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DAILY GK BYTES- 4/7/2025

1. Centre to gather support to remove Justice Varma:-

What's the Issue?:-

- Justice Yashwant Varma, currently serving at the Allahabad High Court, may face removal proceedings in Parliament.
- This comes after burnt sacks of cash were found at his official residence in Delhi in March 2024, after a fire broke out.

What Happened?

- March 14: A fire broke out at Justice Varma's residence in Delhi.
- Burnt currency notes were found in an outhouse.
- Justice Varma denied any knowledge of the cash

Who Investigated It?

- Then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna formed a 3-member in-house inquiry panel on March 22.
- The panel submitted its report to the CJI on May 4.
- The report and Justice Varma's response were sent to the Prime Minister and President on May 8.
- The panel did not indict him but suggested the next steps under constitutional procedures.

What Is the Government Doing Now?:-

- The Centre is gathering signatures from MPs to start a motion for removal in Parliament.

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- They need 100 MPs in Lok Sabha or 50 in Rajya Sabha to initiate the process.
- The motion could be introduced in the Monsoon Session (July 21–Aug 21).
- If accepted, a fresh three-member committee (SC judge, HC CJ, and a jurist) will investigate and submit a report within 3 months.

Constitutionally Speaking:

- Only Parliament can remove a High Court or Supreme Court judge
- The process is guided by the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

2. Global South's voice key to contemporary world's progress:

PM:-

Where was he speaking?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a joint session of Ghana's Parliament in Accra, the capital.

State Honour:-

- PM Modi was awarded Ghana's highest civilian honour: ***"The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana"***.
- He called it a symbol of the deep friendship between India and Ghana.

» » Key Highlights of Modi's Speech:

Global South matters:-

- "The modern world cannot progress without giving voice to the Global South," said PM Modi.
- Global South = Developing nations, especially from Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- They need representation in world decisions

Changing world order:-

- After World War II, the world was shaped in a new way.
- Things are changing fast due to:

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◇ Rise of the Global South

◇ New crises like climate change, terrorism, pandemics, cybersecurity

◇ Shifting demographics

India's leadership:-

- PM Modi stressed reforms in global governance (like the UN, G20, etc.)
- India helped get the African Union included as a permanent member of G-20 during its presidency

India-Ghana Ties:-

- PM Modi said India will stand with Ghana in its journey of development.
- This was the first-ever speech by an Indian PM in Ghana's Parliament.

3. Student visa aspirants must make social media profiles public, says U.S. Embassy:-

Who is affected?

- Students applying for U.S. F, M, and J visas, which are for:
 - ◇ F: Academic students
 - ◇ M: Vocational students
 - ◇ J: Exchange visitors

What's the New Rule?

- All visa applicants must make their social media accounts public (no privacy setting).
- This helps the U.S. verify identity and check eligibility for entry under U.S. law.
- The rule is effective immediately.

Why This Change?

- To ensure national security and public safety.
- The U.S. says:- "A U.S. visa is a privilege, not a right."

Warning from U.S. Embassy:-

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- No guarantee of a visa appointment this summer for students who haven't booked it yet.
- Students are advised to follow all updated guidelines carefully to avoid rejection or delay.

Context & Background:-

- Indians make up the largest group of international students in the U.S. — over 3.3 lakh.
- Some recent student visa controversies have involved social media posts, especially about global issues like the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- The U.S. has increased digital scrutiny since the Trump era, aiming for tighter border checks.

4. Israel is using starvation to commit genocide: Amnesty:-

What's happening?

- Amnesty International, a global human rights group, says that Israel is using hunger to harm Palestinians in Gaza.
- They say Israel is using aid centres (places where people get food and help) in a dangerous way.

What did Amnesty say?

- Israel and a group called the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) have made new aid rules.
- These aid centres are controlled by the military.
- People who go there to get food are getting killed or injured.
- In just one month, over 500 Palestinians have died near these aid centres.

Amnesty's View:

- Amnesty says this is not a mistake. They believe it's done on purpose to cause suffering and hunger.

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- They called it a war crime and said it might be part of genocide (killing of a group of people).
- “People are dying every day while trying to get food,” Amnesty’s leader said.

Israel’s Response:

- Israel’s Foreign Minister said the report is false.
- He accused Amnesty of spreading lies and supporting Hamas (the group Israel is fighting in Gaza).

Background:

- Before this, the United Nations (UN) gave aid in Gaza.
- Now, Israel and the U.S. support GHF to give aid.
- Since the war started, many people in Gaza are starving and living in terrible conditions.