

EXERCISE DHARMA GUARDIAN-2023

A joint military exercise Dharma Guardian between India and Japan to begin from 17 February 2023 at Camp Imazu in Japan.



About Exercise Dharma Guardian-2023:

- It is the 4th joint military exercise between **India and Japan** which is being conducted since 2018.
- The scope of this exercise covers **platoon-level joint training** on operations in jungle and semi-urban or urban terrain.
- Troops of the **Garhwal Rifles Regiment** of the Indian Army and an Infantry Regiment from the Middle Army of the Japan Ground Self Defence Force are participating in the exercise.
- This joint exercise will enable the two armies to share best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures for conducting tactical operations under a UN Mandate.

What are Other Exercises between India and Japan?

- **Malabar:** India and Japan with the United States and Australia participate in the naval war gaming exercise named Malabar.
- **JIMEX** (naval)
- **SHINYUU Maitri** (Air Force)

GOVERNING ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION IN INDIA

The Central Government has recently made major changes in the organ transplant regulations in the country under its 'one nation, one policy' rule by removing the 65-year age cap for recipients and allowing them to register in any state and not just their state.



About Organ Transplantation in India:

- The **primary legislation** governing organ transplantation in India is the **Transplantation of Human Organs Act, passed in 1994.**

- It provides a system to regulate the removal, storage, and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs.
- **National Organ transplant programme:**
- It is implemented by the Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India.
- **Objectives:**
 - To organize a system of organ and Tissue procurement & distribution for transplantation.
 - To promote deceased organ and Tissue donation.
 - To train the required manpower.
 - To protect vulnerable poor from organ trafficking.
 - To monitor organ and tissue transplant services and bring about policy and programme corrections/ changes whenever needed.
- **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):**
 - It is a National level organization set up under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
 - It functions as the apex center for coordinating all activities and networking for the procurement and distribution of organs and tissues and maintaining the registry of organs and tissue donation and transplantation in the country.

Organ donation in India:

- Organ donation means giving part of the body (organ) to a person with end-stage organ disease who needs a transplant.
- In India, organ donations are legal under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994, which also legalizes the concept of 'brain death', the permanent cessation of all brain functions.
- Organ donation is a voluntary process wherein you can fill up a consent form to donate your organs in the event of your demise.
- **Types of organ donation:**
 - **Living Donor Organ Donation:**
 - A person during his life can donate one kidney, a portion of the pancreas, and a part of the liver.

- **Living Donor** is any person not less than 18 years of age who voluntarily authorizes the removal of any of his organ and/or tissue, during their lifetime, as per prevalent medical practices for therapeutic purposes.
- The donor can be a family member, relative, friend, neighbour, or in-law.
- **Deceased Donor Organ Donation:**
 - A person can donate multiple organs and tissues after (brain-stem/cardiac) death. Their organ continues to live in another person's body.
 - **Deceased Donor is anyone, regardless of age**, who can become an organ and tissue donor **after their death (Brainstem/Cardiac)**. Consent of a near relative or a person in lawful possession of the dead body is required.
- **Eligibility criteria:**
 - There is **no age limit for organ donation**. It can be started at as young as six weeks. The only essential thing is the health and condition of your organs.

WHAT IS A PAYMENT AGGREGATOR?

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently granted payment aggregator licenses to 32 entities.



About Payment Aggregator (PA):

- A PA (also known as a **merchant aggregator**) is a **third-party service provider** that allows merchants to accept payment from customers by integrating it into their websites or apps.
- It facilitates **different types of payment transactions**, including cash/cheque, online payments through multiple payment sources, or offline touchpoints.
- It allows merchants to accept bank transfers without setting up a bank-based merchant account. It means a merchant need not have a merchant account directly with the bank.
- A PA in India is incorporated under the Companies Act 2013.
- A PA can be a bank or a non-bank entity.
- Since a PA handles funds, it requires a license from the RBI.

- **Only non-bank payment aggregators require unique authorization from RBI** as ‘handling funds’ is considered a part of the normal banking relationships for bank PAs.
- **Examples: Amazon (Pay) India, Google India, Razorpay, Pine Labs, etc.**

What is a Payment Gateway?

- It is a **software service that connects your bank account to the platform where you need to transfer your money.**
- It **authorizes you to conduct an online transaction through different payment modes** like net banking, credit card, debit card, UPI, or other online wallets.
- A **Payment gateway plays the role of a third party that securely transfers your money from the bank account to the merchant’s payment portal.**

Payment Aggregator v/s Payment gateway:

- A **payment gateway is a software that allows online transactions to take place, while a payment aggregator is the inclusion of all these payment gateways.**
- While a **payment gateway is an intermediary, the payment aggregator is the interface** where the payment gateway processes the transactions.
- **Most payment aggregators own payment gateways** to offer various exclusive services to their merchant customers.

WHAT ARE PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES (PACS)?

Union Cabinet recently approved the establishment of new Primary Agricultural Credit Society in 2 lakh panchayats in the next five years.



About the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS):

- PACS are **village-level cooperative credit societies** that serve as the **last link in a three-tier cooperative credit structure** headed by the **State Cooperative Banks (SCB)** at the state level.
- **Credit from the SCBs is transferred to the district central cooperative banks (DCCBs)** that operate at the district level. The **DCCBs work with PACS, which deals directly with farmers.**

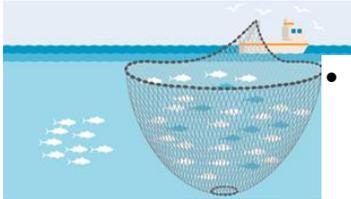
- **Individual farmers are members of the PACS**, and office-bearers are elected from within them.
 - There are **02 lakh PACS in India** (As per the RBI report of December 2022).
 - **Functions:**
 - To **provide short and medium-term purpose loans to farmers** for various agricultural purposes.
 - **Borrowing adequate funds from central financial agencies** to help its members on time.
 - **Maintaining the supply of the hired light machinery** for agricultural purposes.
 - To **promote savings habits** among its members.
 - To **arrange for supplying agricultural inputs**.
 - **Provide marketing facilities** to members that could enhance the sale of their agricultural products in the market at reasonable prices.
 - **Organizational Structure:**
 - **General Body:** Exercise **control overboard and management**.
 - **Management Committee:** The **general body elects them** to perform the work prescribed by society's rules, acts, and by-laws.
 - **Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary:** Appointed from amongst its members. They work for the benefit of the members by performing their roles and duties as assigned to them.
 - **Office Staff:** Performs **day-to-day work**.
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[DEEP SEA FISH CONSERVATION MUST NOT GO ADRIFT](#)

Context

- The Supreme Court (in an interim order) recently allowed purse seine fishing outside the territorial waters (12 nautical miles) of Tamil Nadu, and within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ - 200 nm), alongside imposing stringent conditions.
- The article notes that this SC order is more concerned about regulating fishing rather than focused upon conservation measures and obligations under various conventions along with court judgments to protect endangered marine living resources.

What is Purse Seine Fishing?



- It uses a **large vertical net** (2,000 metres in length and 200 m in depth) to **surround dense shoals of pelagic or midwater fish** in the open ocean.
- The purse seine fishers claim that it is simply a **more scientific way** to catch fish, particularly from the first layer of the sea.
- Also, it does **not exploit other species**, since it focuses on shoaling fishes only.
- The scientific community also notes that **climatic conditions**, including the **El Nino** phenomenon, are responsible for the **declining catch of fish** in the last ten years and Purse Seine Fishing cannot be blamed solely.
- Around 17 lakh small fishermen use purse seine nets and thus **supporting livelihood** of many people.

What was the Case Related to Purse Seine Fishing?

- Tamil Nadu government had vehemently objected to purse seine fishing, beyond the 12 nm border.
- It had referred to a 1993 decision of the SC in **State of Kerala vs Joseph Antony**, which had upheld the ban on purse seine fishing beyond the territorial waters as it affected the livelihood of traditional fishermen.
- A petition was filed in apex court by **Fishermen Care Association** to stay a 2020 Tamil Nadu government order which had banned the large nets - famously known as Purse Seine Fishing - used to catch fish in the deep sea, within its territorial waters.
- **The petitioners argued** that there had not been any prohibition on purse seine fishermen operating beyond territorial waters for the past 30 years, when purse seine fishing was introduced in 1954.
- **The State did not have any jurisdiction** outside the nautical limit of its territorial waters and cannot restrict them from fishing there.
- The SC hence allowed to do purse seine fishing outside the 12-nm limit off TN on the basic **principle of 'living and letting live'** with **certain restrictions** as follows:



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- The purse seine fishing would be allowed **only twice a week**.
 - Only **vessels registered** under the marine fishing regulation law would be allowed.
 - Installation of **tracking devices** and prescribing **colour codes** for boats doing Purse Seine Fishing.
 - The fishing crew carrying Purse Seine Fishing also need to mandatorily carry **identity cards**.
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