POLITY
PRE-CONTEXT
GOVERNOR & STATE UNIVERSITIES
THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

<u>**News:**</u> *"Should Governors head State universities?"*

State Universities:
- Established under **respective State legislative Acts.**
- *Governor* is the *Ex-officious Chancellor of 'State' Universities,* he **appoints the vice chancellor (Colonial Practice).**
- The governor *acts independently of the council of ministers* when acting as chancellor.
  - While Governor while exercising his/her powers from statutory laws *(other than Art.163(1)),* He/she can act at his *discretion,* independent of ministerial advice, **unless the statute mandates.**
- The above functions of the Governor are *not assigned by the Constitution* of India *but by State university laws.*

  Governors increasingly transformed from neutral constitutional functionaries to political instruments of the Central govt.

Issues:
- **Roadblocks:** efforts to amend university laws by state but Governors either **delayed** approving such amendments or *referred them to the President.*
- **Politicisation of the Governor's office,** highlighting the appointment of defeated politicians, which eroded the office's dignity—*1st ARC 1966-67.*
  - *Over 60% of Governors* had been active politicians—*Sarkaria Commission(1983-88).*
- **Disagreements between Governors and State Govts.** particularly in *Opposition-ruled States,* lead to delays in appointing Vice-Chancellors, implementation of projects, awarding degrees.

Recommendations:
- **Rajamannar Committee (1969-71)** on Centre-State relations, appointed by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu: argued that the Governor's statutory functions are included within the meaning of 'functions' under Article 163(1).
- **Sarkaria Commission (1983-88)** on Centre-State relations: recognised that the Governor's role as Chancellor is statutory, not constitutional, and must be defined by State laws.
- **NCRWC 2000-02:** headed by Justice M.N.Venkatachaliah, advocated for political neutrality.
- **M.M.Punchhi Commission (2007-10)** on Centre-State relations: recommended that the Governor should avoid statutory roles like that of Chancellor to preserve the dignity of the office.

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TECHNOLOGY
PRE-CONTEXT
GEO TAGGING
THE HINDU, PG.NO: 3.

<u>**News:**</u> *"Geo-tagged digital identity helps Kashmir's chinar trees stand tall."*

Geo Tagging:
- Geo-tagging is the process of ***adding geographical information to media,*** such as photos, videos, websites, SMS messages, and QR codes.
- This allows the content to be associated with specific places on a map.
- *Applications:*
  - **Environmental Monitoring:** Aids in tracking wildlife movements and environmental changes.
  - **Disaster Management:** Assists in coordinating relief efforts by pinpointing affected areas.
  - **Navigation**: Enhances maps and location-based services for better navigation.
  - **Social Media:** Helps users share the location of their posts or photos.

About Chinar Trees:
- *Deciduous tree.*
- Growing 30m (98ft) or more.
- Known for its longevity and spreading crown.
- In autumn its deep green **leaves may change to blood red, amber, and yellow.**
- Chinar tree can be found throughout landscape of *Kashmir valley.*
- It was *introduced by Islamic preachers from Iran* in 14th Century.

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GS II

SYLLABUS: WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VULNERABLE SECTIONS.

MGNREGA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

News: "No extra allocation for MGNREGS; wages delayed."

Key Features of MGNREGA:
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- Legal Guarantee of Employment (unskilled) of *at least 100 days per financial year to every rural household.*
- Job card: Each household receives a unique job card listing all registered adults. A *job card is mandatory* for employment in MGNREGA.
- Unemployment Allowance: If work is not provided within 15 days of application.
- Timely Wage Payment within 15 days of work completion, any delays in payment attract compensation.
- Employment is provided based on the demand for work by wage seekers, not on the availability of projects.
- Gram Panchayats are the principal authorities for planning and implementation, enhancing local governance.
- **Focus on Sustainable Asset creation:** Eg. water conservation, drought proofing, rural connectivity etc.
- Mandatory social audits by Gram-Sabha ensure transparency and accountability measures.
- **Gender Equity:** *Act mandates that at least one-third* of the beneficiaries should be *women*.
- **Convergence with other schemes:** Eg. PM-Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission etc.
- **Worksite Facilities:** like drinking water, shade, first-aid, and crèche facilities at worksites.
- **Use of Technology:** Digital payments, Geo-Tagging etc.
- Central Govt. has powers to make rules to amend MGNREGA.

Challenges faced in MGNREGA in implementation:
- **Delay in Wage Payments:** only 40% of payments were made within the 15-day period—*MoRD Annual Report 2022.*
- **Inadequate budget allocation:** In 2022, it was ₹73,000 crore, a reduction from the revised estimate of ₹1.1 lakh crore in 2021 despite increased demand due to the pandemic.
- **Deletion of workers' names from job cards** on grounds of "not willing to work", denies the worker her legal right to work.
- **Corruption and Leakages:**
  - Eg. fake job cards, inflated muster rolls, and ghost beneficiaries.
  - 30% of funds are siphoned off due to corruption—*Study by IIM Ahmedabad 2017.*
- Mandatory linking of Aadhaar has led to exclusions due to authentication failures. Eg. Over 84 lakh workers erased from MGNREGA rolls in 2024—*study by LibTech 2024.*
- **Insufficient Administrative Capacity:** 50% of Gram Panchayats lack full-time technical staff, hampering implementation—*MoRD Annual Report 2022.*
- **Low Awareness:** 25% of rural households were unaware of MGNREGA provisions—*NSSO 2019 survey.*
- **Gender Disparities:** national average for women's participation is around 50%, states like UP report as low as 25%—*MGNREGA MIS, 2020-21.*
- **Substandard Works:** 40% of checked works were incomplete or non-functional—*CAG reports 2016.*
- **No regular Social Audits:** only 13 states had conducted social audits in over 80% of their Gram Panchayats by 2020—*MoRD Annual Report 2022.*

Other:
- *Procedure for deletion of Job Card:*
  - *If the Gram panchayat is satisfied at anytime that:*
    - A person has *registered with it by furnishing false information.*
      - Deleted worker, if alive, must be *"given an opportunity of being heard* in the presence of two independent persons."
    - If a Gram Panchayat is reclassified as a Municipal Corporation, all job cards in that panchayat are deleted.
- *In the last four years,* names of 10.5 crore MGNREGA workers across India have been deleted.
- *States and Union Territories* regularly update and delete job cards under MGNREGS.
- *Management Information System (MIS)* is the digital architecture of MGNREGA.

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TECHNOLOGY

PRE-CONTEXT

TYPES OF AI

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 7.

News: "India and U.S. lead Courseera enrolments for Gen AI courses."

Artificial Intelligence is the process of building intelligent machines from vast volumes of data. Systems learn from past learning and experiences and perform human-like tasks.

Types of AI: Based on Capabilities
- **Narrow AI:** AI is designed to perform a narrow task (e.g., facial recognition, internet searches, or driving a car) with *limited set of Data; Generative AI is part of Narrow AI.*
- **General AI:** AI endowed with *broad human-like cognitive capabilities,* enabling it to tackle new and unfamiliar tasks autonomously.
- **Super intelligent AI:** represents a future form of AI where machines could *surpass human intelligence* across all fields. Superintelligence is speculative and not yet realized.

Based on Technologies:
- **Machine Learning:** AI systems capable of self-improvement through experience, *without need of direct programming.*
  - **Deep Learning:** subset of ML involving *many layers of neural networks.* It is used for learning from large amounts of data.
- **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** This AI technology enables machines to *understand and interpret human language.*

Based on Functionalities:
- **Reactive Machines:** AI systems do not store memories or past experiences for future actions. They analyze and respond to different situations
- **Limited Memory:** AI systems can make informed and improved decisions by studying the past data they have collected Eg.chatbots and virtual assistants to self-driving cars, fall into this category.
- **Theory of Mind:** It would entail understanding and remembering emotions, beliefs, needs, and depending on those, making decisions. researchers are still working on it.
- **Self-Aware AI:** represents the future of AI, where machines will have their own consciousness, sentience, and self-awareness.

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Thank you!