

UNDERSTAND UPSC

POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

MADRASAS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "Why did SC uphold U.P. madrasa Act?"

Context:

- **Allahabad High Court's ruling in March 2024**, which declared the Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Act, 2004 unconstitutional opined due to violative of secular principles.
 - **Supreme Court, intervened and upheld** the validity of the Act with certain modifications.
 - The **Court clarified that madrasas cannot confer higher education degrees** like "Fazil" and "Kamil" as it violates the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act.
- **NCPCR recommended the closure of govt. aided madrasas** & stop government funding (which are not compliant with the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009).
 - **Supreme Court of India has stayed the recommendations and** opined NCPCR recommendations are in conflict with:
 - **Art. 30:** which guarantees minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
 - **Art. 21:** Free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14 years (which includes madrasa education too).

Basic Structure Recent Developments:

- Basic Structure doctrine was made up of "**undefined concepts**" such as democracy, federalism, and secularism.
- "Allowing courts to strike down legislation for violation of such concepts **will introduce an element of uncertainty** in our constitutional adjudication" — **CJI D.Y. Chandrachud**.
 - If a law is in violation of the principle of secularism, **it must be proved that the law violates provisions of the Constitution** pertaining to secularism.

Madrasa System of Education:

- Word Madrasa, Arabic in origin meaning '**place of study**'.
- **Traditional Islamic schools** that provide religious and increasingly **secular education** to millions of students.
- Madrasa system **prevailed since the days of the Delhi Sultanate** and was patronised by slave, Khilji and Tughlaq dynasties.
- **Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1309-1388)**, instrumentalised this practice to educate women and slaves in the arts, science and handicrafts — **travelogues of Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan traveller**.
- **Ram Mohan Roy, Rajendra Prasad, and Premchand** likely learned from madrasas.
- **Certifications awarded by Madrasas** at various levels of Muslim educations:
 - **Munshi/Moulvi:** equivalent to 10th standard.
 - **Alim:** equivalent to 12th standard.
 - **Fazli and Kamil:** postgraduate level degree and doctorate level degree but they are not allowed to confer these both degrees. **They fall under UGC jurisdiction.**

About National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

- Established under **Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act 2005**.
- **Commission monitors the effective implementation of**
 - POCSO Act 2012.
 - Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015.
 - Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009.

- **Chairperson and members** are appointed by the **Central Govt.**
- **Powers:**
 - **Quasi-judicial powers:** can summon individuals, require production of documents and conduct inquiries.
 - **Power to recommend and advise** the government on child welfare and protection measures.

Note:

- Education falls under **Concurrent List**.
- **Entry 66 of 'Union List':** conferred the Union the authority to make laws to determine and regulate the standards of higher education.

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GS II

SYLLABUS: BILATERAL AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA.

INDIA—USA RELATIONS

THE HINDU: BASED ON MULTIPLE ARTICLES

Challenges in India—USA Bilateral Relations:

- **Trade and Economic Disputes:**
 - **Removal of GSP Benefits for India in 2019**, affecting \$5.6 billion worth of Indian exports.
 - **Market Access and Investment Restrictions:** FDI in certain sectors, like multi-brand retail (limited to 51%), affects U.S. investors market access.
 - In 2022, **USA has expressed concerns over the trade deficit** with India.
- **Indian Foreign Policy Approaches:**
 - **Relations with Iran:** Eg. chabahar port development.
 - India has maintained a neutral stance on the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**.
 - **India abstaining from UN resolutions** condemning Russia.
- **China's Influence and Regional Security:** Eg. India joining QUAD.
- **S-400 Deal with Russia & CAATSA Sanctions Risk** remains a point of contention.
- **US interference in India's internal affairs:**
 - **India be designated a "Country of Particular Concern"** due to alleged violations of religious freedom by U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).
 - **Concerns expressed by U.S. lawmakers over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)** for its exclusionary criteria.
 - **India's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status** in 2019 led to concerns over human rights.
- **Immigration and H-1B Visa Policies:**
 - U.S. administration's tightening of visa regulations affects Indian IT professionals and companies.
- **Regulatory and Compliance Challenges:**
 - **Indian pharmaceutical exports** face strict U.S. FDA inspections.
 - **India's agricultural products** encounter challenges meeting U.S. sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

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GEOGRAPHY

PRE-CONTEXT

JET STREAMS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 20.

News: "What explains the deadly Spain floods?"

About Jet stream:

- Jet streams are **long, narrow and shallow bands of fast moving wind** typically just below the **tropopause** (at altitudes of about 9 to 16 km) in **both hemispheres**. They significantly influence global weather patterns and climate.

Formation:

- **Uneven Heating** creates temperature differences between the equator and poles (at equator air starts to rise till tropopause).
- **Temperature Gradients** result in pressure differences, causing air to move in the upper atmosphere.
 - Stronger the gradient after the wind speed (**geostrophic winds**).
- **Air Movement is from high-pressure (cold air) to low-pressure (warm air)** areas aloft.
- **Coriolis Effect deflects** this moving air eastward, creating westerly winds aloft.

Jet Stream Formation Zones:

- Jet streams **form near the tropopause** because:
 - **Temperature Gradient is at Peak:** The strongest temperature gradients occur here.
 - **Wind Speed Max in tropopause:** due to decreasing friction and air density.

Types:

- **Subtropical Jet:** Located at the boundary of the Hadley and Ferrel cells (~30° latitude), where warm tropical air meets cooler subtropical air.
- **Polar Jet:** Located at the boundary of the Ferrel and Polar cells (~60° latitude).
- **Both these jets are westerly.**

Role of Jet Streams in Global Atmospheric Circulation:

- **Heat Redistribution:** transporting warm air from the tropics toward the poles and cold air from the poles toward the equator.
- **Influencing Monsoon:** The shifting of the subtropical jet stream plays a significant role in the onset and withdrawal of the Indian monsoon.
- **Rosby Waves:**
 - They are **jet streams that do not flow in a straight path** but meander in wavy patterns known as Rossby waves.
 - Slow-moving or **stationary jet streams that cause prolonged weather conditions** like heatwaves or cold spells.
- **Affecting Aviation.**

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

PRE-CONTEXT

RNA EDITING

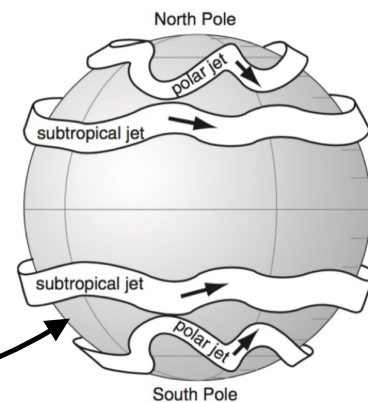
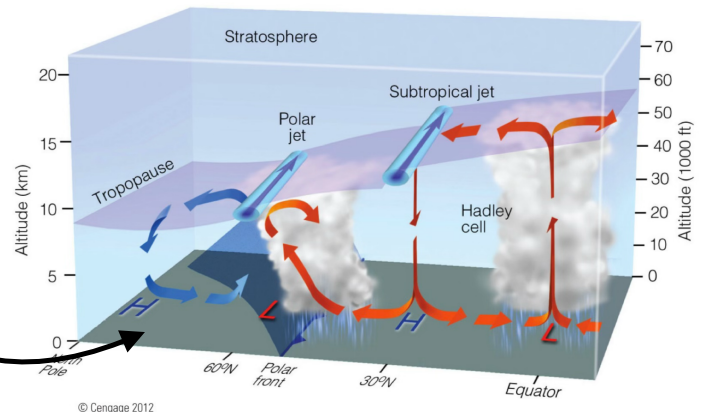
THE HINDU, PG.NO: 20.

News: "RNA editing is promising to go where DNA editing can't".

RNA Editing vs DNA Editing:

- **DNA editing makes permanent changes** to a person's genome, and sometimes this can lead to irreversible errors.
- **RNA editing makes temporary changes**, allowing the effects of the edits to fade over time.
 - This means a doctor can stop the therapy if a problem arises and mitigate long-term risk.
- **CRISPR-Cas9 and other DNA editing tools require proteins acquired from certain bacteria** to perform the cutting function, these proteins can create undesirable immune reactions in some cases.
- **RNA editing relies on ADAR enzymes, which already occur in the human body** and thus present a lower risk of allergic reactions.

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Thank you!