



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



29th December, 2023

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

www.tathastuics.com

9560300770, 9560300554

enquiry@tathastuics.com



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	HOUTHİ ATTACKS: A THREAT TO GLOBAL SHIPPING?
2.	THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF PERIODICALS BILL, 2023
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

HOUTHİ ATTACKS: A THREAT TO GLOBAL SHIPPING?

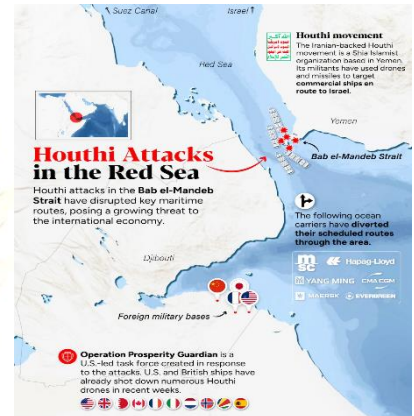
SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- *The recent surge in missile and drone attacks by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, particularly targeting commercial shipping, represents a significant escalation of hostilities. This has garnered global attention due to its potential impact on maritime security.*
- *On December 23, the Red Sea crisis reached Indian waters as the Liberian-flagged vessel Chem Pluto, en route to Mangalore, was hit by a projectile near Gujarat. This follows a surge in missile and drone attacks on shipping by Houthi rebels in Yemen after Israel's offensive against Hamas.*

HOUTHİS COMMUNITY: RECENT CONFLICT

- **About Houthis:**
 - ✓ The Houthis, also known as **Ansar Allah (Supporters of God)**, originated in Yemen's northwestern **Saada province** and **began their movement in the 1990s** against the dictatorship of Yemeni President **Ali Abdullah Saleh**.
 - ✓ Currently embroiled in Yemen's civil war since 2014, the **Houthis control significant territories in the west and northwest**, including the capital **Sana'a**.
 - ✓ The movement is associated with the **Zaidi Shia sect** and is **part of Iran's "Axis of Resistance,"** an informal coalition against Israel and the West.
 - ✓ Iran provides backing to the Houthis. In Yemen, the **Houthis are in conflict with the internationally recognized Yemeni government**, supported by Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- **Houthi Attacks on Commercial Ships:**
 - ✓ The Red Sea, a **critical global shipping route**, is witnessing **increased tensions due to a series of attacks by Houthi militants** from Yemen.
 - ✓ In the last four weeks, there have **been 12 attacks or seizures of commercial vessels** by the Houthis, leading to concerns about the safety of maritime traffic.
- **Houthi Motivation:**
 - ✓ The Houthi rebels **claim to target vessels with links to Israel in protest of Israel's military offensive in Gaza** following an attack by the Palestinian militant group Hamas.
 - ✓ This adds a **geopolitical dimension to the conflict**, with Houthi actions reflecting regional tensions and alliances.
 - ✓ The **Houthis, backed by Iran**, have **targeted vessels with ties to Israel**, further complicating the geopolitical landscape in the area
- **International Response:**
 - ✓ The United States, in response to the escalating situation, has announced **the establishment of "Operation Prosperity Guardian,"** a multinational security initiative **aimed at ensuring the security of maritime activities in the Red Sea.**





- ✓ The international community, including India, is **closely monitoring and actively participating in efforts to maintain free shipping in the region.**

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF RED SEA: IMPACT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

➤ Geopolitical Significance:

- ✓ The **Red Sea is a vital geopolitical waterway**, connecting the **Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean** through the **Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb strait.**
- ✓ Its location **facilitates global trade and maritime transportation.**



➤ Key Trade Route:

- ✓ Approximately **12% of global shipping traffic**, including a significant **portion of oil shipments**, passes through the Red Sea.
- ✓ The **Suez Canal, a crucial shortcut**, allows ships to **avoid the lengthy journey around the Cape of Good Hope**, reducing travel time and costs.

➤ Economic Impact:

- ✓ Disruptions in the Red Sea, such as **recent attacks on commercial vessels**, can lead to significant economic consequences.
- ✓ **Shipping delays, increased fuel expenses**, and rising freight rates **affect the global supply chain** and contribute to higher costs for businesses.

➤ Impact on Oil Industry:

- ✓ The **Red Sea is a major route for energy shipments**, with the attacks by Houthi militants prompting oil industry giants like **BP to temporarily pause oil tanker shipments through the region.**
- ✓ This has led to a **surge in oil prices** and increased costs for shipping companies.

➤ Alternative Trade Routes:

- ✓ Due to security concerns, some shipping companies, including **Maersk, have rerouted vessels away from the Red Sea**, choosing longer routes around Africa.
- ✓ This decision adds to shipping time, **causes delays in cargo deliveries**, and results in higher fuel expenses.

➤ Military Response:

- ✓ In response to the escalating threats in the region, **the United States, along with several other countries, has established Operation Prosperity Guardian**—a multinational security initiative aimed at **protecting commercial vessels** and ensuring the free flow of commerce in the Red Sea.

➤ Impact on India's Exports:

- ✓ The disruption in the Red Sea **affects Indian exporters, leading to increased shipping costs and delays.**
- ✓ An **alternative route around the Cape of Good Hope is considered**, potentially impacting the flow of **approximately \$200 billion** worth of Indian exports through the Suez Canal.

CHALLENGES IN RECENT RED SEA CONFLICT:

➤ Escalating Threats to Shipping:

- ✓ Houthi attacks on **commercial vessels pose a growing threat.**
- ✓ Use of **sophisticated arsenal**, including **ballistic missiles and long-range drones.**

➤ Implications for Suez Canal Revenue:

- ✓ Avoidance of Red Sea **affects revenue generated** by the Suez Canal.



- ✓ Strategic shift prompts **longer voyages**, disrupting shipping schedules.
- **Impact on Trade and Economic Factors:**
 - ✓ Increased shipping costs **affect trade and economic dynamics**.
 - ✓ Delays in voyages and **potential price rises in goods**.
 - ✓ Strategic decisions by shipping companies **influence fuel and insurance costs**.
- **Humanitarian Concerns:**
 - ✓ **Safety of mariners and crew** on commercial vessels.
 - ✓ Potential **loss of life or injury** in the event of major attacks.
 - ✓ **Balancing economic interests** with human security considerations.
- **Uncertainties and Questions:**
 - ✓ With Indians constituting **close to 15% of commercial sailors and limited Indian-owned vessels**, the country faces **critical decisions** in the event of a **major attack resulting in loss of life or precious cargo**.
 - ✓ The **question of where to draw the line in responding to such incidents** remains a subject of concern among officials.

Bab-el-Mandeb Strait: Trade route between East and West narrows amid Houthi threat

Concerns grow as major maritime transportation companies alter their ship routes in response to the increasing Houthi threats in the Red Sea. This has raised concerns that other companies may also suspend sailings through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait

CURRENT INCIDENTS AT THE BAB-EL MANDEB STRAIT

- NOV. 19**
Reports in the Israeli media claim that the Houthis had **seized a cargo ship** belonging to the UK
- DEC. 3**
Houthis target two Israeli ships in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- DEC. 12**
Houthis claim an attack on a Norwegian ship heading to Israel
- DEC. 15**
Houthis claim missile attacks on 2 Israel-bound cargo ships
- DEC. 16**
CENTCOM reports shooting down 14 UAVs in the Red Sea

Maersk, the world's second-largest container shipping company, **stopped Red Sea routes**

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), Hapag-Lloyd and CMA CGM, **suspended all sailings** in the region

BAB-EL MANDEB STRAIT
Approximately 32 km in length
Links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean
Transits about 10% of global seaborne oil flows
Shortens maritime journeys by an average of 14 days

December 18, 2023

GLOBAL INITIATIVES: ADDRESSING THE CRISIS:

- **Multinational Security Initiative:**
 - ✓ In response to the escalating threats in the Red Sea, **U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin announced** the establishment of **Operation Prosperity Guardian (OPS)**.
 - ✓ This multinational security initiative, led by the **Combined Maritime Forces and Task Force 153**, focuses on enhancing **security in the Red Sea**.
 - ✓ The announcement prompted several companies to **reevaluate their shipping routes**.
- **Indian Naval Measures:**
 - ✓ From the Indian side, both the **Navy and Coast Guard** have intensified their presence and surveillance in the region.
 - ✓ Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar revealed that **four destroyers and various assets, including Project 15B and 15A class vessels, P81 long-range patrol aircraft, Dorniers, Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**, helicopters, and Coast Guard ships, are deployed to counter piracy and drone attacks on merchant shipping.
- **Mission-Based Deployments:**
 - ✓ Since October 2008, the **Indian Navy has maintained a continuous presence with at least one ship deployed on anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden**.

ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

Red Sea patrol force to counter Houthi attacks

The United States has announced a 10-nation force to protect trade in the Red Sea after attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels forced shipping companies to halt operations.

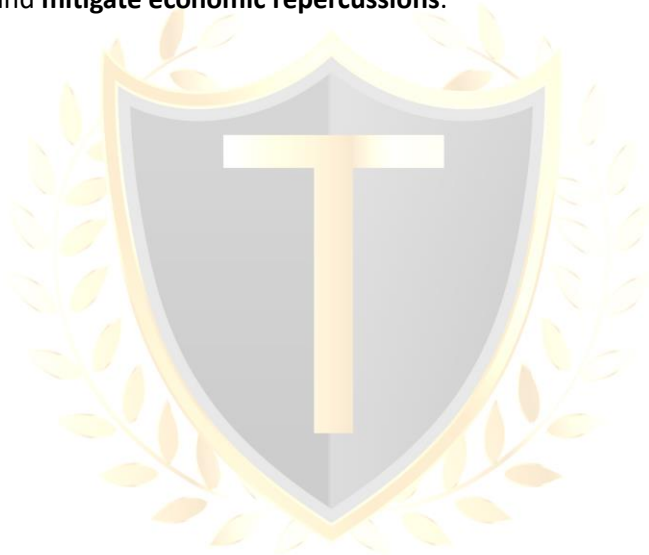
COUNTRIES IN THE PATROL FORCE
Bahrain
Canada
France
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Seychelles
Spain
United Kingdom
United States

Bab el-Mandeb strait
The Houthis have attacked several cargo ships bound for Israel

December 19, 2023



- ✓ Under **Mission-Based Deployments since 2017**, one capital warship is stationed at critical maritime chokepoints in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- **Information Fusion Centre (IFC-IOR):**
 - ✓ The **Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram** is actively **monitoring the region**.
 - ✓ The centre coordinates in the backend to facilitate communication, especially during critical incidents like the **hijacking of m.v. Ruen in the Gulf of Aden**.
- **Coordination and Response:**
 - ✓ Captain Rohit Bajpai, Director IFC-IOR, highlighted the coordination **efforts to provide operational responses and assistance to vessels in the Indian Ocean Region**.
 - ✓ The international organization's removal of **the high-risk area in the Gulf of Aden** on January 1 adds significance to the **recent piracy incident involving m.v. Ruen**.
- **Global Economic Impact:**
 - ✓ The **looming crisis poses a threat to global economies**, with potential delays and price rises.
 - ✓ The regional instability and its **impact on shipping routes through the Red Sea contribute to uncertainties**, emphasizing the **need for coordinated international efforts** to address the situation and **mitigate economic repercussions**.



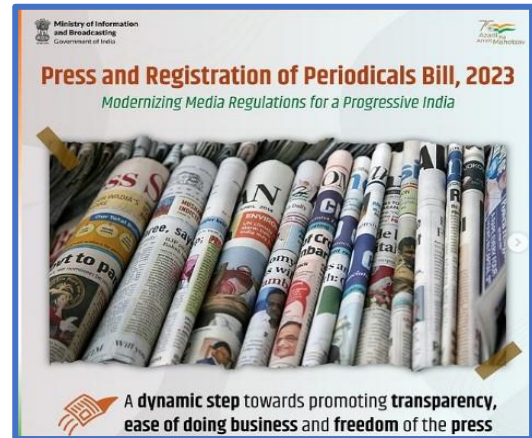


THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF PERIODICALS BILL, 2023

SOURCE: [INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- *The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023, has garnered attention due to its passage in both houses of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.*
- *The uniqueness of the bill lies in its provisions, particularly the exclusion of persons convicted of terrorist acts or unlawful activities from publishing periodicals.*
- *The bill seeks to modernize regulations related to publishing, aiming at "ease of doing business" and removing procedural obstacles for publishers.*
- *The shift from jail terms to fines, the creation of an appellate mechanism, and the transfer of power to the Press Registrar General are significant changes.*
- *The bill's impact on the publishing industry, coupled with its emphasis on efficient registration processes, has made it a subject of interest and discussion in the news.*



ABOUT THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF PERIODICALS BILL, 2023:

- **Introduction and Repeal:**
 - ✓ Introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 1, 2023.
 - ✓ Seeks to repeal the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
 - ✓ After being passed in the Rajya Sabha on August 3 amid uproar from the Opposition, the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha on December 21, 2023

Key Features of the Bill:

- **Registration of Periodicals:**
 - ✓ Provides for the registration of periodicals, excluding books or scientific and academic journals.
 - ✓ Periodicals encompass publications containing public news or comments on public news.
- **Registration Process:**
 - ✓ Replaces the declaration to the District Magistrate (DM) with an online application to the Press Registrar General and local authority.
 - ✓ Prohibits individuals convicted of terrorist acts or unlawful activities from publishing periodicals.
- **Foreign Periodicals:**
 - ✓ Reproduction of foreign periodicals in India requires prior approval from the central government.
 - ✓ Prescribes the manner of registration for such periodicals.
- **Press Registrar General:**
 - ✓ Introduces the position of Press Registrar General of India.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Salient features of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bill provides for simple online mechanism to apply for title verification and grant of certificate of registration by the Press Registrar General to a periodical as a simultaneous process ➤ No requirement of furnishing any declaration before local authority or its authentication by local authority ➤ A person who has been convicted by any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> court for an offence involving terrorist act or unlawful activity, or having done anything against the security of the State not permitted to bring out a periodical ➤ Facsimile edition of a foreign periodical can be printed in India with prior approval of the Central government and its registration with the Press Registrar General
---	---



- ✓ Responsibilities include **issuing registration certificates**, maintaining a **register of periodicals**, **setting guidelines for title admissibility**, verifying circulation figures, and overseeing registration revisions, suspensions, or cancellations.
- **Registration of Printing Press:**
 - ✓ **Replaces the declaration of a printing press** before the DM with an online submission to the Press Registrar General.
- **Suspension and Cancellation of Registration:**
 - ✓ **Empowers the Press Registrar General to suspend** a periodical's registration **for 30 to 180 days**.
 - ✓ **Grounds for suspension include false information** during registration, failure to publish continuously, or providing false particulars in annual statements.
 - ✓ **Registration may be cancelled for various reasons**, including having a similar title to another periodical or the **owner/publisher being convicted of terrorism** or unlawful activities.
- **Penalties and Appeals:**
 - ✓ **Authorizes the Press Registrar General to impose penalties** for unregistered periodicals or late submission of annual statements.
 - ✓ Penalties include **fines up to Rs 5 lakh**.
 - ✓ **Non-compliance with registration** may lead to the cessation of publication, **punishable by imprisonment up to six months**.
 - ✓ **Appeals against refusal, suspension, cancellation**, or penalties can be made to the Press and Registration Appellate Board **within 60 days**.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 2023 BILL AND THE 1867 ACT:

Aspect	1867 Act	2023 Bill
Scope Regarding Books	✓ Enacted for the regulation, preservation, and registration of printing presses , newspapers, books, and newspapers printed in India.	✓ Excludes books from its scope , placing them under the jurisdiction of the HRD Ministry .
Penalties and Decriminalization	✓ Criminalizes offenses with up to six months of imprisonment, including violations of Section 3 (keeping a press without a declaration).	✓ Decriminalizes by replacing jail terms with fines . ✓ Appellate mechanism under the Press and Registration Appellate Board, headed by the Chairman of the Press Council of India .
Financial Penalties	✓ Imposes fines with an upper limit of Rs 2,000 .	✓ Raises the upper limit significantly, with fines reaching up to Rs 5 lakh .
Shift in Regulatory Power	✓ Power held by the DM , with a limited role for the Press Registrar appointed by the Centre.	✓ Shifts regulatory authority to the newly created Press Registrar General (PRG) , enhancing powers and responsibilities. ✓ Sections 5 and 6 delineate the PRG's functions and powers.
Role and Functions of the PRG	✓ Limited powers for the Press Registrar .	✓ Empowers the PRG with tasks such as issuing certificates of registration to periodicals, maintaining records, collecting fees, and managing funds for the Act's implementation.



CHALLENGES OF THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF PERIODICALS BILL, 2023:

- **Exclusion of Books from Regulation:**
 - ✓ The exclusion of books from the scope of the **bill might create a regulatory gap**, and **oversight issues**, as books are significant **contributors to the publishing industry**.
- **Shift in Regulatory Power:**
 - ✓ The shift in regulatory power from the **District Magistrate to the Press Registrar General** raises concerns about **centralized control** and **potential bureaucratic hurdles**.
- **Decriminalization and Penalties:**
 - ✓ While decriminalization is a **positive step**, the effectiveness of penalties, especially the substantial increase in fines, **needs to be assessed to ensure they act as deterrents without burdening publishers disproportionately**.
- **Foreign Periodicals Approval Process:**
 - ✓ The **requirement for prior approval** from the central government for **reproducing foreign periodicals** may introduce complexities and delays in the publishing process.
- **Suspension and Cancellation Criteria:**
 - ✓ The grounds for suspension and cancellation, such as the **subjective nature of "false information"** or **failure to publish continuously**, may lead to **discretionary decisions** and **legal ambiguities**.



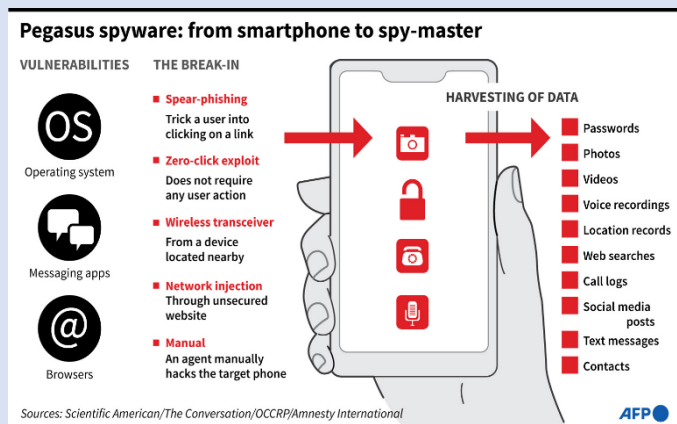
IMPACTS OF THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF PERIODICALS BILL, 2023:

- **Ease of Doing Business:**
 - ✓ The emphasis on "**ease of doing business**" can benefit publishers by simplifying registration processes, **reducing bureaucratic delays**, and facilitating a **quicker turnaround for title registrations**.
- **Financial Penalties:**
 - ✓ The **increased upper limit of fines** may act as a deterrent **against non-compliance**, potentially **promoting better adherence to registration requirements**.
- **Role of Press Registrar General:**
 - ✓ **Empowering the Press Registrar General** may enhance the **efficiency of the registration process** and **ensure** better coordination within the regulatory framework.
- **Decriminalization for Certain Violations:**
 - ✓ **Replacing imprisonment with fines for certain violations** aligns with efforts to modernize laws and may contribute to a more business-friendly environment for publishers.
- **Shift in Power Dynamics:**
 - ✓ The shift in regulatory power can either **streamline processes** or **lead to concerns about centralized control**.
 - ✓ The **impact will depend on how the new structure is implemented** and whether it effectively addresses industry needs.



PRELIMS POINTERS:

TOPIC	DISCRPTION
PEGASUS SPYWARE	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>The Washington Post and Amnesty International have reported that the Pegasus spyware was allegedly used to target journalists in India, including Siddharth Varadarajan of The Wire and Anand Mangnale of the Organised Crime and Corruption Report Project (OCCRP).</i> ❖ <i>The intrusion was detected in October 2023 after Apple warned users, including MPs, of potential 'state-sponsored attacks' on their iPhones.</i> <p>ABOUT PEGASUS SPYWARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Developed by NSO Group, an Israeli cyber-intelligence firm founded in 2010. ❖ Designed for eavesdropping on mobile phones and harvesting data. ❖ Targets politicians, government leaders, activists, dissidents, and journalists. ❖ NSO Group claims to sell exclusively to government security and law enforcement for rescue operations and battling criminals. ❖ Works on Android, iOS, BlackBerry, Windows Phone, and Symbian OS. ❖ Can be installed without the device owner's action, leaving no obvious trace. ❖ Monitors calls, captures text messages, tracks location, and collects passwords, photos, and more. ❖ Used by authoritarian and democratic governments for information harvesting. ❖ In 2016, reported cost exceeded \$650,000, with a \$500,000 set-up fee for 10 phones. <p>HOW PEGASUS SPYWARE WORKS: Amnesty International's Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Zero-Click Infiltration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ No user action needed; infiltrates via messages or calls. ☛ Self-installs even if the message is deleted. ❖ Full Device Access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Gains complete access to messages, emails, photos, and more. ☛ Bypasses encryption, disables built-in security controls. ❖ Tracking and Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Track location, monitors communications. ☛ Access to sensitive and private information. ❖ Global Deployment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Used by governments in 40+ countries. ☛ Targets in over 50 countries reported. ❖ Notable Cases:





**Ayushman
Bharat PM-JAY**

- Assisted in **El Chapo's arrest in Mexico.**
- Used in tracking Jamal Khashoggi,** leading to his murder.
- Targets include **Macron, Ramaphosa, and Bezos.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Women constitute around 49% of the 28.45-crore Ayushman cards.*
- ❖ *Approximately 48% of total authorized hospital admissions are for women.*

**AYUSHMAN BHARAT - PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA (AB-PMJAY):
OVERVIEW**

❖ **Launch and Vision:**

- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **September 23, 2018.**
- Aims to provide **accessible and affordable healthcare** to all citizens.

❖ **Scope and Scale:**

- World's largest government-funded healthcare program.**
- Targets over 50 crore beneficiaries,** covering more than **10.74 crore vulnerable families.**

❖ **Financial Coverage:**

- Provides a cover of up to **Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

❖ **Access and Paperless Services:**

- Ensures **cashless and paperless access** to healthcare services at the point of service.
- Mitigates financial risks associated** with catastrophic health episodes.

❖ **Financial Protection:**

- Aims to **reduce catastrophic expenditure for hospitalizations,** preventing financial hardships for entitled families.

FEATURES AND OBJECTIVES

❖ **Continuum of Care Approach:**

- Progression towards **promotive, preventive, curative, palliative,** and rehabilitative aspects of Universal Healthcare.

❖ **Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs):**

- Creation of 1,50,000 HWCs** to bring healthcare closer to people's homes.
- Offers **Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC),** including maternal and child health services and non-communicable disease care.
- Provides **free essential drugs and diagnostic services.**

❖ **Scheme Expansion:**

National Health Authority Revises Health Benefit Package of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY

Rates for around 400 procedures revised

Rate revision undertaken in following categories:

- Radiation oncology procedures,
- Medical Management procedures like procedure for dengue, acute febrile illness etc.,
- Surgical package treatment for black fungus,
- Other procedures like Right/left heart catheterization, PDA closure, Arthrodesis, Cholecystectomy, appendicectomy etc.

Revision under medical management procedures

- Rates for ICU with ventilator by **100 percent**
- Rates for ICU without ventilator by **136 percent**
- Rates for HDU by **22 percent**
- Prices for routine ward by **17 percent**



- ☛ **55 crore individuals (12 crore families)** covered under the scheme.
- ☛ States and Union Territories independently **expand the beneficiary base.**

❖ **Card Creation and Hospital Admissions Statistics:**

- ☛ **As of December 20**, around **28.45 crore Ayushman cards** created.
- ☛ In **2023 alone**, approximately **9.38 crore** cards generated.
- ☛ **6.11 crore hospital admissions** authorized, totalling ₹78,188 crore.
- ☛ **1.7 crore admissions worth over ₹25,000 crore** authorized in 2023.

NYT vs OpenAI, Microsoft: The debate on AI, copyright

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The New York Times (NYT) sues OpenAI and Microsoft over alleged "unlawful" use of copyrighted content.*
- ❖ *First major news publisher to take legal action against AI creators.*
- ❖ *Accuses OpenAI and Microsoft of scraping NYT's content to build AI models.*
- ❖ *Claims the defendants use copyrighted material without payment to create competing AI products.*

NYT'S CONTENTION AGAINST OPENAI AND MICROSOFT: KEY POINTS

- ❖ **Lawsuit Basis:**
 - ☛ Filed in Manhattan, NYT alleges millions of articles used to train AI chatbots.
- ❖ **Competing AI Sources:**
 - ☛ Automated chatbots by OpenAI and Microsoft now compete with NYT as information sources.
- ❖ **Failed Resolution Attempts:**
 - ☛ April talks with Microsoft and OpenAI for resolution, including safeguards, were unsuccessful.
- ❖ **Impact on Revenue Streams:**
 - ☛ Unlawful use of copyrighted material deprives NYT of subscription, licensing, and advertising revenue.
- ❖ **Brand Damage via AI Hallucination:**
 - ☛ Lawsuit highlights potential brand damage due to AI "hallucination," where chatbots spread false information, impacting NYT's relationship with readers.



AI AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) RIGHTS:

- ❖ **Debate Sparked by Generative AI:**
 - ☛ Platforms like ChatGPT and Bard fuel discussions on IP rights for original online content.
- ❖ **AI Responses Built on Existing Content:**
 - ☛ AI platforms rely on millions of uploaded textual pieces, posing challenges to creators and publishers.
- ❖ **Music Industry's Resistance:**



PLACES IN NEWS – 'NICARAGUA'

- ☛ Universal Music Group **urges streaming services like Spotify** to prevent **scraping its content** for training AI bots in song creation.

- ❖ **Global Copyright Law Challenges:**

- ☛ Growing debate **coincides with outdated copyright laws worldwide, including in India**, requiring reevaluation for the AI era.

- ❖ **India's Copyright Framework:**

- ☛ **Governed by the Copyright Act of 1957**, India's definition of an "author" includes **computer-generated works**, but **overlooks AI's reliance on copyrighted datasets** from various creators.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **Chartered flight from the UAE to Nicaragua was detained in France**, raising questions about **illegal immigration**.
- ❖ **Interest in Nicaragua travel has surged in India**, with queries on obtaining visas.

RECENT CONCERNS

- ❖ Nicaragua is seen as a **potential route for illegal entry into the US and Canada**.
- ❖ A significant **number of Indians arrested for illegal US entry in 2023**, with suspicions about Nicaragua trips.
- ❖ Many queries from **Punjab and Gujarat residents**.

VISA PROCESS

- ❖ Obtaining a **visa for Nicaragua is complex for Indian passport holders**.
- ❖ Nicaragua lacks an embassy in India; an **honorary consul general's office, not authorized for visa issuance**.
- ❖ **No clear provision for advance visas** from India, creating confusion.
- ❖ Indians advised to apply for travel authorization with **the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior**.

ENTRY ROUTES:

- ❖ **Indians with valid US, Canadian, or Schengen visas** can reach Nicaragua and obtain a visa on arrival.
- ❖ Those without valid visas **advised to apply for travel authorization** with the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior.
- ❖ **Language barrier (Spanish prevalent) and lack of familiarity with Indian travelers' regulations** add complexity.

COUNTRY NICARAGUA:

- ❖ **Geography:**
 - ☛ Located in **Central America**, bordered by **Honduras to the north**, the **Caribbean Sea to the east**, **Costa Rica to the south**, and the **Pacific Ocean to the west**.
 - ☛ Characterized by an **agricultural economy**, historical autocratic governance, and regional development imbalance.





COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

❖ **Land and Relief:**

- ☛ **Western half** characterized by **valleys, low mountains**, and numerous volcanoes.
- ☛ **Eastern half** features **low, level plains, wide Caribbean lowlands**, and a broken coastline with **river mouths, deltas, lagoons, and coral reefs**.
- ☛ **Mogotón Peak** in the **Cordillera Entre Ríos**, reaching 6,900 feet (2,103 meters).
- ☛ String of **40 volcanoes along the Pacific coast**, some active.
- ☛ Notable volcanoes include **San Cristóbal, Concepción, and Momotombo**.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The **Supreme Court Collegium**, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, has recommended **five judges for the positions of Chief Justices in the High Courts of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, Gauhati, Allahabad, and Jharkhand**.*
- ❖ *Notable recommendations include Justice **Manindra Mohan Shrivastava for Rajasthan, Justice Sheel Nagu for Punjab and Haryana, Vijay Bishnoi for Gauhati, Arun Bhansali for Allahabad, and B R Sarangi for Jharkhand**.*
- ❖ *These recommendations are part of the **Collegium system**, addressing vacancies and ensuring equitable representation across High Courts.*

ABOUT COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

Collegium System: Overview and Evolution

❖ **Overview:**

- ☛ The Collegium System pertains to the **appointment and transfer of judges**, evolving through **Supreme Court judgments rather than legislative acts or constitutional provisions**.

❖ **Evolution:**

☛ **First Judges Case (1981):**

- Stated the **Chief Justice of India's (CJI)** recommendation could be refused with **"cogent reasons."**
- Established **Executive primacy in judicial appointments for the next 12 years**.

☛ **Second Judges Case (1993):**

- Introduced the Collegium system, emphasizing that **"consultation" meant "concurrence."**
- Emphasized an **institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges**.

☛ **Third Judges Case (1998):**

- Expanded the Collegium to a **five-member body**, including the **CJI and four senior-most colleagues**.

A JURY OF JUDGES	
<p>WHAT IS THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A forum which decides on appointments, transfers (A/Ts) of judges. • Comprised of Chief Justice of India, 4 Supreme Court Judges • President merely approves CJI's choice 	<p>CRITICISMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative burden of checking professional background data • Closed-door affair, lacks transparency • Exclusivity sidelines talented junior judges, advocates
<p>SOME OF THE CHANGES SOUGHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CJI cannot make unilateral choice • Consulted judges' views need to be in writing • Non-compliance must make CJI choice non-binding • Transfer of judges reviewable only in case of non-compliance 	



❖ **Leadership of Collegium System:**

- ☛ The Supreme Court (SC) Collegium is **headed by the CJI** and includes **four other senior-most judges**.
- ☛ **High Court Collegium** is led by the **incumbent Chief Justice** and **two other senior-most judges**.

PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS:

❖ **For CJI:**

- ☛ The **President appoints the CJI** and other SC judges.
- ☛ Outgoing CJI recommends the **successor, typically based on seniority**.

❖ **For SC Judges:**

- ☛ Proposal **initiated by the CJI**.
- ☛ Consultation with Collegium members and the **senior-most judge from the relevant High Court**.
- ☛ Opinions recorded in **writing, forming part of the file**.
- ☛ Recommendation **sent to the Law Minister**, forwarded to the Prime Minister for advising the President.

❖ **For Chief Justice of High Courts:**

- ☛ **Chief Justice of the High Court appointed based on the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective states**.
- ☛ High Court judges **recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges**.
- ☛ The outgoing **Chief Justice initiates the proposal**, consulting with two senior-most colleagues.
- ☛ Recommendation **sent to the Chief Minister, advising the Governor to forward the proposal to the Union Law Minister**.

NJAC VS COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

WHAT'S COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

- Collegium system based on Three Judges Cases
- Under it, appointment of judges are made by Chief Justice of India and four most senior Supreme Court judges.
- Has no constitutional backing.
- Constitution of India's Article 124 says appointments to be made by President in consultation with judges as President may deem necessary.
- Critics say it is a closed-door system which lacks transparency

WHAT'S NJAC

- NJAC was a body created to end the two-decade-old Supreme Court Collegium system of judges appointing judges.
- Was passed by Lok Sabha on August 13, 2014. Was passed by Rajya Sabha a day later.
- Will consist of six people - CJI, two senior-most Supreme Court judges, Law Minister and two 'eminent' persons.
- Critics say judges in NJAC will need support of others to push a name through. They fear judicial independence being compromised.

