

### TAKING STEPS TO SPEED UP AFT'S DELIVERY OF JUSTICE: RAJNATH SINGH

#### **In News:**

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh said that the government is taking steps to further empower the armed forces tribunal (AFT) and make it more responsive.

#### **Armed Forces Tribunal**

- It was established in August 2009 by the Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007.
- The Law Commission's 169th report stated that disciplinary and service matters required quick resolutions and proposed a special tribunal for the military forces.
- It is a military tribunal with the power of adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints related to commission, appointments, enrolments and conditions of service.
- Besides the Principal Bench in New Delhi, AFT has 10 Regional Benches.

#### **Composition**

- The Tribunal is composed of Judicial Members as well as Administrative Members.
- The Judicial Members are retired High Court Judges.
- Administrative Members are retired Members of
  - the Armed Forces who have held rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more; or
  - the Judge Advocate General(JAG) who have experience in the post for at least one year.

#### **Power/Jurisdiction**

- The Tribunal is empowered to adjudicate appeals against any order, decision, finding or sentence passed by a court-martial or any related matter.
- It is also empowered to grant bail to an accused who is in military custody.
- The Tribunal may have the powers to substitute for the findings of the court martial. It may:
  - remit the whole or any part of the sentence, with or without conditions;
  - mitigate the punishment awarded
  - commute such punishment to any lesser punishment or enhance the sentence awarded by a court martial.

## Jurisdiction of other courts

- In March 2022, Delhi High Court held that the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 excludes the administrative supervision of the High Court under Article 227(4) of the Constitution.
- However, it does not exclude the judicial superintendence and jurisdiction under Article 226.
- In January 2020, the Supreme Court made it clear that the verdicts of the Armed Forces Tribunals (AFT) can be challenged before the high courts.
  - In 2015, a Supreme Court bench had held that AFT verdicts could not be challenged before the high courts.
  - It had also said that an appeal against the AFT orders would lie before the apex court but only if a point of law of general public importance is involved.

## News Summary

- Union Defence Minister said the Government is committed to make the Armed Forces Tribunal more empowered and responsive.
- He was addressing the gathering at a seminar titled 'Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal'.
  - The objective of the seminar was to analyse its working, suggest remedies for any shortcomings, and resolve the problems and difficulties faced by the litigants in the course of availing speedy justice.
- He stated that domain-specific tribunals were set up to deal with diverse cases and clear pending cases.
- He also called for a balance between 'justice delayed is justice denied' and 'justice hurried is justice buried'.

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## WARNING LABEL MOST EFFECTIVE IN IDENTIFYING HARMFUL NUTRIENTS: STUDY

### In News:

- A new study in India discovered that warning labels on food packets are more helpful than other labelling types in assisting customers in identifying foods high in sugar, saturated fat and sodium.

- The report comes as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is set to release its draft regulation, which has shown a preference for Health Star Rating.

## Health Star Rating:

- In 2022 (February), the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) decided to adopt the Health-Star Rating (HSR) system.
- In its draft regulations for front of package labelling (FOPL), the FSSAI designed a system called HSR, that gives a product **1/2 a star** (unhealthy) to **5 stars** (healthy).
- After analysing the nutritional information present in 100 mg quantity of packaged food, the levels of fat, sugar and salt in the food will determine the HSR.
- Through HSR, the FSSAI revealed its plan to label all packaged food items or ultra-processed foods.
- The food regulator (FSSAI) has exempted milk and dairy products from the proposed FoPL, as they were in the earlier FSSAI draft notified in 2019.

## Significance:

- In India, packaged food has back-of-package (BOP) nutrient information in detail but no FoPL.
- As per global experience, FOPL has the ability to nudge healthy consumption behaviour with respect to packaged food.
- FOPL will bring a transformational reform in the society as it will encourage healthy eating.
- It will also help to **reduce the burden of Non- Communicable Diseases** (NCDs- diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, etc) in the country.
- At present, countries such as the UK, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, and Australia have FoPL.

## Concerns:

- **Not evidence-based:**
  - According to experts, the HSR system used in nations such as Australia and New Zealand has not resulted in any significant behavioural shift.
  - They suggest that in various countries, warning labels have proven most beneficial.
- **Misrepresents nutrition science:**

- The core principle of the HSR, according to nutrition specialists, is that positive components (fruits, nuts) can offset bad nutrients such as calories, saturated fat, total sugar and sodium to compute the number of stars given to a product.

### News Summary:

- The study, which was published in the journal Nutrients, is the first peer-reviewed paper on the issue in an Indian context.
- The study's goal was to assess the effectiveness of various labels in assisting customers in correctly identifying packaged products containing excessive levels of nutrients of concern such as sugar, saturated fat and sodium.
- The study found that most participants were able to identify a nutrient of concern when they were presented a packet with a warning label.
- However, the study found that warning labels did not significantly reduce intentions to purchase unhealthy packaged products.
- That is why the authors recommend that any FOPL policy be reinforced with a robust and focused communications campaign to increase consumer awareness and understanding.

### FIFA

**Late on August 15, world football's governing body FIFA suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) indefinitely for "undue interference by a third party" in the process to finalise a new constitution and elect office-bearers.**



### About:

- FIFA is an international governing body of association football, beach football and futsal.
- It was founded in 1904 to oversee international competition among the national associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
- Headquartered in Zürich, Switzerland, its membership now comprises 211 national associations; Russia was suspended in 2022.

- These national associations must each also be members of one of the six regional confederations into which the world is divided: Africa, Asia, Europe, North & Central America and the Caribbean, Oceania and South America.
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## ROHINGYA REFUGEES

On August 17, Union Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted that Rohingya refugees would be shifted to flats meant for economically weaker sections (EWS), and provided with basic amenities and police protection.



### **About:**

- The Minister said “India respects & follows the UN Refugee Convention 1951 & provides refuge to all, regardless of their race, religion or creed.”
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under Amit Shah issued a clarification saying that no such direction had been given to provide EWS flats to “Rohingya illegal foreigners”.

### **What is India’s stand on refugees?**

- India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.
  - All foreign undocumented nationals are governed as per the provisions of The Foreigners Act, 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and The Citizenship Act, 1955.
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## MITHILA MAKHANA

Union government has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana.



### **About:**

- Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: Euryale ferox Salisb.) is a special variety of aquatic fox nut cultivated in Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.
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- Once a product gets this tag, any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.
- Makhana is the one of the three prestigious cultural identity of Mithila. Pan, Makhan and Machh (fish) are the three prestigious cultural identity of Mithila.
- In Mithila, Makhana is also termed as Makhan. It is also very famous in Kojagara festival of Maithil Brahmins celebrated for newly married couples.
- Makhana contains protein and fiber, along with micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN POLICE

**In Himachal Pradesh, the 10th National Conference of Women Police will begin in Shimla on August 21, 2022.**



### **About:**

- More than two hundred women police officers and employees across the country are participating in this two-day National conference.
- The conference is being organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) in collaboration with Himachal Police.
- The main objective of this conference is to enhance the leadership potential of women police officers and discuss their problems and challenges.
- State Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said, at present the strength of women in the police force in Himachal is 13 percent and the women quota in the police has been increased to 25 percent.

## ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

**Maharashtra government will take a loan of 4,000 crore rupees from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for setting up medical colleges in 12 districts of the state.**



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## About:

- Maharashtra govt to take Rs 4000 cr loan from Asian Development Bank to set up medical colleges in 12 districts
  - There are 12 districts in the state without a single medical college. These districts include Jalgaon, Satara, Alibaug, Sindhudurg, Usmanabad, Parbhani, Amravati, Ratnagiri, Gadchiroli, Bhandara and Ambernath.
  - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
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