial reversal of domestic manufacturing push, allowing carmakers to import fully built cars initially with a promise of local manufacturing later.
- ❖ It targets electric car models priced at \$35,000 or above, aiming to encourage adoption of advanced technology and boost competition among EV players.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Lack of mass-market entry-level EVs poses a challenge in India, where affordability is crucial for widespread adoption.
- ❖ Competition from less expensive Chinese EVs, coupled with the rapid growth of Chinese manufacturers like BYD, challenges Tesla's market dominance.
- ❖ Addressing charging infrastructure remains critical to alleviate range anxiety and drive EV adoption in India.

### Implications for Economy and Employment:

- ❖ Importing EVs and setting up manufacturing units in India will stimulate economic growth by attracting investments, fostering innovation, and promoting local manufacturing.
- ❖ Increased EV production will create job opportunities across the supply chain, from manufacturing and assembly to research and development, contributing to employment generation and skill development.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ Elon Musk's visit to India signifies the growing significance of the country in the global EV market.
- ❖ The implementation of favorable policies and investments in EV infrastructure will play a pivotal role in accelerating India's transition towards sustainable mobility, driving economic growth, and fostering employment opportunities.



## BATTLE FOR ELECTION SYMBOLS: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION

### Why in News?

- ❖ Election symbols play a crucial role in elections, serving as a party's identity and aiding voters in candidate recognition.
- ❖ Recent events, such as the split of the Shiv Sena party in Maharashtra, have highlighted the significance of election symbols and the ensuing battles for their ownership.

### Constitutional Provisions Related to the Election Commission:

- ❖ Articles 324 to 329 of the Indian Constitution provide for the establishment, powers, and functions of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

### Role and Function of the Election Commission:

- ❖ The Election Commission is responsible for the conduct of free and fair elections at various levels of government, including Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies.
- ❖ It ensures impartiality, transparency, and efficiency in the electoral process, from voter registration to the declaration of election results.

### Ensuring Free and Fair Elections:

- ❖ The Election Commission employs various measures to ensure free and fair elections, including voter education, voter registration drives, monitoring of election expenditure, and deployment of security forces to maintain law and order.
- ❖ It also regulates political parties and candidates, enforces the Model Code of Conduct, and addresses complaints related to electoral malpractices.

### Key Takeaways:

- ❖ Election symbols were introduced by the Election Commission before the first Lok Sabha election in 1951 to aid illiterate voters.
- ❖ Symbols are selected based on familiarity and non-offensiveness to religious or sentimental associations.
- ❖ The Election Commission, under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, is responsible for allotting symbols, including reserved symbols for recognized political parties and free symbols for independent and unrecognized parties.



## MANAGING INVASIVE SPECIES: THE CASE OF CHITAL ON ROSS ISLAND

### Introduction:

- ❖ Ross Island, also known as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, faces challenges due to the proliferation of chital (spotted deer), an invasive species introduced by the British in the early 20th century.
- ❖ The management seeks assistance from the Wildlife Institute of India to address the ecological imbalance caused by the unchecked growth of chital population.

### Understanding Invasive Species:

- ❖ Invasive alien species (IAS) are defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as species whose introduction outside their natural distribution threatens biodiversity.
- ❖ The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, amended in 2022, identifies IAS as species not native to India, posing a threat to wildlife and habitats.

### Impacts of Invasive Species:

- ❖ IAS disrupt ecosystems, alter food chains, and impact native species' populations and habitats.
- ❖ For example, the chital's presence in the Andamans affects native vegetation regeneration by consuming seeds and seedlings.

### Key Takeaways:

- ❖ The proliferation of chital underscores the ecological and economic impacts of invasive species.
- ❖ The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report highlights the global impact of IAS, with approximately 200 new alien species introduced each year.
- ❖ Examples of invasive species in India include the African catfish, Nile tilapia, and red-bellied piranha.

### Challenges and Management:

- ❖ The unchecked growth of chital on Ross Island necessitates scientific management to restore ecological balance.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India's involvement indicates the importance of scientific expertise in addressing invasive species' challenges.
- ❖ **IUCN Status of Chital** - The IUCN Red List categorizes chital as Least Concern, reflecting its widespread distribution and stable population.
- ❖ **Habitat of Chital** - Chital inhabit deciduous or semi-evergreen forests and open grasslands, adapting well to varied habitats.
- ❖ **Translocation of Animals** - The translocation of animals for scientific management purposes requires permits from relevant authorities, often including wildlife departments or conservation organizations.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ The management of invasive species like chital on Ross Island highlights the need for proactive measures to address ecological imbalances.
- ❖ Collaboration between scientific institutions and government agencies is essential in implementing effective management strategies to mitigate the impacts of invasive species and conserve biodiversity.



## CONFIRMATION OF ASSET ATTACHMENT UNDER PMLA: NATIONAL HERALD CASE

### Why in News?

- ❖ The Adjudicating Authority under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) has confirmed the attachment of assets worth Rs 751.9 crore belonging to the Congress party promoted National Herald newspaper.
- ❖ This action follows the provisional attachment by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in November 2023 in a PMLA case against Associated Journals Ltd (AJL) and Young Indian (YI), associated with National Herald.

### Understanding PMLA:

- ❖ The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) aims to combat money laundering and related offences.
- ❖ It provides for the attachment, confiscation, and seizure of proceeds of crime derived from money laundering activities.

### Role of the Adjudicating Authority:

- ❖ Section 5 of the PMLA empowers the ED Director to provisionally attach properties suspected to be proceeds of crime.
- ❖ The attachment order is issued if there is a risk of the proceeds of crime being concealed, transferred, or dealt with to frustrate confiscation proceedings.
- ❖ The provisional attachment is valid for 180 days, during which the Adjudicating Authority appointed by the central government must confirm it.
- ❖ The accused retains the right to use the property during this period.
- ❖ Following confirmation, the ED may take custody of the property.

### Legal Proceedings:

- ❖ The accused can challenge the confirmation order at the PMLA Appellate Tribunal within 45 days.
- ❖ Further appeals can be made to the High Court and beyond.
- ❖ Upon final confirmation, the ED may take possession of the property, especially in cases of conviction where confiscation is ordered.

### Challenges in Legal Process:

- ❖ Understanding the complexities and timelines involved in challenging attachment orders.
- ❖ Global Anti-Money Laundering Efforts.
- ❖ The role of international organizations like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in coordinating anti-money laundering efforts globally.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ The confirmation of asset attachment in the National Herald case under PMLA underscores the government's commitment to combat money laundering.
- ❖ The legal process involved in such cases highlights the need for robust mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency in financial transactions.





## ESTABLISHING A TIME STANDARD FOR THE MOON

### Introduction:

- ❖ The United States has directed NASA to create a time standard for the Moon, termed as Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC), to facilitate coordination among international bodies and private companies operating on the lunar surface.

### Understanding Times Standards:

- ❖ Most clocks and time zones on Earth are based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), set by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures
- ❖ UTC relies on atomic clocks placed worldwide, but it cannot be used for lunar time due to relativistic effects.

### Why a Time Standard for the Moon?

- ❖ Time flows differently on the Moon compared to Earth due to Einstein's theory of general relativity.
- ❖ Variations in time can disrupt spacecraft operations, data transfer, navigation, and communication.
- ❖ With upcoming lunar missions like NASA's Artemis program, China, and India's lunar missions, a coordinated time standard becomes essential.

### Atomic Clocks and Lunar Time:

- ❖ Atomic clocks measure time using the resonant frequencies of atoms like cesium-133.
- ❖ Placing atomic clocks on the Moon's surface accounts for its unique time flow, influenced by its rotation and mass distribution.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ Establishing a time standard for the Moon is crucial for seamless coordination among lunar missions and activities.
- ❖ Atomic clocks play a vital role in accurately measuring time on both Earth and the Moon, ensuring precision in scientific endeavors and space exploration.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HIGGS BOSON AND PETER HIGGS

### Introduction:

- ❖ Peter Higgs, the physicist behind the theory of the Higgs boson, passed away at the age of 94, renewing focus on the importance of his ground breaking work.

### Understanding the Higgs Boson:

- ❖ The Higgs boson, theorized by Peter Higgs in the 1960s, is an elementary particle responsible for imparting mass to other particles.
- ❖ Its existence was confirmed in 2012 through experiments conducted at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN.

### Peter Higgs' Contribution:

- ❖ Higgs, along with François Englert, formulated the mechanism behind the origin of mass for subatomic particles, earning them the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics.
- ❖ Their work validated the Standard Model of Particle Physics, providing a comprehensive framework for understanding fundamental particles and forces.

### Significance of the Higgs Boson:

- ❖ The Higgs boson plays a crucial role in the Standard Model, explaining the mass of particles like electrons and protons.
- ❖ Its discovery affirmed our understanding of particle physics and paved the way for further research into phenomena like Dark Matter and the unification of fundamental forces.

### The Concept of the 'God Particle':

- ❖ The term 'God Particle' was coined by physicist Leon Lederman to describe the elusive nature of the Higgs boson and its significance in understanding the universe.
- ❖ The Higgs boson interacts with the Higgs field, providing mass to other particles, unlike massless particles like photons.

### Legacy of Peter Higgs:

- ❖ Reflecting on Peter Higgs' contributions to our understanding of the universe and the enduring impact of his work on modern physics.
- ❖ Exploring avenues for further research inspired by the discovery of the Higgs boson, such as the nature of Dark Matter and the quest for a unified theory of fundamental forces.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ Peter Higgs' pioneering work on the Higgs boson revolutionized our understanding of particle physics and reshaped the landscape of modern science. His legacy continues to inspire scientists worldwide as they delve deeper into the mysteries of the universe.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF ADDRESSING VIRAL HEPATITIS IN INDIA

### Introduction:

- ❖ India faces a significant burden of viral hepatitis, with millions of people affected by Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C infections, according to the Global Hepatitis Report 2024 released by the World Health Organization (WHO).

### Prevalence and Impact:

- ❖ The report highlights alarming statistics, with 2.9 crore people living with Hepatitis B infection and 0.55 crore living with Hepatitis C infection in India.
- ❖ In 2022 alone, over 50,000 new cases of Hepatitis B and 1.4 lakh new cases of Hepatitis C were reported, leading to 1.23 lakh deaths attributed to these infections.

### Transmission and Prevention:

- ❖ Both Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can be transmitted from mother to child during delivery, through blood transfusion, contact with infected blood, or sharing needles.
- ❖ While Hepatitis B can be prevented through vaccination, Hepatitis C is curable with medication.

### Health Impact:

- ❖ Hepatitis B can cause acute symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and jaundice, and may progress to chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.
- ❖ Hepatitis C may not present symptoms immediately, but can lead to liver damage, cirrhosis, and other complications if left untreated.

### Challenges and Solutions:

- ❖ The key challenge lies in raising awareness about prevention, ensuring vaccination coverage, and providing access to treatment for those infected.
- ❖ Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, improving blood screening protocols, and promoting safe injection practices are crucial steps in combating viral hepatitis.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ Addressing the burden of viral hepatitis in India requires a comprehensive approach encompassing prevention, vaccination, and access to treatment. By prioritizing public health interventions and raising awareness, India can mitigate the impact of these infections and improve the health and well-being of its population.