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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

17 May 2024

National & International News

Right	to	property

Why in news?

- The Supreme Court has taken a significant step to protect private property from arbitrary state takeover for a "public purpose".
- It held that compulsory acquisition without following mandatory procedures and without a grant of compensation to the owners will not make the accession constitutional.

Key points:

- The right to property is protected as a constitutional right and has even been interpreted to be a human right.
- This declaration was made by a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar in a judgment.

About Right to Property:

- Originally, the Right to Property was a fundamental right under Article 31 of the Indian Constitution.
- It guaranteed citizens the right to acquire, hold, and dispose of property.
- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 removed the Right to Property from the list of fundamental rights (Article 19).
- It was moved to Article 300A as a constitutional/legal right.
 - It states that "No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law."
- This amendment was made to ensure that the government could implement land reform policies and redistribute land to the landless without facing legal hurdles.





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Global	Report	on	Internal	
Displacement 2024				

Why in news?

- According to the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024 (GRID-2024), the number of internally displaced people globally increased to 75.9 million in 2023.
- The report was released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

About Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024

- The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), based in Geneva, publishes an annual report.
- This report records internal displacements worldwide.
- The causes of these displacements include conflict, violence, and disasters.

Sahul

Why in news?

- Recently, archeologists have discovered evidence of a lost landscape, known as Sahul in ancient times.
- Sahul played a significant role in helping humans travel across continents.



About Sahul:

- Sahul can be termed as a supercontinent that was exposed on the Earth's surface during the last ice age.
- The ice age led to the glaciation of water levels on the planet, exposing parts of land like Sahul.
- The present region of Australia to Papua New Guinea in the north and Tasmania in the south is connected to Sahul.
- It helped humans in ancient times to cross continents from Asia to Australia almost 7,000 decades ago.

Insurance Surety Bonds

Why in news?

- Insurance companies have issued approximately 700 insurance surety bonds.
- This action was taken after the Centre equated these instruments with bank guarantees for all government procurements.

About Insurance Surety Bonds:

- An insurance surety bond is a **financial instrument**.
- In this arrangement, insurance companies act as the 'Surety'.
- The Surety provides a financial guarantee that the contractor (or principal) will fulfill its obligations as per the agreed terms.



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Kanwar Lake



This setup is a **risk transfer mechanism**.

If the principal fails to fulfill his promise, the insurer pays a monetary compensation to the obligee.

Why in news?

Kanwar Lake was once a paradise for migratory birds and is currently struggling for its survival.

About Kanwar Lake:

- Kanwar Lake, also known as Kabartal Jheel, is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake.
- It is located in northern Bihar, covering most of the Indo-Gangetic plains.
- The lake is a residual oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of the Gandak River, a tributary of the Ganga.
- It is a rainfed lake and an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway.
- The wetland is used by 58 migratory waterbirds to rest and refuel.
- Five critically endangered species inhabit the site. These include three vultures - the red-headed vulture, white-rumped vulture, and Indian vulture - and two waterbirds, the sociable lapwing and Baer's pochard.
- Major threats to the site include water management activities such as drainage, water abstraction, damming, and canalization.

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