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August 2022 / Issue-1

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Director's Message



Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh

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Yours very truly,



Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder



Mr. Q H Khan

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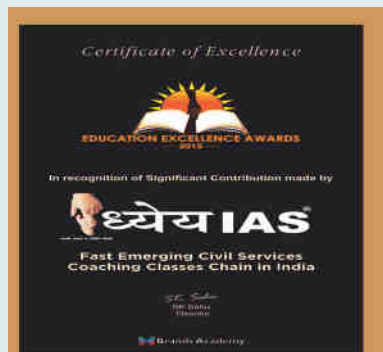
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Yours very truly,



Q H Khan
Managing Director

PREFACE



Current Affairs has an important role in the examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions. It is necessary for the candidate to have knowledge of relevant information on issues of national and international importance. Perfect 7 Magazine is being presented fortnightly in front of the students to fulfill this requirement. Preparation of civil services exam is only completed when candidates have holistic knowledge and analysis of the dynamic nature of the current affairs. 'Perfect7' keeps this vision and approach and understands the multidimensional need of students at the content level, so this magazine has presented the current affairs with relevant issues of general studies. Keeping in mind the mains exam, current articles on 7 burning issues, Ethics Case Studies, Biographies of important personalities, coverage of most useful topics of various sections of General Studies and the most important current affairs issues are being covered for Preliminary Examination in which emphasis is being given on environmental, ecology, art and culture, science and technology, economy issues. A short section on Terminology will also be part of Perfect 7 Magazine.

Brain boosters with 7 themes based graphics are being presented in a concise form to enhance the conceptual understanding of the students. Apart from this, updated information on Global Initiatives, Global Institutions, Structure of Organizations, Functioning, Important Reports, and Indices will be included in this magazine, which is asked prominently in the Civil Services Examination. To give emphasis on facts and analysis, keeping in view the trends of new nature of questions in Preliminary and Main Examination of Civil Services, an inclusive magazine is being provided to the students so that they can give the right direction to their preparation by understanding the new requirements of Civil Services Examination. We hope that Perfect 7 in its new form will prove to be very useful. Your suggestions are always welcome.

Vinay Kumar Singh
Editor
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Managing Director	: Q. H. Khan
Co-Editor	: Ashutosh Mishra
	: Saurabh Chakraborty
Sub-Editor	: Aman Kumar
Publication Manager	: Dr. S. M. Khalid
Editorial Support	: Prashant Singh
	: Santosh Singh
	: Hari Om Pandey
	: Shiv Vardan
	: Bhanu Pratap
	: Gaurav Chaudhary
	: Devendra Singh
	: Lokesh Shukla, Prince
Lead Writer	: Vivek Ojha
Chief Reviewers	: A. K. Srivastava
	: Vineet Anurag
	: Baghendra Singh
Design and	: Arun Mishra
Development	: Punish Jain
Typist	: Sachin
	: Tarun
Office Attendent	: Raju
	: Chandan

For feedback write to us at :-

perfect7magazine@gmail.com

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PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES



Great Expectations: President Droupadi Murmu

Why in News ? :

Droupadi Murmu on Monday, 25 July, took oath as the 15th president of India at the Parliament's Central Hall. Murmu was administered the oath by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana. Addressing the nation soon after taking the oath, President Murmu said that the trust and support of the people were her greatest strengths.

She became the first tribal woman to be elected as President of India by defeating her opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha, by a margin of 947 votes, bagging 64.03% of the electoral college votes against Sinha's share of 35.97%.

Murmu, 64, bagged votes from a total of 2,824 electors, including 540 MPs, while Sinha won the support of 1,877 electors, including 208 MPs.

President of India Election

The President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation, by means of single transferable vote. To secure uniformity among state inter se, as well as parity between the states as a whole, and the Union, suitable weightage is given to each vote.

The President must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age,

and qualified for election as member of the Lok Sabha.

His term of office is five years, and he is eligible for re-election.

Removal

His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 61 of the Constitution.

He may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice-President, resign from his office.

Power & Duties

Executive power of the Union is vested in the President, and is exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution. Supreme commander of defence forces of the Union also vests in her. The President summons, prorogues, addresses, sends messages to Parliament and dissolves the Lok Sabha, promulgates Ordinances at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, makes recommendations for introducing financial and money bills and gives assent to bills, grants pardons, reprieves, respites or remission of punishment or suspends, and remits or commutes sentences in certain cases.

When there is a failure of the constitutional machinery in a state, he can assume to himself all, or any of the functions of the government of that state.

The President can proclaim emergency in the country if he is satisfied that a grave emergency exists, whereby security of India or any part of its territory is threatened, whether by war or external aggression or armed rebellion.

The President is the guardian of the Fifth Scheduled Area. The President can declare any area with most of the tribal population as the Fifth Scheduled Area.

About Droupadi Murmu

Draupadi Murmu is the 15th and current President of India.

She is also the former cabinet minister of Odisha and the former governor of Jharkhand.

Born in a humble family based in a remote village of Mayurbhanj, a tribal district of Odisha, Murmu had worked as an assistant teacher and a junior assistant in Odisha state irrigation department.

Mrs. Murmu started her political journey with the BJP way back in 1997, worked as a councilor in Rairangpur.

She has also worked as the president of Scheduled Tribe Morcha of the BJP Odisha unit, before being elected twice to Odisha state legislative assembly on BJP ticket and also served as a cabinet minister during 2002-2004 in Naveen Patnaik

led BJD-BJP coalition government where she was felicitated with the best legislative member award.

Though her personal life remained full of struggle and tragedy, she touched the pinnacle in the public life and achieved monumental records in politics and social services. She lost her husband and two grown up sons but she stood strong on all occasions.

Mrs. Murmu created history as she became the first women governor of Jharkhand, the first tribal governor of a tribal state, the first Odisha-born woman to be a governor.

Voices Against Murmu

Murmu's name for this important post had evoked a mixed response from the tribal peoples of India. Some are happy but others are sceptical. They point out that as the governor, she did put a stop to the proposed amendments to the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 and Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1949, but was not forthcoming to form the tribal advisory council for Jharkhand.

Important Issues : High on expectations

Recently, the country is seeing regular attacks on its democratic fabric. Moreover, the tribal communities are facing the brunt of the development and privatisation policy of the government.

Amendments to various acts, such as the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, is a direct attempt to bypass the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers

(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

This is being done to further push the Adivasi community into the pit of marginalisation and poverty. Since the enactment of PESA in 1996, four of 10 states, namely Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha, are yet to make rules for PESA.

The implementation of PESA is questionable in states which have made the rules.

Urbanisation of Scheduled Areas

The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution mandates laws separate from the Panchayati Raj Act and the Nagarpalika Act, to administer villages and towns in tribal-dominated areas.

Parliament enacted PESA in 1996 for rural tribal areas. However, similar legislation for urban tribal areas — the Municipalities Extension to Scheduled Areas (MESA), 2001 Bill — was not enacted.

A report by Down To Earth shows that at least 181 municipalities are functioning unconstitutionally in Scheduled Areas of seven states. Extending the urban areas without a legal basis has created a governance crisis in the Scheduled Areas and undermines the traditional rights of tribal people. It will be interesting to see how Droupadi Murmu will approach this issue.

Crimes against SCs and STs

The latest report for 2020 by the National Crime Records Bureau reveals that Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) continued to face persecution during 2020. Crimes against SCs and STs rose by 9.4 per cent and 9.3 per cent, respectively, compared to 2019.

These numbers put a special duty on Murmu to work for the welfare of the last man in the country.

Land Alienation

Loss of access and command over forests and community resources, enforced eviction due to development projects and lack of appropriate rehabilitation and indebtedness.

According to studies, more than 50 million people have been displaced in India due to 'development' projects for over 50 years. Around half the displaced are due to dams, mines and industrial development.

The Adivasi communities, constituting about 40 per cent of the displaced, are the worst-affected. It is expected from Droupadi Murmu that she will urgently look into this grave situation and will reduce the pain of displacement of the community through her good offices.

Way forward

The country is looking expectedly toward Droupadi Murmu, hoping that the unjust done to the last man, will decrease. She will alleviate the burden of mining and rampant development on the Adivasi community, they expect.

As President, she is vested with special powers to protect and safeguard the interest of the Scheduled Tribe community. It will be a litmus test for her. Country hopes her election for the top post of the country will not be symbolic but comes out of genuine sympathy for the last man.

As President, Murmu has to preserve and defend the Constitution and the law. The citizens expect nothing less from the President.



China's Banking Crisis

Introduction:

A lethal concoction of stagnant growth, rising unemployment, spreading mortgage payment strikes, blocked depositor funds, and ongoing COVID shutdowns are threatening to blow up in China's economy with catastrophic social and political repercussions.

In the provincial capital of Henan, hundreds of depositors rallied last week in front of the People's Bank of China office in Zhengzhou to demand their frozen life savings held in rural banks. Of several incomplete housing-projects they had bought, thousands of buyers threatened to quit making mortgage payments. All of this occurred during the same week that the government released disappointing second-quarter economic performance data.

What Is the Issue?

Two Incidents Have Happened Simultaneously:

1. Since April, customers of four banks have been unable to withdraw their money. Since May, there have been periodic uprisings. Chinese media quoted the total frozen money at \$1.5 billion. These banks first informed their clients that withdrawals had been suspended due to internal maintenance: Yuzhou Xin Min Sheng Village Bank, Shangcai Huimin County Bank, New Oriental Country Bank of Kaifeng, and Zhecheng Huanghuai Community Bank. Later,

it became clear that a financial fraud investigation was going on in the banks. The freeze also affected the clients of two other rural banks in the neighboring province of Anhui.

- Over the past several years, bank runs among China's small lenders have increased. While the demonstrations in Henan are the most recent to make news, Reuters reports that at least two small lenders saw a spike in withdrawals in 2019 and that five lenders had bank runs in 2020. Police had to intervene to stop most of these incidents and to reassure the depositors.
- There are about 4,000 rural lenders in China, and analysts attribute the deterioration of consumer confidence in Chinese financial institutions to the businesses' poor corporate governance, opaque ownership, and declining economic activity amid strict Covid controls.
- The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC), China's banking watchdog, said that consumers will begin receiving their money back for deposits up to 50,000 yuan.
- 2. Real estate developers in China have seen a wave of financial defaults, notably Evergrande, which is stuck with roughly \$300 billion in debts.
- As a result of the significant debt loads and financial issues, several residential projects

have remained incomplete, sometimes for years. This has caused considerable resentment among buyers and the ongoing protest.

- Data from the banks on Friday show that the total value of the affected mortgages is 2 billion yuan (\$300 million), but some analysts believe the actual number to be substantially higher.
- Since the creeping collapse of Evergrande, China's second-largest developer, started last year, the country's real estate market, which contributes up to 30% of economic production, has been in turmoil.

Effects Of Such Crisis On China Itself

In the lead-up to its 20th party congress later this year, this is a hazardous time for China's ruling Communist party since it indicates waning trust in a year that was intended to prioritize stability. Another illustration of the enormous difficulties Beijing is currently facing is the refusal of homebuyers in various Chinese cities to make mortgage payments on unfinished properties as well as the massive bank depositor protests in Henan, where they are calling for the return of their savings and denouncing government corruption.

- Property prices have risen continuously for decades,

serving as a seemingly surefire means to ensure income growth for the burgeoning middle class and serving as a major driver of China's unstoppable growth for years. An estimated 30 percent of China's economy comes from the country's real estate industry. However, most economists and experts on China today concur that Beijing's borrow-and-build economic strategy is flawed and that investing in additional infrastructure can only lead to disaster rather than a sustainable future.

- However, as seen by the recent dismal GDP figures, such ceaseless expansion can no longer be taken for granted. Numerous city-wide lockdowns to contain the Omicron coronavirus subtype have caused a great deal of damage.
- According to analysts, the most recent unemployment statistics are a more telling indicator. Youth unemployment has increased to 19.3% percent, according to data released by the statistics office on Friday. This trend was hastened by the complete or partial lockdowns that were implemented in key Chinese cities in March and April.
- 80 percent of China's home construction was done utilizing prepayment plans. In other words, even if the central bank wanted to save the industry, it couldn't do so without decreasing mortgage rates.

The demonstrations are yet another indication of the waning faith in the system that has made China extremely wealthy but now appears to be in peril. The rapidly deteriorating balance sheets of local governments, whose sale of land

parcels to developers was the starter motor for the country's stratospheric growth, are yet another cause of concern. Many experts believe that the banking system will absorb the losses with assistance from the central government.

Global Effect Of The Crisis

The picture for the world economy has already deteriorated recently and the IMF has issued a warning that the likelihood of a worldwide recession within the next 12 months is rising.

- The cost-of-living situation had worsened for hundreds of millions of people due to the war in Ukraine.
- The patchwork pandemic recovery throughout the world was hampered by supply shortages and frequent Covid lockdowns in China.
- A worldwide energy crisis might start if the natural gas supply to Europe continues to be disrupted, which would cause many economies to go into recession.
- Other nations, particularly those in close contact with China through bilateral or multilateral development initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), may suffer as a result of the financial crisis in China, which is more accurately described as an overall economic crisis.
- The slowdown in Chinese exports will lead to losses for the countries (especially South Asian Countries) that rely heavily on China for the "Supply Value Chain" for manufacturing components and other finished products, and this could cause a general loss of momentum to the global post-pandemic economic stimulus.

Impact On India

- Imports: China is a key source of imports for India, including chemicals, telecom equipment, active medicinal ingredients, and components for smartphones and automobiles. Therefore, a weakening of the Chinese economy will have an effect on the infrastructure and consumer markets in India.
- Exports: If the twin crises in China lead to a protracted slowdown in the Chinese real estate market, India's brisk iron ore exports—many of which are destined to China—may also be affected.
- Investments: A slowing Chinese economy may cause Indian investors to withdraw their money. India might become the next major base for manufacturing if it can move the economic changes along quickly.

Conclusion

Apart from the general lack of pace for the global post-pandemic economic recovery, the scenario in a slowing Chinese economy foreshadows concerns on the brisk trade front. A source of trouble might arise from financial system instability. President Xi Jinping has just lately emphasized on the significance of preserving social and economic harmony and assuring the populace that China is on the path to epidemic recovery.

In addition to implementing economic reforms, India has to diversify its imports away from China, increase competitiveness in the global market, and engage in international supply chains.



Anti-Defection Law

Validity of Anti-Defection Law and Role of Speaker

Context:

The legality of the anti-defection law and the role of the speaker is once again in the news due to the recent political upheaval in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

Introduction:

Recently, there was a huge upheaval in the politics of Maharashtra. Due to differences in Shiv Sena, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had to resign. After this, the government of the Eknath Shinde faction and Bharatiya Janata Party was formed in Maharashtra. Both the factions of Shiv Sena have accused each other of defection. Due to this situation, once again the validity of the anti-defection law and the role of the Speaker in this context, is once again in discussion.

About anti-defection law

- In the 1980s, the stability of the government was constantly being affected due to the increasing defection in India and the situation of "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram". To address this problem, a provision was made by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985 regarding disqualification by MPs and MLAs on the grounds of defection from one political party to another.
- A new schedule (Tenth Schedule) has been added to the Constitution in the context of the anti-defection law. The main objective of this act was

to ensure the stability of the government and to prevent the horse-trading of MPs/MLAs for defection.

Key provisions

Provisions have been made in the Tenth Schedule for disqualification of MPs and MLAs on grounds of defection.

A member of a House who is a member of a political party shall be deemed to be disqualified for the membership of that House-

- If he voluntarily gives up the membership of such a political party
- If he votes in that House contrary to the instructions of his political party or is absent in the vote and has not received clemency from the political party within fifteen days.
- If an independently elected member joins any political party.
- If a nominated member joins a political party after the expiry of six months.
- If a Member of Parliament is disqualified under the Tenth Schedule, he shall be disqualified under Article 102(2) to be a member of either House of Parliament.
- Similarly, if a member of the State Legislature is disqualified under the Tenth Schedule, he shall be disqualified for membership of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council

under Article 191(2).

However, the above disqualification on grounds of defection is not applicable in the following two cases-

- If a member has been out of his party due to a break in the party. A split in the party is considered when one-third of the members together form a new party in the House.
- According to the 1985 Act, 'defection' by one-third of the elected members of a political party was considered a 'merger'.
- But the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 changed this and provided that the anti-defection law allowed a political party to merge with or with any other political party, provided less than At least two-thirds of the members are in favor of the merger.
- It is to be noted that if a member voluntarily withdraws from the membership of his party after being elected as the Presiding Officer or re-joins the membership of his party after his tenure. This relaxation has been given for the dignity and fairness of the post.

Speaker has the right to decide in respect of defection.

- Initially the Speaker's decision was final, but in the 1992 Kihoto Holohan v. Zachilhu case, the Supreme Court held that the

Speaker's power in the anti-defection law would be subject to judicial review.

Speaker's role in anti-defection law

- In the anti-defection law, the final authority of the decision rests with the speaker of the concerned house. However, for the dignity and fairness of the office, the Speaker has been exempted from defection. If he goes out of his party membership voluntarily after becoming the Speaker himself and rejoins the membership of his party after his tenure, then the anti-defection law will not apply to him. However, the adjudicating authority of the disqualification regarding the defection of a member is the Speaker.
- In the party politics of India, the speaker's role is often found to be questionable in the issues related to defection. Since the decision of the Speaker/Chairman is final, it has been observed that if there has been a defection in favor of the ruling party, the Speaker/Chairman deliberately delays the anti-defection action and decision.
- Many times, before the Speaker takes anti-defection action, the Governor gives the floor test instructions in the House, due to which the government falls. This act of the Governor prevents the Speaker from discharging his functions under the 10th Schedule.
- The Supreme Court has also given its comment regarding the role of the Speaker in the anti-defection law. In 1992, the Supreme Court held that the Speaker's power in anti-defection law would be subject to judicial review. However,

limited judicial review is seen here.

- However, the Supreme Court has tried to rectify the delay in the decision and held that the Speaker has to deliver his decision on the matter within three months. But it is not clear what action will be taken if the speaker fails in this duty.

Essential suggestions are given to make anti-defection law more efficient

It has been almost 37 years since the anti-defection law was enacted, but still, this law has not fully lived up to its objectives. Various bodies have made suggestions from time to time in this regard. Whose description is as follows-

- In the context of electoral reform, the Dinesh Goswami Committee formed in 1990 had said that the decision to disqualify representatives under the Anti-Defection Act should be taken by the President/Governor on the advice of the Election Commission.
- Along with this, this committee recommended that the nominated members of the House should be disqualified if they join any political party at any time.
- In the 170th report of the Law Commission, it was recommended that if two or more parties contest elections in the alliance before the election, then that alliance should be considered as one party in the anti-defection provisions. Along with this, it was also said in this report that the political parties should issue whips only when there is a threat to the stability of the government. For example, the order of disqualification for not voting in favor of the party

or case of non-voting of any party.

- In the context of defection, the Election Commission talked about increasing its role. The Election Commission said that in anti-defection decisions, arrangements should be made to take decisions by the President/Governor on the binding advice of the Commission.

Conclusion

An election is a process by which "we the people of India" transfer our power. Therefore, purity is essential in this process and its result. In this context, significant efforts must be made to eliminate the problems of defection which are insulting to the mandate.

NOTES



THE ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

New Global Standards For Artificial Intelligence Ethics

What Is the issue?

November 2021, witnessed 193 countries signing a path-breaking agreement at UNESCO on “**Ethics of Artificial Intelligence**”. It plans out the first global normative framework with respect to Artificial Intelligence and ethical standards related to it and puts the responsibility on states as well to apply it at their level. The agreement sets the path for the governments and tech companies with respect to usage and designing of the AI

The Objectives of the Agreement which now sets global standard:

- **Maintaining the Balance of Power:** It intends to radically alter the relationship between the public and the organisations and institutions creating AI.
- * If human interests are not prioritised in the development of these technologies, inequality will increase to a level never previously seen in human history.
- **Regulate Life Cycle:**
- * UNESCO member countries had also reached to an agreement to incorporate measures to monitor and control the entire life cycle of AI systems: "Research-Design-Development-Deployment and Use."
- * This means that they must adopt affirmative measures to secure that women and disadvantaged minorities are equally represented on AI design teams.

- **Management of Data, Privacy and Access to Information:**

- * It establishes the necessity of maintaining user control over data, allowing users to view and remove data as necessary.
- * It urges member states to make sure that proper measures are put in place for the handling of sensitive data, that accountability is effective, and that there are redressal mechanisms in the case of harm.

- **Banning Social Scoring and Mass Surveillance:**

- * It expressly forbids the use of AI technologies for mass monitoring and social evaluation.
- * It emphasises that while creating regulatory frameworks, Member States should take into mind that ultimate accountability and responsibility must always rest with people and that AI technology should not be granted their own legal personality.

- **Protecting the Environment**

- * It emphasises that AI actors should choose resource, data, and energy-efficient AI technologies, which are increasingly prevalent in addressing environmental challenges and combating climate change.
- * It requests that governments evaluate the effects of the extraction of raw materials on the environment, energy consump-

tion, and carbon footprint in order to assist the production of AI technology.

Artificial Intelligence [AI]

- **AI** – AI is the simulation of human intelligence in robots and machines that are designed to behave and think like humans.
- Artificial intelligence has three main objectives: learning, reasoning, and perception.
- Machine learning – The concept that computer systems can automatically learn from and adapt to new data without the aid of humans is known as machine learning.
- Deep learning algorithms allow for this autonomous learning by ingesting vast quantities of unstructured data, such as text, photos, or video.

Applications Of AI

- India is one of the world's top marketplace for AI-related technology in 2021, with a market value of over \$7.8 billion.
- Applications of AI
- * Healthcare - AI is used for surgical operations, medicine dosage, and various patient treatments.
- * Gaming- Artificial intelligence also includes chess-playing computers.
- * Automobiles: AI technology is used in self-driving vehicles.
- * Finance: Artificial intelligence (AI) is used to identify and highlight activities like erratic debit

card use and hefty account deposits.

- * Agriculture: AIs are used for disease diagnostics, intelligent spraying, and real-time field insights.
- * Assistance: Weak AI systems include personal assistants like Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa (designed to carry out one particular job). India is one of the world's largest markets for AI-related technologies valued at over 7.8 billion dollars in 2021.

The enormous potential of AI in industries including agriculture, health care, and education is highlighted in the **National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence published by NITI Aayog** in 2018.

Benefits Of AI:

- India continues to use traditional policing. Predictive policing in India has growth avenues because of AI-based products.
- With the use of AI, crime patterns may be predicted, and suspects can be identified by analysing a large amount of CCTV footage that is readily available nationwide.
- The government is digitising all of the records, notably the criminal records, and compiling them into a single database called CCTNS where all of the information, including a convict's or suspect's biometrics and criminal history, is accessible.
- In agriculture: It has a variety of applications, including determining how much water a crop requires.
- To resolve difficult problems, such as utilizing resources effectively.
- Data Analysis: AI technology aids in data analysis, which increases the effectiveness of systems like mobile device power

management, weather forecasting, video and image analysis, and power management in automobiles.

Challenges Related To AI

- **Highly biased results** – Data used to feed AI frequently don't reflect the variety of our communities, leading to biased or discriminating results.
- * China and India combined make up barely 3% of the photographs in ImageNet, although making up around a third of the world's population.
- **Problem with face recognition technology:** As facial recognition technology is used more often causing the possibility of racial prejudice is growing.
- * Inaccuracy rate for three programmes issued by big tech companies was 1% for males with light complexion, but 19% for men with dark skin and up to 35% for women with dark skin.
- * Inaccuracies in facial recognition technology have resulted in unjustified arrests.
- AI frequently produces results that might be characterised as biased or discriminating since it isn't representative of the variety of our cultures.
- The right to privacy is under jeopardy since it's possible for someone's internet activity data to be accessed by someone else without their permission. The right to privacy is still in peril even in the situation of an offline user, or someone who has chosen to remain "disconnected," much like a disconnected user travelling through a "smart city."
- Inequalities will increase if the business framework used to produce these technologies is not adjusted to put human interests first.

Ethical Challenges Associated with AI

- **Employment Hazard:** Automation is the main concern of the hierarchy of labour. Robotics and AI companies are creating intelligent machines that carry out tasks that are typically performed by low-wage workers, such as self-service kiosks to replace cashiers and fruit-picking robots to replace field workers.
- * Additionally, the day will soon come when many desk positions, including those of accountants, traders, and middle managers, will be replaced by AI.
- **Exacerbating Inequalities:** By using artificial intelligence, a business may significantly reduce its reliance on its human staff, which implies that fewer individuals will receive the gains.
- * As a result, the only people who will profit from AI-driven businesses are the proprietors of such businesses. AI may also exacerbate digital exclusion.
- Additionally, investments are expected to go to nations where AI-related activity is already well-established, resulting in wider inequalities between and within nations.
- * Therefore, the promise of new opportunities will actually result in significant new inequities in the absence of clear policy on worker reskilling.
- **Discriminating Robots:** It's important to remember that humans, who have the capacity for prejudice, are the ones that design AI systems.
- * It may cause AI surveillance and face recognition technologies to discriminate against minorities and persons of colour.

- **Data Privacy Issues:** AI also raises significant data privacy issues. Our digital footprints are being captured and sold without our awareness or informed permission as a result of the algorithm's never-ending search for data.
- * The Cambridge Analytica case, in which these algorithms and huge data were exploited to manipulate vote outcomes, should act as a strong cautionary tale about the potential risks that existing AI business models pose to both individuals and society.
- **What If Artificial Intelligence Turned Against Us?**
- * Imagine requesting an AI system to end cancer globally. After much computation, it produces a formula that really ends cancer by exterminating everyone on the earth.

India And AI

- India ranked tenth in the world for the number of AI experts employed in the sector, according to the Global AI Report 2019 by a Canadian company.
- The CBSE will begin offering AI as an optional topic for its ninth-grade courses this year.
- As the first academic institution in India, IIT Hyderabad has begun offering a full-fledged Bachelor of Technology (B Tech) programme in artificial intelligence.
- * After Carnegie Mellon University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it is most likely the third educational institution in the world to offer a full-fledged B Tech programme in AI.
- IIIT Hyderabad has also introduced well-known executive programmes on AI and machine learning as well as blockchain and distributed ledger technologies.
- The Indian Defence Forces are now experimenting with products and technologies that will aid defence measures.
- In India, businesses and academic institutions are now working together on AI. One such example is IBM's Blue project.
- The nation is home to several start-ups that are excelling in fields like as image analytics, data analytics, predictive intelligence, etc.
- It is predicted that AI would increase India's GDP by 957 billion dollars by the year 2035, increasing India's yearly growth rate by 1.3 percentage points.

Application of AI in India:

- As AI usage expands in India, it's crucial to draw attention to a variety of crucial indicators from the health, education, and agricultural sectors. In India, there are 0.8 doctors for every 1,000 patients (UK: 2.8, Australia: 5, China: approximately 4). This low percentage suggests that Indian physicians are working very hard. In India, doctors see each patient for about 2 minutes, compared to close to 20 minutes in the US. AI may be a useful tool for doctors to help them diagnose patients more quickly and with less labour.
- A Tamil smart assistant named "Anil" has been released by the Tamil Nadu e-Government Agency in collaboration with Anna University. This NLP-based smart assistant offers users a step-by-step manual for submitting online applications for several important government services. One of the forerunners in implementing AI for the pro-

vision of public services is the Tamil Nadu government.

- More than 500,000 farmer households now have access to the agency's recently released AI-based agricultural pest and disease diagnosis system via to a smartphone app. When a farmer takes a picture of a pest or a diseased crop, the system uses artificial intelligence (AI) to identify the pest or disease and then notifies the farmer of the necessary corrective action.
- The Tamil Nadu government is using facial recognition, a cutting-edge use of AI, to track attendance. The approach saves more than 45 minutes per day and gives schools additional time for essential instructional tasks.
- To help doctors and extend their reach to serve distant parts of India, AI-based healthcare solutions including radiographic diagnostics like "detection of internal bleeding in the brain using CT scans" are being tested.

STEPS TAKEN :

- From NITI Aayog's #AIForAll campaign to the various business policies that have been taken to guarantee that AI is built with shared, humanistic values at its heart, India has made enormous progress in the creation of responsible and ethical AI governance.
- The concepts of the UNESCO suggestion are already being applied to AI legislation and policy in a number of nations, proving their applicability. With its 2017 AI Strategy, Finland serves as an example of exemplary practise in this area.
- The National Program on AI was ordered by the government to

be established by NITI Aayog in the 2018–19 budget with the goal of directing research and development in cutting-edge and emerging technologies.

- On March 20, 2019, NITI Aayog released the cabinet note to create the AIRAWAT (Artificial Intelligence Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation Platform) cloud computing platform.
- The government has declared the establishment of a National Sports Education Board under Khelo India in the Budget 2019–20 in order to equip youngsters for new era skills, such as artificial intelligence, the internet of things, big data, 3D printing,

virtual reality, etc.

WAY FORWARD

The proper incentives for ethical AI governance must be set in national and subnational policy in order to ensure that the full promise of these technologies is realised.

There should be quota procedures in place to guarantee the diversity of these teams, or allocated funding from their public budgets to promote such inclusion initiatives.

With this accord, there is optimism that the impetus for significant change has been created and that AI may now be used to tackle issues like hunger, environmental catastro-

phes, inequities, and pandemics.

Whole of Society Approach: For the benefit of the general people, several nations, including India, are attempting to strike the proper balance between AI promotion and AI governance. These efforts include awareness of the benefits and threats.



Improving India's Justice Delivery System

Introduction

- According to generalized view, Indian courts are known for their lengthy processes and challenges for regular litigants. **3.27 million cases are outstanding before Indian courts, 85,000 of which have been languishing for more than 30 years**, according to statistics made public by the

Supreme Court in June 2020. The Supreme Court recently allowed high courts and states two months to put a set of rules intended to eliminate gaps and errors in criminal trials into effect. According to data, the majority of India's convicts are impoverished individuals who are now awaiting trial; **70% of the prisoners are under-trials.**

India's Justice Delivery System-Basics

The collection of federal, state, and local governmental entities that deal with the crime problem is **referred to as the criminal justice system**. The efficiency with which certain government departments operate determines how well laws, regulations, and rules are implemented. The criminal justice

system is always working to ensure that the law is applied in a fair and legitimate manner.

- Legislature (Parliament)
- Enforcement (police)
- Adjudication (courts)
- Correction institutions (prisons, community facilities).

Issues With The Justice Delivery System In India

• **Legislature Issues WRT Justice Delivery**

- * India spent a pitiful 0.08 percent of GDP on the judiciary annually between 2011–12 and 2015–2016. Even if the central government increased allocations under the 13th and 14th Finance Commissions, this still warrants severe concern.
- * Parliament should come up with major changes wrt Collegium system of the Judiciary and other major lacunae in the judicial system

• **Judicial Reforms WRT Justice Delivery**

- * Lack in Judicial infrastructure which can be broadly divided into three dimensions:
 - ◇ Physical infrastructure such as courtrooms, lawyers' chambers
- 1. Only 20,143 court halls, including 620 rented locations, are available in India, despite the country's sanctioned strength of 24,280 judicial personnel.
- 2. According to High Courts, 15 States have so far notified 476 Gram Nyayalayas. Of them, only 256 are now in service in 10

States.

3. Less than half of the examined courtrooms had washroom facilities that were in good working order. What's more striking is that only 11% of the toilets are accessible for people with disabilities, and 26% of the court facilities lack separate toilets for women.

◇ Digital infrastructure, including video-conferencing devices and internet connectivity

1. Only 27% of lower courts have access to computers with video conferencing capabilities at the judge's bench.

◇ **Human resources**, which includes judges and their support staff.

1. Due to a lack of judges with sufficient qualifications, **cases are left pending and no a timeframe for adjudication can be decided upon.**

2. There should be **an additional 20% of judges**. This corresponds to the authorized strength. **Justice B.N. ShriKrishna and Justice R.C. Chavan have supported this figure.**

• **Police System Issues WRT Justice Delivery**

- * The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC-2007) noted that political control has historically been abused by the political executive to improperly influence police personnel and force them to serve personal or political interests. o Operational freedom vs. Accountability to the Political Executives
- * Overburdened Force: In 2016, the sanctioned police strength was 181 police per lakh people, while the actual strength was 137 police, which is much lower

than the 222 police per lakh people that the United Nations recommends.

◇ Additionally, a large number of open positions in the police forces exacerbates the issue of overworked officers.

• **Prison Issues WRT Justice Delivery System**

- * Three structural problems have plagued Indian prisons for a very long time: violence, understaffing, and overcrowding.
- * From 115 to 231 "unnatural" deaths occurred in prisons between 2015 and 2016.
- * There were 102 suicides in 2016 compared to 77 in 2015, a 28 percent rise in the suicide rate among prisoners.
- * Numerous unwarranted arrests and inadequate legal representation during remand hearings are to blame for the high percentage of undertrials in the total jail population.

Measures Taken By The Govt.

- The Narendra Modi government's Union Budget for 2022–2023 placed a strong emphasis on enhancing the delivery of criminal justice by connecting the e-courts, e-prison databases, and crime and criminal tracking network and systems (CCTNS) to the ICJS. The budget included
- Rs. 300 crores for the modernization of forensic capabilities
- Rs. 590 crores for the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).
- Rs 500 crore for prison modernization
- As for "new programmes" and initiatives, an emergency

response system will cost Rs 150 crore.

- The Union Cabinet, in 2021, authorized the extension of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for another five years, from April 1, 2021, to March 30, 2026, for the construction of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary. For the program, a total of Rs. 9000 crores have been approved.
- The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms would execute the Gram Nyayalayas Scheme in a mission mode, it was also declared.

Measures Needed

- **Improve working by using technology:**

- * Technology may be used to enhance productivity, but only the human intellect will continue to be its only motor, according to Supreme Court Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. A very good example would be the Gujarat High Court becoming the first institution in the nation to install a "justice clock," which is an outside LED wall within the courthouse that displays the disposition and status of cases, among other information.

- * Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies should be investigated for application in judicial procedures and in police headquarters and stations.

- **Reduce pendency of cases by**

- * **Recruiting for sanctioned judicial jobs.** According to a detailed investigation, the average growth in pendency between 2006 and 2017 was roughly 2.5% per year, although the average vacancy in the sanctioned judicial seats was about 21%. Therefore, more

judges must be appointed in order to fill all of the positions.

- * The formation of several High Court benches, as recommended by the Law Commission of India in its 230th Report, is another contemporary action that has been used to decentralize judicial authority.

- * This action can be enhanced by the establishment of special courts at the lower level, such as Morning and Evening Courts, and by enhancing gram nyayalaya performance.

- * Arbitration, Conciliation, Mediation, and Negotiation through Lok Adalats or Tribunals should be encouraged as Out-of-Court Settlement mechanisms.

- **For Police reforms,** modernisation of the police system and Prakash Singh guidelines need to be followed.

- * The criminal justice system has to be reformed in addition to police reforms. The Menon and Malimath Committees' suggestions can be put into practice in this situation.

- **For Prison reforms, Justice Amitava Roy (retd.) Committee recommendations can be followed**

- * With addition to this, all the judicial system reforms ranging from speedy trials, timeframe for case settlement, special courts to filling up vacancies and use of ICT will come handy even for prison reforms.

- **A Change in Attitude in the Legal Community**

- * Courses on case-flow management and court administration should

be included to the existing legal education and judicial training curricula.

- * To improve the system's attitudes and ensure that the judges and court officials operate effectively, there should be training workshops for lawyers.

Conclusion

- According to CJI Ramana, historical judicial negligence has led to a lack of institutional attention to these apparent deficiencies that affect the provision of justice, particularly to the poor.
- The social contract between the people and the government is crucially based on the right to a fair trial, equitable access to justice, and public confidence in the whole justice delivery system. Even the Constitution's drafters included certain provisions, most notably Articles 38 and 39, that acknowledged the crucial role that an effective justice delivery system plays in achieving social, political, and economic rights in an equitable society. So, to fulfill Ambedkar's vision of equality, dynamic and minute adjustments at every level are necessary to ensure justice to every individual.

NOTES



Factoring Ecosystem Services Into Economic Development Planning

Context-

An extraordinarily hot summer in Europe and U.S is breaking the temperatures records. Disastrous events such as drought, flood, landslide etc. are increasing day by day causing human life in danger.

Introduction-

The concept of ecosystem services relates to both our dependence on nature and the impact of our activities on it. It offers a means of systematically considering the importance of nature's values across all sectors of the economy and society. It also provides the basic rationale for choosing ecosystem-friendly development pathways, which will respect and maintain these benefits..

About Ecosystem Service -

Ecosystem services are defined as the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing, and have an impact on our survival and quality of life. There are four types of ecosystem services: provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.

- **Provisioning services** are characterised by the ability of humans to obtain products from ecosystems, such as food, water and resources, including wood, oil and genetic resources and medicines.
- **Regulating services** are categorised as any benefit obtained from the natural processes and

functioning of ecosystems. Examples include climate regulation, flood regulation and other natural hazard regulation, pollination, water purification and more.

- **Cultural services** include non-material benefits that people can obtain from ecosystems. These include spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values.
- **Supporting services** are those which relate to habitat functioning themselves, and therefore influence survival. For example, photosynthesis, the water cycle and nutrient cycles are the basis of ecosystems, which in turn allow us to support ourselves.

Impact of Economic development on Ecosystem services-

- The key to sustainable development is achieving a balance between the exploitation of natural resources for socio-economic development and conserving ecosystem services that are critical to people's wellbeing and livelihoods.
- Current economic paradigms focus almost entirely on the reliance on engineered structures to build resilience for communities and ignore the role and potential of ecological infrastructure.
- The services that forests provide are often ignored in the economic growth models that are

used to describe and actuate human welfare. Some of these services, such as water purification and air quality regulation, are fundamental to the survival of all living beings on the planet.

- Studies estimate the economic cost of climate change to be over ten percent of global GDP — research finds India may have already experienced a 30% loss of GDP because of climate impacts. Indeed, with less resilient systems, poorer countries could suffer a 25% higher impact due to climate change compared to richer economies.
- The environmental footprint of a person has grown tremendously. We are consuming natural resources at a much faster rate than what nature can replenish.
- Several examples show direct linkages between growth and environmental degradation — China logged over 75 million hectares of forests in the last decades of the past century.
- In the last couple of years acute water shortage has forced companies to shut down. Frequent incidences of drought and flood have also caused immeasurable financial losses. Over 2,000 Himalayan glaciers have reportedly melted in the past few decades. Forest fires have engulfed vast stretches in South-east Asia. The carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere, for the first time in the past 3 mil-

lion years, has touched the 400 ppm mark.

Why we need to factor ecosystem services into economic development planning-

- Forest health and economic systems are interconnected. There was a 53 per cent increase in cash income, for example, among forest user groups in Andhra Pradesh, according to a study by the World Bank. This corresponded to an increased support to small and medium forest-based enterprises in the region.
- The multiplier effects of a healthy forest cover are enormous in terms of economic and social development objectives. Around 1-1.5 billion people benefit directly or indirectly from the forests of the world, according to some estimates.
- Forests provide an array of ecosystem services that are not only beneficial for the environment but also crucial in achieving several of the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals.
- It also acts as a safety net for forest-dwelling communities by providing livelihood support. This support to the rural economy is a reason to invest in conserving very dense and moderately dense forests.
- Natural landscapes such as tiger reserves, for example, provide a range of ecosystem services, and estimates the benefits from such services at Rs 50,000-1,90,000 per hectare per year, a recent study commissioned by the National Tiger Conservation Authority showed. This is not factored into traditional national accounts.

- A cohesive green natural cover is also necessary for the country to achieve its decarbonisation goals, since biodiverse forests have a higher capacity for carbon sequestration than monoculture plantations.
- Also, as temperatures rise due to climate change, monoculture forests are more prone to wildfire events that not only reduce the forest cover but also jeopardise the country's climate commitments.
- Climate change projections for 2030, 2050 and 2085 indicate that Himalayan states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh will witness the greatest increase in temperature, according to ISFR 2021. Such climatic changes would adversely affect their forest ecosystems.

India's Commitments to secure sustainable development-

- At the 26th Conference of Parties (CoP26), Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a five-fold strategy — termed as the panchamrita — to achieve Net Neutrality and to minimize the environmental impact of Economic development.
- Recently, the Uttarakhand government has announced that it will initiate valuation of its natural resources in the form of 'Gross Environment Product' (GEP).
- The MoSPI has taken up several initiatives under the project "Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES)" which aims to advance the theory and practice of ecosystem accounting in India.
- Use of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a tool used

to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making by Indian government.

- National Afforestation Programme (NAP) has been implemented since 2000 for the afforestation of degraded forest lands.
- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, (CAMPA Funds) which can be used for treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities
- Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme (FFPM) is the only centrally funded program specifically dedicated to assist the states in dealing with forest fires.

Conclusion-

Integrating ecosystem services into spatial planning might be a promising approach towards sustainable development because it supports making such services explicit, and thereby fosters the discussions about tradeoffs between ecological and socio-economic aspects when developing new urban areas. Making good use of ecosystems services and biodiversity values to address global challenges not only makes ecological but also economic sense. It is therefore of critical importance to ensure that ecosystem services are incorporated into development planning and decision making throughout all sectors.



Submarine

Why in News?

Recently INS Sindhudhvaj, Kilo-class submarine of Indian Navy was decommissioned from service at Visakhapatnam after 35 years in service. With this, the Navy now has 15 conventional submarines in service.

About a submarine

- A submarine (or sub) is a **watercraft capable of independent operation underwater**. Submarines are referred to as “boats” rather than “ships” irrespective of their size.
- Although experimental submarines were built earlier, the **concept gained traction during the 19th century**, and they were used by several Navies.
- **The first major usage of submarines was seen during World War I** and is now used in many Navies, large and small.
- Military uses of submarines includes:
 - * **attacking enemy surface ships and for aircraft carrier protection,**
 - * **blockade running,**
 - * **nuclear deterrence,**
 - * **reconnaissance,**
 - * **conventional land attack (for example, using a cruise missile),**
 - * **covert insertion of special forces.**

INS Sindhudhvaj:

- It was one of the ten Kilo class

submarines India obtained from Russia between 1986 and 2000.

- It was commissioned into the Navy in 1987.
- INS Sindhudhvaj has many firsts to her credit which includes :
 - * Operationalisation of the indigenised sonar USHUS,
 - * indigenised satellite communication system Rukmani and MSS,
 - * Inertial navigation system and
 - * indigenised torpedo fire control system.
 - * It was the only submarine to be awarded the Chief of Naval Staff rolling trophy for Innovation.

Kilo-class submarine:

- **Kilo-class submarine are diesel-electric submarines that**
 - * displace 3,000 tonnes,
 - * can dive to a depth of 300 metres,
 - * have a top speed of 18 knots, and
 - * can operate solo for 45 days with a crew of 53.
- The Kilo-class submarine are called the Sindhughosh-class, after the lead vessel in the series.
- The Kilo-class is a highly trusted conventional boat, with an estimated 62 in service in nine Navies.
- They were the Indian Navy's first submarines that could fire anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles from underwater.

Why India needs submarines?

India needs more submarines mainly

for following reasons:

- **For our own maritime security:**
 - * For maintenance of the territorial integrity of India
 - * Against all types of seaward challenges and threats as well as protection of our maritime trade and the merchantmen.
 - * To safeguard the maritime interests of the nation.
 - * To meet the new challenges continuously evolving. Since the security challenges are only bound to increase in the times to come.
- **Countering China:**
 - * Chinese are going to be positioning a lot more ships and submarines in the Indian Ocean in the coming years.
 - * China is giving Pakistan eight submarines and four destroyers, which can be used as proxy by China.
 - * According to a 2020 report by the Pentagon, China currently operates four SSBNs and is fitting two additional hulls. It has six SSNs and, and 50 diesel-powered attack submarines (SSs).

Submarines in India Navy:

- India's tryst with submarines began in December 1967 with the **INS Kalvari of the Foxtrot Class from the USSR**. By 1969, India had four of those.
- During the 1971 India-Pakistan war, **the submarines were used in war.**
- Between 1971-74, **India bought four more Foxtrot Class**

submarines but then for a decade, we did not get any new submarines.

- In 1981, it **signed a contract to buy two Type 209 submarines from West Germany**, while two others were to be assembled at Mazgaon Dock, which formed the **Shishumar Class**.
- **India got eight submarines from the USSR and the two from Germany from 1986 to 1992.**
- In 1992 and 1994, **two German submarines which had been built in India** were also commissioned. India bought **two Kilo Class submarines from Russia in 1999 and 2000.**
- The **30-year plan (2000-30) for indigenous submarine construction**, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 1999, envisaged two production lines of six submarines each, built in India in partnership with a **foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)**. The projects were called P-75 and P-75I.
- The 30-year plan anticipated that **India would get the 12 new submarines by 2012-15.** Subsequently, India **would make 12 of its own by 2030**, taking the fleet size to 24, with the older submarines getting decommissioned.

Types of submarines:

Submarines can either be diesel-electric or nuclear-powered. Either type can hold nuclear warheads.

- **Diesel-electric submarines:**
 - * It use electric motors charged by diesel engines to move.
 - * These engines require air and fuel to operate, which means they need to resurface more frequently, making them easier

to detect.

- * When running on electric mode, these submarines are much quieter than when the diesel engines are running.
- * Most submarines today are conventionally powered (diesel-electric) and tend to be smaller and cheaper to maintain.
- **Nuclear-powered submarines:**
 - * Nuclear-powered submarines run off of steam generated by an onboard nuclear reactor that turns the turbines.
 - * Having a source of power that runs for so long means that they can remain submerged for years – effectively limited only by the food and water needs of their crews – limiting their detection.
 - * These tend to be larger but require more expensive infrastructure and maintenance.
- **Common submarine acronyms are listed below:**
 - * SS: Submarine (submersible ship)
 - * SSK: Diesel-electric attack submarine
 - * SSN: Nuclear-powered attack submarine
 - * SSB: Diesel-electric ballistic missile submarines
 - * SSBN: Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines

Submarines in the Indian Navy:

- **Arihant class**
 - * The Arihant is a class of Indian nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines being built for the Indian Navy.
 - * They were developed under the Rs 900 billion Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project to design and build nuclear-powered submarines.
 - * India has classified these vessels as 'strategic strike nuclear submarines'.
 - * Launched on July 26, 2009, INS

Arihant (SSBN 80), designated S2 Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine, is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of submarines.

- * The 6,000-tonne vessel was built under the ATV project at Visakhapatnam's Ship Building Centre.
- * The submarine was commissioned in August 2016 and was deployed for operations in 2018.

Kalvari Class

- * Under Project 75 project, the Indian Navy intends to acquire 6 diesel electric submarines, which will also feature advanced Air Independent Propulsion (AIP).
- * The first submarine in the series, INS Kalvari, was launched in October 2015 and was commissioned in December 2017 - five years behind schedule.
- * The second one, INS Khanderi, was launched in January 2017 for trials and commissioned in September 2019.
- * The third submarine, INS Karanj, was launched in January 2018 and commissioned on March 10, 2021.
- * INS Vela is the fourth one.
- * The fifth one, INS Vagir, was launched in November 2020 and has commenced harbour trials. It is expected to go for its maiden surface sortie in December 2021.
- * The sixth submarine, INS Vagsheer, is in the advanced stage of outfitting.

Sindhughosh Class

- * Sindhughosh class submarines are Kilo-class diesel-electric submarines and are designated 877EKM.

- * The ships are the products of a contract between Rosvooruzhenie and the Union Ministry of Defence.

Shishumar Class

- * The Shishumar class vessels (Type 1500) are diesel-electric submarines which have been developed by the German yard Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW).
- * The first two of these vessels were built by HDW at Kiel, while the remainder has been built at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.
- * The ships were commissioned

between 1986 and 1994.

About Air-independent propulsion

- It is any technology which allows a non-nuclear submarine to operate without the need to access atmospheric oxygen (by surfacing or using a snorkel).
- It also reduces the chances of detection because the moment it comes closer to the surface, submarines are very prone to detection and after that, it becomes very difficult for a submarine to hide because it cannot move quickly under the water.

AIP gives longer endurance to submarines than what a

conventional battery submarine can offer.

Way Forward

The naval prowess of India must be accorded primacy to mitigate the gap that exists with rival countries like China else India will be handicapped in countering China's desire to dominate the Indian Ocean. India needs to change its decision-making processes and its complicated acquisitions process to halt the slide in its relative capabilities.



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1

44th Chess Olympiad

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the 44th Chess Olympiad at the grand opening ceremony held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Mahabalipuram, Chennai on 28 July 2022.

The Prime Minister in his address said that the 44th Chess Olympiad is being held for the first time in Tamil Nadu, the place of origin of chess in India. It is coming to Asia for the first time in 3 decades. It has the highest ever number of participating teams. It has the highest number of entries in the women's category.

The first torch relay of Chess Olympiad has started this time.

It is a matter of pride that the torch relay for Chess Olympiad will always start from India in future.

Naturally Tamil Nadu has a deep historical connection with chess.

This is the reason why Tamil Nadu is the chess powerhouse for India. It has given India many chess grandmasters.

The game of chess reached many countries of the world through India and has become very popular. Today, chess is being used in schools as a tool of education for youth and children.

And not only that, in recent years, India seems to be steadily improving its performance in the game of chess. The Prime Minister also launched

the first-ever Chess Olympiad Torch Relay at the Indira Gandhi National Stadium in New Delhi on June 19, 2022.

Before going to FIDE Headquarters in Switzerland, the torch traveled over a span of about 20,000 kms over a period of 40 days and passed through 75 historical places in the country and culminated in Mahabalipuram.

The 44th Chess Olympiad is being held in Chennai from 28 July 2022 to 9 August 2022.

With 187 countries participating in this competition, it will be the largest participation in any Chess Olympiad. India is also fielding its largest contingent so far in this competition which includes 30 players from 6 teams.

Men's Team

Bharat -1 Vidit Gujrathi, P Harikrishna, Arjun Erigasi, S.L. Narayan and Shashikaran Krishnan.

Bharat-2 is Nihal Sarin, D Gukesh, B Adhiban, R Pragyanand and Raunak Sadhwani.

Bharat-3 includes Surya Shekhar Ganguly, SP Sethuraman, Abhijit Gupta, Karthikeyan Murali and Abhimanyu Puranik.

Women's Team

Bharat-1 includes Koneru Humpy, D Harika, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni.

Bharat-2 is Vantika Agarwal, Soumya Swaminathan, Mary Ann Gomes,

Padmini Raut and Divya Deshmukh.

Bharat-3 includes Isha Karavade, Sahiti Varshini, Pratyusha Bodda, Nandidha PV and Vishwa Vasawala.

About Chess Olympiad:

This competition is organized by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) once in two years.

Each team in this competition consists of 5 players, with 4 regulars and 1 reserve.

In the year 1927, the first Chess Olympiad was officially organized by FIDE in London.

During the COVID-19 pandemic FIDE organized the 43rd Chess Olympiad online for the first time in July, 2020 in which India jointly won the gold medal with Russia

Russia has won the Chess Olympiad gold medal the most 25 times among all the participating countries

World Chess Federation (FIDE):

- Established on July 20, 1924 in Paris, France.
- Motto- We are one people
- Headquarters- Lausanne, Switzerland
- Member Countries- 195
- President- Arkady Dvorkovich (Russia)
- FIDE was recognized by the International Olympic Committee in the year 1999.

2

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant

Why in News?

The country's first indigenous

Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant will be commissioned in August this year

to celebrate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

INS Vikrant

INS Vikrant is designed and built by the Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Limited. It is the largest and most powerful ship to be built in India. The cost of its construction is about 23 thousand crores. With its construction, India has now joined the select group of countries that have such state-of-the-art manufacturing capability. The fourth test of this ship was done on 10 July 2022.

The first sea trial of IAC was successfully completed in August 2021. This was followed by Phase II and III sea trials in October 2021 and January 2022 respectively. During these tests, the propulsion

machinery, electrical and electronic suites, deck machinery, life-saving equipment, the ship's navigation and communication systems were tested.

The Defence Ministry said, that the progress of the carrier's sea trials, "delivery of the ship is targeted for the end of July, followed by the commissioning of the ship in August to celebrate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Cochin Shipyard Limited:

Cochin Shipyard was incorporated in 1972 as a wholly owned Government of India company. Over the past three decades, the company has emerged as a forerunner in the Indian

shipbuilding and repair industry. This yard can build and repair the largest ships in India.

Conclusion:

The construction of this ship has not only enhanced the indigenous design and construction capabilities, but has also led to the development of a large number of ancillary industries. This is expected to create employment opportunities for more than 2,000 CSL personnel and about 12,000 employees in allied industries.

3**Right to safe abortion for unmarried women: Supreme Court****Why in news ?:**

- A 25-year-old unmarried woman had moved to the Supreme Court after the Delhi High Court rejected her plea to allow termination of pregnancy at around 24 weeks. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules 2003, does not cover unmarried women. The woman challenged Section 3B of the rules laid down under the Medical Termination Act 1971, which allowed only 7 types of women to have abortions after 20 weeks of fetus.

Court's opinion

- Denial of the right to a safe abortion to an unmarried woman is a violation of her personal autonomy and freedom under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Therefore, even an unmarried woman has the right to an abortion.
- The trial court took an unreasonably restrictive view that her plea for safe abortion was not covered under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act because the pregnancy had

arisen from a consensual relationship outside the marriage.

- Reprimanding the lower court, the bench said that live-in relationship has already been recognized by the Supreme Court. There are a large number of people in the social mainstream who do not see any harm in having premarital sex. The law cannot be used for the notion of social morality and cannot unduly interfere with their personal autonomy and bodily integrity.

- The court ordered AIIMS to constitute a medical board, which would examine whether it was safe for a woman to abort or not, to submit a report within a week.

Facts on which the court gave its verdict

- The court noted that the amendment to the MTP Act in 2021 replaced the word husband with partner, a clear indication that the law covers unmarried women in its purview.
- A woman's right to reproductive

choice under Article 21 of the Constitution and is an inseparable part of her personal liberty.

- He has a sacred right to bodily integrity. There is no doubt that a woman's right to make reproductive choices is also a dimension of personal liberty, as cited by the Supreme Court of India's examples.
- The court held that forcing a woman to continue with the pregnancy would not only violate her physical integrity but would also aggravate her mental trauma.

Provision

- As per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021, termination in the opinion of a doctor is allowed for pregnancies up to 20 weeks. The amended law requires the opinion of two doctors for pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks. Section 3B of the rules prescribed under the MTP Act: It allows seven categories of women who would be considered eligible for termination of pregnancy up to twenty-four weeks,

eg, rape survivors, minors, change in marital status (divorced from married), e.t.c.

Conclusion

According to the United Nations

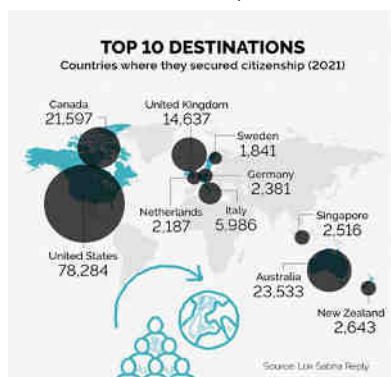
Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of the World Population Report 2022, unsafe abortion is the third leading cause of maternal mortality in India, and around 8 women die every

day from causes related to unsafe abortion. It is true that abortion is a dimension of women's physical freedom, yet its regulation is necessary.

4

Statistics of those who renounced Indian citizenship in 2021

- The number of people renouncing Indian citizenship is increasing continuously. Most of these include millionaires.
- In the year 2021, one lakh 63 thousand 370 people left Indian citizenship. Whereas in the year 2020, 85 thousand 256 and in the year 2019 one lakh 44 thousand 17 people renounced Indian citizenship.



Why do people leave the country?

In general, around the world, people leave their country due to lack of better jobs and living conditions in their country, commonly known as brain drain.

Some have to move out due to climate change or Unfavorable political conditions.

In some high-profile cases - such as that of Mehul Choksi- people leaving India are fleeing the law and seeking citizenship of another country due to fear of legal action against alleged offences.

Global Wealth Migration Review 2020 :

- The following are the reasons why high net worth individuals renounce their citizenship
- Rising crime rate or lack of business opportunities in the country.
- Safety of women and children |
- Lifestyle factors such as climate and pollution.
- Financial concerns including taxes, better health care for families and educational opportunities for children.
- To avoid repressive governments.

Major destination country

- In general, countries where Indians have been living for a long time or where people have family or friends.
- Where there is easy paperwork.
- There would be considerations such as a more welcoming social and ethnic environment. Example Australia, Canada, UK, USA etc.
- In countries running the Golden Visa. Under the Golden Visa, wealthy people are given visas against investing in their country.

Effects :

Benefit

- Can play an important role in the economic development of their countries of origin.
- His major role as the sender of the remittances.
- Can promote trade and foreign direct investment.
- Can promote entrepreneurship.
- Can transfer new knowledge and skills.

- They can strengthen India's relations with any other country.

Drawbacks :

- Lack of good skill youth in the country.
- Difficult to catch criminals.
- Transfer of country's money to another country.
- Reduction in government tax.

Constitutional provision

- Citizenship is listed in the Union List under the Constitution which comes under the jurisdiction of Parliament.
- The Constitution does not define the word 'citizen'.
- The provisions of citizenship are given in Part 2 (Articles 5 to 11).
- Unlike other provisions of the Constitution that came into force on 26 January 1950, these Articles came into force only on 26 November 1949, when the Constitution was adopted.
- Article 9: If a person voluntarily acquires the citizenship of a foreign state, he shall no longer be a citizen of India.
- Article 10: It says that every person who is or is deemed to be a citizen of India under any of the foregoing provisions of this Part shall, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, continue to be such citizen.
- Article 11: It empowers the Parliament to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all matters relating thereto.

Other provisions

- The Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five methods of obtaining citizenship, namely birth, descent, registration, naturalization and incorporation of territory.
- Dual citizenship is not allowed in India.
- Indian citizenship can be relinquished in 3 ways, voluntarily relinquishing, automatic termination, deprivation by the government
- Facility of PIO and OCI for people who have given up citizenship so that they can come and do business in the country without visa. The PIO card itself is recognized as a Visa.

5

Spread of Kala Azar or Black Fever Disease in West Bengal

Why in news?

- Recently, the Health Department of the Government of India has revealed that at least 65 cases of black fever or Kala-Azar disease have been reported in eleven districts of West Bengal in the last one month.
- According to an estimate, about 165.4 million people are in the grip of this disease in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- Whereas previous reports suggest that Kala-Azar disease has been eradicated in general from West Bengal.

What is Kala-azar or Black fever disease?

- Kala-Azar or Visceral Leishmaniasis is a protozoan parasitic disease, which is transmitted by the bite of sandfly. Sandflies are brown in color and have hairs all over their bodies. Flies are infected with a parasite called 'Leishmania donovani'. This disease is also called "black fever".
- Leishmaniasis is a treatable disease.

This disease is generally of three types:

1. Visceral Leishmaniasis- It affects more than one organ of the body and this disease is most fatal.
2. Cutaneous Leishmaniasis- This disease occurs due to lesions on the skin and its symptoms are seen in general form.
3. Mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis:

This disease is directly related to mucosal lesions of the skin.

Disease Exacerbation?

- Most of the effect of this disease is seen in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- It is a neglected tropical disease affecting about 100 countries of the world including India.
- Data from the National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control Program shows that there has been a significant decline in the incidence of this disease in the last few years. About 9,200 cases were reported in the year 2014, while in 2021 its number fell to 1,276.

What are the Symptoms of Kala-Azar?

- Fever comes irregularly for several days.
- Weight starts decreasing.
- Both the spleen and liver begin to enlarge.
- Symptoms of deficiency of Anemia begin to appear.
- The skin becomes dry, thin and scaly and hair fall starts.
- In people with light skin, the skin on the arms, legs, abdomen and face may turn brown.

What is included in the treatment?

- Anti-Leishmanial drugs are given for treatment.
- According to WHO, this disease can be controlled by reducing the number of sandflies in the surrounding area by using insecticide sprays, insecticide-treated nets etc.

Efforts by the Government of India to eliminate this disease:

- The Government of India had set a target to eliminate this disease by the year 2015, but it was unable to do so. However, the number of cases has come down significantly through the National Kala-Azar Eradication Programme.
- Medicines, insecticides and technical assistance were provided by the Central Government, while implemented by the State Governments through State/ District Malaria Control Offices and the primary health care system.

National Kala-Azar Eradication Program:

- India's National Health Policy-2002 had set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by the year 2010, which was revised again in the year 2015.
- Under the Kala-Azar eradication in India, a target of 1 case per 10,000 population was set at the sub-district level.

National Vector Borne Disease Control Program:

- The program under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is involved in the prevention and control of six vector-borne diseases in India – Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-Azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya.

INTER-NATIONAL

1

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and its structure

Why in News?

- Iran and Belarus could soon become the newest members of the China and Russia-backed Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). In the Samarkand summit, Uzbekistan in September, the SCO leadership can adopt a document on the obligations of Iran membership. The legal procedures of Belarus's accession are about to start.

About SCO:

- SCO was founded in June 2001, to replace 'Shanghai Five'.
- SCO consists of Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Shanghai Five countries came together in the post-Soviet era in 1996, in order to work on regional security, reduction of border troops and terrorism.
- India acquired the observer status in the grouping in 2005 and joined as a full member in 2017 with Pakistan.

Goals:

- Strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states.
- Promoting effective cooperation in politics, trade & economy, research & technology and culture.
- Enhancing ties in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection.
- Maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region.
- Establishment of a democratic,

fair and rational new international political & economic order.

Structure:

- Heads of State Council**-The supreme SCO body which decides its internal functioning and its interaction with other States & international organisations and considers international issues.
- Approves the budget, considers and decides upon issues related to economic spheres of interaction within SCO by the Heads of Government Council.
- Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs considers issues related to day-to-day activities.
- Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**: It was established to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- SCO Secretariat is situated in Beijing China.
- Official language**: The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.
- The SCO also has four observer states Afghanistan, Iran, Belarus and Mongolia.

How SCO is relevant to India?

- The SCO encourages members to use the platform to discuss differences with other members.
- SCO will enable India, as an integral part of the Eurasian security grouping, to neutralise centrifugal forces arising from religious extremism and terrorism in the region.

- Cooperation in three critical areas— energy, building trade and transportation links and dealing with traditional and non-traditional security threats— can be facilitated through the SCO mechanism.
- The foundation of India's economic outreach to Central Asia is based on its 2012 Connect Central Asia Policy with its focus on the 4 C's - Commerce, Connectivity, Consular and Community.

Way Forward

- The power struggle has heated up in and around Ukraine. It is camouflaged and an ideological war between super powers. All countries are expected to choose sides. Institutions of global governance which were supposed to guarantee peace have failed, due to the limited power sharing and working mechanism.
- The role of regional organizations like SCO, African Union (AU), ASEAN, SAARC, BRICS and BIMSTEC became more relevant for the life and wellbeing of the citizens, including strengthening sustainable development and responsive democratic processes, Advancing crime prevention, providing criminal justice, stabilising strategic relations and the rule of law in their regions.

ENVIRONMENT

1

Blue Flag Standards for Beaches in India

Why in News?

Under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) has piloted Beach Environment & Aesthetic Management Service (BEAMS) Programme. Under this programme, various activities related to pollution abatement, beach awareness, aesthetics, safety, surveillance services and environment education, etc. have been done at identified beaches aimed to achieve international standards for Blue Flag Beach Certification.

About Blue Flag Beach

Total 10 beaches situated in 6 States and 3 Union Territories have been developed at par with best international beaches with safety and ecologically sustainable infrastructure, acceptable bathing water quality, self-sustaining energy supply and environmentally sound services/management measures. Beaches that have been conferred with internationally recognized Blue Flag Certification are:

1. Shivrajpur, Devbhumi Dwarka District, Gujarat
2. Ghoghla (Diu) Dadara Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
3. Padubidri, Udupi District, Karnataka
4. Kasarkod, Karwar District, Karnataka
5. Kappad, Kozhikode District, Kerala
6. Kovalam, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu

7. Eden, Puducherry District, Puducherry
8. Rushikonda, Vishakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh
9. Golden, Puri District, Odisha
10. Radhanagar (Havelock), Andaman & Nicobar Islands

National Center for Coastal Research (NCCR) under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) conducted studies on the qualitative analysis of litter in different beaches along the east and west coast of India.

Studies indicated that the plastic litter from tourism varies from 40% to 96%. As per the studies conducted by MoEF&CC and MoES, most of the harbours and beaches have high beach litter.

Blue Flag Certification Criteria

Blue Flag beaches are considered among the cleanest beaches in the world. It is an eco-tourism model, which seeks to promote sustainable development of the region by providing clean water for bathing, safe and healthy environment to the tourists/beach visitors.

The "Blue Flag" waving on the beach is a sign of 100% compliance with 33 stringent norms and good health of the beach. It is recognized internationally.

The norms are divided into 4 major headings:-

1. Protection and Security Services on the Beaches
2. Environmental Education and Information

3. Quality of Bath Water
4. Environmental Management

About Blue Flag Certification

It was awarded by an international jury consisting of eminent members- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Denmark-based NGO Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

- The Blue Flag Program for Beaches and Marinas is run by the Foundation for Environmental Education, an international non-governmental, non-profit organization.
- Like the Blue Flag certification, India has also launched its eco-label 'Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services' (BEAMS).
- Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Service come under Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project.
- It was launched by Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) and Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The objectives of the BEAMS program:

Reducing coastal water pollution and promoting sustainable development of beach facilities.

Protect and conserve the coastal ecosystems and natural resources.

Strengthening and maintaining high standards of cleanliness and beach sanitation and safety in accordance with coastal environment and regulations.

2

India signs MoU to bring 8 cheetahs from Namibia

Why in News?

The governments of India and Namibia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), under which eight cheetahs will be brought to India from the African country in August.

The main thrust areas of MoU :

- Biodiversity conservation with specific focus on conservation & restoration of Cheetah in their former range areas from where they went extinct.
- Sharing and exchange of expertise and capacities aimed at promoting cheetah conservation in two countries.
- Collaboration in areas of climate change, environmental governance, environmental impact assessments, pollution and waste management and other areas of mutual interest.
- Exchange of personnel for training and education in wildlife management, including sharing of technical expertise, wherever relevant.
- According to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, India had permission to get eight cheetahs four males and four females from Namibia.

About Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*):

- It is the fastest land mammal and solitary animal that can run at a speed of up to 100+ km per hour.
- There are two sub-species of Cheetah (African Cheetah and Asian Cheetah) Found in the World.

African Cheetah (Scientific Name:

Acinonyx Jubatus)

Conservation Status:

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status: Vulnerable.
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) - 1972: Schedule II
- Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS): Appendix I

Characteristics:

- They have slightly brownish and golden skin which is thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs.
- They have much more prominent spots and lines on their face as compared to their Asian cousins.
- **Distribution:** Found all over the African continent in thousands of numbers.

Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx Jubatus Veneticus*)

- Characteristic: Slightly smaller than the African Cheetahs.
- They have pale yellowish fawn coloured skin with more fur under their body, specifically on the belly.
- There are only 12 Asian Cheetahs left in the world in Iran.
- In Iran, the Asiatic cheetah is completely protected. The main protected areas for this species are Kavir National Park, Khar Touran National Park, Naybandan Wildlife Refuge, Bafgh Protected Area and Dar Anjir Wildlife Refuge.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Red List: critically endangered.
- CITES: Appendix 1
- WPA: Schedule-2

Other related point

- Cheetahs present in locations from Southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe) were used along with relevant eco-climatic covariates to model equivalent niche space in India using Maximum Entropy Models.
- While the current carrying capacity for Kuno National Park is a maximum of 21 cheetahs, once restored the larger landscape can hold about 36 cheetahs.
- Financial and administrative support to the cheetah reintroduction programme in India, would be provided by MoEF&CC through NTCA.
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), national and international carnivore/cheetah experts/agencies would provide technical and knowledge support to the programme.
- As per the directions of the Supreme Court of India in 2020, the cheetah reintroduction in India is being overseen by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), guided and directed by the experts committee designated by the Supreme Court of India.

Kuno National Park:

Location: The Vindhyan Hills of Madhya Pradesh.

Rivers: Kuno (tributary of Chambal).

Fauna: Spotted deer/Chittal; Sambar, Rehsus Monkey, Black buck, Gaur/Indian Bison, Leopard, Stripped hye-

nas, Barking deer or Indian Muntjac, Chousingha or Four-horned antelope, Nilgai or Blue bull, Indian Gazelle or Chinkara etc.

Flora: Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion.

It is dominated by the Kardhai, Khair, Palash, and Salai trees.

It also has Dry Savannah Forest and Dry Grass Land.

3

India adds five more Ramsar sites, ups tally to 54

Why in News?

- India has designated five new wetlands of International importance, which include three wetlands (Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikarainai Marsh Reserve Forest & Pichavaram Mangrove) in Tamil Nadu, one (Pala wetland) in Mizoram and one wetland (Sakhya Sagar) in Madhya Pradesh, making a total of 54 Ramsar sites in the country.
- The Ramsar sites have been increased from 49 to 54 Ramsar sites.

About Ramsar Convention:

- Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, an environmental treaty established by UNESCO in 1971, named after the city of 'Ramsar' in Iran. The Convention is signed on 2nd of February 1971 came in to force in 1975
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

Definition of the Wetland

- The Ramsar Convention on

Wetlands defines wetlands as "areas of marsh, fen, peat, and or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters.

- Wetlands cover only around 6% of the Earth's land surface, but 40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.

Ramsar Site

- To be a Ramsar site, however, it must meet at least one of nine criteria as defined by the Ramsar Convention of 1971.
- These are such as supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities or, if it regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds or, is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks are dependent upon.
- The National Wetland Inventory and Assessment compiled by the Indian Space Research Organisation, estimates India's wetlands to span around 152,600 square kilometres which is 4.63% of the total geographical area of the country. A little over two-fifths are inland natural wetlands and about a

quarter are coastal wetlands.

- India has 19 types of wetlands, whereas Gujarat has the maximum area followed by Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- Wetlands in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat serve as important places for migratory birds.

Montreux Record:

- Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
- The Montreux Record was established by Recommendation of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (1990).
- Sites may be added to and removed from the Record only with the approval of the Contracting Parties in which they lie.
- Two wetlands of India are in Montreux Record: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur). Chilka Lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it.

4**Heat wave in Europe****Why in News?**

- In Europe and the world, a severe Heatwave situation has arisen due to the temperature exceeding 40 degrees and people are dying from the heat.

What are the effects of Heatwaves on European countries?

- European countries France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Britain, Sweden, Belgium and Greece are affected by problems like Increased temperature, Disrupted daily services, deaths, Thousands of hectares of forest fires, Displacement of people etc.
- In the year 2003 also, the effect of Heat wave was in Europe, in which 70 thousand people died.

What are the causes of dangerous Heat wave in Europe?**Global Warming:**

- The Earth's temperature has increased by 1.1 degrees compared to the 19th century.

Jet stream:

- The fast-moving air (jet stream) in the Earth's upper atmosphere has added to the heat in Europe.

Low Pressure Zone:

- Low pressure area is also responsible for hot winds. Warm winds in Portugal and Spain are present due to low pressure zones.

Sea Heat:

- Due to climate change, the ice of the Arctic Ocean is melting rapidly.
- The effect of the heat here can be seen in the winds blowing in Europe.
- The heat wave keeps on moving in one place for a long time, which increases the heat in that area.

Soil Dryness:

- Increase in temperature due to low soil moisture.

WMO about Heatwaves

1. Warm winds blowing from Africa increase the temperature in European countries, due to which Heatwaves are being generated.
2. Climate change has led to an increase in such unpredictable events.
3. The temperature in the world is also increasing due to the increasing concentration of Green House Gases.

What is Heatwave?

- When the temperature in an area increases more than normal and remains so for several days, then it is called heat wave. During this time the humidity of that area also increases.

Heatwave Criteria:

- In the event of a Heatwave, the temperature usually reaches at least 40 °C in the Plains and at least 30 °C in the Hilly areas.
- When the temperature of an area is less than or equal to 40 degrees, and its temperature increases by 5 degrees to 6 degrees, then such a situation is considered as 'heat wave'.
- In case of severe Heatwave, the temperature rises by more than 6 degrees.
- When the temperature of a certain area is 45 °C or more, then the Heatwave of that area is declared.

Side effects of Heatwave:**Heat Stress:**

- In this condition, the evaporation system of the human body gets

disrupted due to the increased humidity in the environment.

Death by 'Heat':

- Increase in average temperature by 0.5 degree during summer leads to increased mortality.

Heat stroke:

- Extreme temperature and increased humidity in the environment cause Heat stroke.
- People suffering from heart disease, respiratory disease and diabetes are at increased risk

Heatstroke.

- The demand for energy in the body starts increasing.
- The efficiency and productivity of workers and personnel start decreasing.

World Meteorological Organization:

- **Main Objective:** To protect human beings from natural disasters and increase the sustainable development of the world.
- The official organization of the United Nations which was established on **23 March 1950**.
- It is an inter-governmental organization whose membership is with 193 countries of the United Nations.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on 23 March.
- The theme of World Meteorological Day 2022 is: Right action at right time.

5

Migratory Monarch Butterfly now Endangered: IUCN Red List

Why in News?

- Recently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has declared the migratory monarch butterfly as endangered in the Red List.

Monarch Butterfly:

- The Monarch is the fastest flying and venomous butterfly of all Butterfly species.
- It is orange in colour with black streaks in the veins of its wings and small white spots on the sides.
- This butterfly consumes a poisonous plant (milk weed).
- The scientific name of the Monarch butterfly is **Danaus Plexippus**, which means- **Sleepy transformation**
- The life span of these butterflies is only for four to five weeks.
- Female Monarchs are larger in size than other butterflies.

Migration:

- It is commonly seen in India and many countries of the world.
- Monarch butterflies are migratory butterflies.
- They travel 1200 and 2800 miles or more in the forests of Central Mexico from the United States of America, California and Canada to Australia then to India.

Cause of Endangerment:

- Climate change
- Habitat destruction
- Deforestation
- Human intervention in their migration area
- Harvesting Milk Weed Plants
- Use of pesticides in agriculture
- Poaching

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

- IUCN is a common association for the protection of natural species for both the countries of the world and its citizens.
- It was established in the year 1948.
- Its headquarter is located in Gland (Switzerland).

The IUCN issues a 'Red List' related to the extinction and conservation of various species of plants and animals.

- In 2016, Canada had sought to include the endangered species of monarch butterflies in the IUCN Red List.

What is Red List?:

- It is the largest source of information showing the conservation status of all known biological species in the world, from which information can be obtained about all extinct animal and plant species.



- The IUCN Red List now includes 147,517 species, of which 41,459 are on the verge of extinction.
- Climate change has significantly affected the migratory monarch butterfly.
- Their numbers have decreased by between 22% to 72% in the last decade.
- According to WWF (World Wide Fund), their numbers have decreased at the rate of 90% in the last two decades.

SCIENCE-TECH

1

The Search For Dark Matter

Why in News?:

- A new dark matter detector experiment named LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) has started in South Dakota, USA. It is the most sensitive dark matter detector in the world.
- Many physicists strongly believe that the entire visible part of the universe forms only 5% of all matter in it. They believe the rest is made up of dark matter and dark energy.

About dark matter and its elusiveness

- All interactions in the universe are a result of four fundamental forces acting on particles i.e. strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, electromagnetic force and gravitation.
- Dark matter is made up of particles that do not have a charge, so they do not interact through electromagnetic interactions.
- These are particles that are “dark”, namely because they do not emit light, which is an electromagnetic phenomenon and “matter” because they possess mass like normal matter and hence interact through gravity.
- Gravitational force, is extremely weak.
- A particle that interacts so weakly becomes rather elusive to detect.
- This is because interactions from other known particles

could drown out signals of dark matter particles.

Physicist's strong belief behind dark matter existence.

- There is strong indirect evidence for dark matter, and this evidence is reflected at different levels.
- At the shortest distance scale, consider the rotation of galaxies. If you look at stars all the way from the centre of any galaxy to its rim, the way the velocities of the observed stars change may be plotted.
- In the lab this same function may be plotted on a graph by assuming the visible matter is all that exists.
- There is a marked difference between the observed plot of star speeds and the calculated value as moving from the inner part of the galaxy towards its rim.
- Assuming a certain fraction of matter which exerts a gravitational pull on the rest of the stars in the galaxy, for it cannot be seen in any other way and recalculate the plot, it fits in with the observed value.
- This means that there is a definite amount of dark matter in the galaxy.

Evidences from other distance scales

- By observing the Bullet cluster (formed by merging of two

galaxy clusters) of galaxies, physicists found that the way of merger could not be fully explained without consider of dark matter existence.

- Similar arguments also exist in mappings of the universe such as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey and studies of the filamentous nature of the universe.
- Hence physicists now take the concept of dark matter very seriously.

Candidates for dark matter particles

- Candidates for dark matter are hypothetical particles such as axions, sterile neutrinos, weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs), super symmetric particles, geons, or primordial black holes etc.
- The neutrino would have been an excellent candidate if it had been more massive, However, being too light, it doesn't fit the bill.
- The search is on to find one of these candidates, for the story is one that spins together gravity, super symmetry and hidden worlds and is the stuff of which science fiction is made.

2

The Dark Side Of Solar Energy

Why in the news ?

- We are on the cusp of the first big wave of unusable solar panels. The problem of solar e-waste is real and what is worrying is that most of the dead solar panels go straight to landfills because of the high cost of their recycling.
- Discarded panels generate toxic waste that can potentially harm people in many ways. With India's ambitious solar target of 280 GW by 2030, it is estimated that India will generate around 34600 tonnes of solar waste by 2030.

Reason of generation of solar waste

- According to a reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, India currently considers solar waste as a part of electronic waste and is not regulated or accounted for separately.
- India is ramping up its solar power installation, the country does not yet have a concrete policy on the management of used solar panels or waste from the manufacturing process.
- Despite its ambitious expansion plans, most of India's solar PV manufacturing uses imported components, mostly from China which is turning into solar waste

very quickly.

- Recycling solar waste is difficult as it requires a lot of investment. Landfill is very convenient option but harmful for environment.

Necessity to Recycle Solar Waste

- While photovoltaic generate only 3 % of global electricity, they consume 40 % of the world's tellurium, 15 % of the world's silver and zinc, tin, and gallium. These substances are available in very small quantities in nature.
- A holistic approach to solar energy includes not only a green and clean perspective, but also resource and material management.
- The two most popular module technologies in India are crystallized silicon (Si-Si) and thin film (primarily cadmium telluride, CdTe), with a market share of 93 and 7 %, respectively. The recovery rate of both the techniques is 85-90%.
- According to an estimate by the International Renewable Energy Agency, the market value of raw materials recovered from solar panels could reach \$450 million by 2030. Therefore, it can become a medium of employment

for India as well as play an important role in the economy.

Possible solutions

- Stronger e-waste or renewable energy waste laws.
- Requires investment in infrastructure to reduce the cost of recycling, coordination between the energy and waste sector to efficiently handle renewable energy waste, and building more recycling plants to prevent solar panels from going to landfills.
- Power purchase agreements with Govt., SECI/ DISCOMS and project developers.
- Ban on landfills: Solar panel waste is harmful to the environment as it contains toxic metals and minerals that can increase soil pollution.
- Providing new business models, incentives or green certificates to encourage the recycling industry to participate more.
- Technology advancements will be critical in reducing the impact of renewable energy waste. For example, new panels use less silicon during the manufacturing process and generate less waste.

3

India Innovation Index-2021

Why in News?:

- Recently, Uttar Pradesh has made a significant improvement in its performance in the India Innovation Index released by NITI Ayog and has secured the seventh rank in the year 2021 as compared to the ninth place in

the year 2020.

India Innovation Index- 2021:

- **Top 10 States:** 1.Karnataka(Third consecutive year on top) 2.Telangana 3.Haryana 4.Maharashtra 5.Tamil Nadu 6.Punjab 7.U.P. 8.Kerala 9.Andhra Pradesh 10.Jharkhand

- **Manipur** ranks first among Hilly and Northeastern states, while Uttarakhand is in **second place**.
- In the Union Territories, **Chandigarh** is in the **first place** and **Delhi** is in **second place**.

NE and Hill states			UT and City states			Major States		
States	III 2021	Rank	States	III 2021	Rank	States	III 2021	Rank
Manipur	19.37	1	Chandigarh	27.88	1	Karnataka	18.01	1
Uttarakhand	17.67	2	Delhi	27.00	2	Telangana	17.66	2
Meghalaya	16.00	3	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17.29	3	Haryana	16.35	3
Arunachal Pradesh	15.46	4	Puducherry	15.88	4	Maharashtra	16.06	4
Himachal Pradesh	14.62	5	Goa	14.93	5	Tamil Nadu	15.69	5
Sikkim	13.85	6	Jammu and Kashmir	12.83	6	Punjab	15.35	6
Mizoram	13.41	7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	12.09	7	Uttar Pradesh	14.22	7
Tripura	11.43	8	Lakshadweep	7.86	8	Kerala	13.67	8
Assam	11.29	9	Ladakh	5.91	9	Andhra Pradesh	13.32	9
Nagaland	11.00	10				Jharkhand	13.10	10
						West Bengal	12.98	11
						Rajasthan	12.88	12
						Madhya Pradesh	12.74	13
						Gujarat	12.41	14
						Bihar	11.58	15
						Odisha	11.42	16
						Chhattisgarh	10.97	17

- This is the third index released by NITI Ayog, its first and second editions were released in October, 2019 and January, 2021 respectively.
- The India Innovation Index 2021 is a testimony to the continued commitment of the Government of India to transform the country into an innovation-driven economy.

With respect to Uttar Pradesh:

- Official sources in NITI Ayog said that Uttar Pradesh has achieved the highest score (40.80) in the country, in terms of technological improvement, growth in new start-ups and businesses, high cluster density and percentage of state's Gross Domestic Product (GSDP). In the form of manufacturing and services sector has made significant contribution.
- Uttar Pradesh has scored higher than the national average of 5.81 in Knowledge Diffusion.

What is India Innovation Index?:

- Prepared by NITI Ayog and Institute of Competitiveness, the India Innovation Index is a com-

prehensive tool for evaluating and developing the country's innovation ecosystem. It ranks the states and Union Territories on their innovation performance so that there is healthy competition among them.

- This year's index includes 66 indicators instead of 36, which are divided into key pillars such as Manpower/Human resources, Investment, Knowledge Workers, Business Environment, Security and Legal Environment, knowledge-output and Knowledge-Diffusion.
- This index evaluates the innovation performance of all the states and union territories in India. The states and union territories have been classified into 17 major states, 10 Northeastern and Hill states and 9 Union Territories and city states for an effective comparison of their performance.

About NITI Ayog:

- The National Institute for Transforming India, also known as NITI Ayog, was formed on January 1, 2015, through a resolution of the Union Cabinet.

- NITI Ayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing directional and policy inputs. NITI Ayog designs strategic and long-term policies and programs for the Government of India as well as provides relevant technical advice to the Center and the States.
- The Governing Council of NITI Ayog is headed by the Prime Minister and includes the Chief Ministers of all the States and the Lieutenant Governors of the Union Territories.
- Vice President- Dr. Suman Berry (Economist)
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Parameswaran Iyer

ECONOMY

1

Global Trade Settlement In Rupee

Why in News?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place a mechanism to settle international trade in rupees “in order to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in the rupee”. The central bank’s move has come in the wake of increasing pressure on the Indian currency in the wake of Russia’s invasion on Ukraine and sanctions imposed on Russia by the US and the EU..

About mechanism:

According to RBI circular, all exports and imports under this arrangement may be denominated and invoiced in rupee (INR). “Exchange rate between the currencies of the two trading partner countries may be market determined”. According to the central bank, AD (authorised dealer) banks in India have been permitted to open rupee Vostro accounts. Accordingly, for settlement of trade transactions with any country, AD bank in India may open special rupee vostro accounts of correspondent banks of the partner trading country. Before putting in place this mechanism, AD banks shall require prior approval from the Foreign Exchange Department of Reserve Bank of India, Central Office at Mumbai.

Other Related Provisions:

- This mechanism may enable Indian exporters to receive advance payment against exports from overseas importers in rupees.
- Bank Guarantee for trade transactions, undertaken through this arrangement, is permitted subject to adherence to provisions of FEMA and the provisions of Master Direction on Guarantees & Co-acceptances.
- As per existing FEMA provisions, the final settlement has to be in free foreign exchange except for Nepal and Bhutan.
- Vostro account’s Rupee balance may be used for permissible capital and current account transactions, Payments for projects and Export/Import advance flow management.
- It may be further used for investment in Government Treasury Bills, Government securities in terms of extant guidelines and prescribed limits, subject to FEMA and similar statutory provision.

About Vostro Account

A vostro account is an account, a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank. These accounts are an essential aspect of correspondent banking in which the bank holding the funds acts as custodian for or manages the account of a foreign counterpart.

Significance of the mechanism

- Move may promote global trade with emphasis on exports from India and support to increasing interest of global trading community in INR.
- The RBI’s move to set up International Trade Settlement mechanism in INR would facilitate trade with countries under sanction like Iran and Russia.
- The move would also reduce the risk of forex fluctuation specially looking at the Euro-Rupee parity. This is a first step towards 100% convertibility of Rupee.
- At a time when many countries are facing ‘huge forex shortages in Africa and South America’, allowing only Exim transactions through INR will help our exporters and importers. This move is recognition of the Indian rupee as an international currency.
- Amid on-going rupee weakness, this move may reduce demand for foreign exchange, by promoting rupee settlement for trade.

2 FCRA- The Law Related To NGO Funding

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has cancelled the licenses of some domestic and foreign Non-Governmental Organizations operating independently in the country. MHA has also removed some crucial data from the FCRA website. It includes the annual returns of NGO's & a list of NGO's whose licences have been cancelled.
- The government is being accused of cancelling or not renewing the approval of NGOs for political or ideological reasons.

How many organizations have got their FCRA registration cancelled so far?

- The report states that the Union Home Ministry has cancelled the registration of about 5,933 NGOs under FCRA till December 31, 2021, including organizations like Missionaries of Charity, Oxfam India and Indian Medical Association.

What is FCRA Act?

- A law that works to curb the money received from foreign sources by non-governmental organizations operating independently in India.
- FCRA was introduced in the Parliament during the Emergency in the year 1976 while it came into effect from the year 2010.

What information is on the FCRA website?

- Detailed data on licenses of NGOs.
- Prior permission to NGOs to

receive foreign contribution.

- NGOs whose licenses have been cancelled.
- Those whose licenses have expired.
- Annual Return of NGOs etc

What are the grounds for obtaining a license?

- NGOs who wish to receive foreign funds have to apply online in a prescribed format along with necessary documents.
- Registration is granted to individuals or organizations that have certain Cultural, Economic, Educational, Religious and Social programs.
- After the submission of application by NGOs, Intelligence Bureau do the necessary inquiry.
- Applicant should not be fictitious or anonymous.
- The applicant should not be guilty of indulging in activities related to religious faith.
- The applicant should not have been prosecuted for causing communal tension or disharmony.
- The applicant should not be guilty of misappropriation of funds.
- The applicant should not indulge in propaganda of sedition.

When can FCRA registration be postponed?

- The registration of any non-governmental organization can be postponed by the central government. After the suspension, his registration is disqualified by the government for a period of three years, but this suspension cannot exceed 180 days.
- During the suspension, no

foreign grant can be taken by the organization nor can the foreign money kept with it be used without the permission of the Centre.

- Every year organizations have to file their annual return, organizations that fail to do so are either fined heavily, or their registration is cancelled or both are valid.
- The donation made by a non-resident Indian is not considered as foreign contribution, but a person who is of Indian origin and has foreign citizenship is treated as foreign contribution.

NOTES

NEWS OF NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

1. EAM Dr. S Jaishankar attends SCO Foreign Ministers' meet at Tashkent



External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has called for urgent addressing of the energy and food crisis that the world is facing today, due to disruptions from the Covid pandemic and Ukraine conflict. Dr Jaishankar was speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Tashkent in Uzbekistan yesterday. The Minister said, that the response required to address these challenges includes, resilient and diversified supply chains as well as reformed multilateralism. He stressed that zero tolerance for terrorism in all its manifestations is a must. Dr Jaishankar reiterated India's position on Afghanistan and highlighted the humanitarian support given by India including wheat, medicines, vaccines and clothing. He also underlined the potential of Chabahar port for SCO's economic future.

2. PM Modi launches India's first International Bullion Exchange in Gandhinagar



Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched India's first International Bullion Exchange (IIBE) at Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City in Gandhinagar today.

Prime Minister also launched NSE IFSC-SGX Connect and laid the foundation stone of the headquarters of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) at GIFT City.

Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister said GIFT city has been established as an integrated finance and technology services hub for India and the world.

Mr Modi said India is now entering the league of countries like USA UK and Singapore which are giving direction to global finance.

He said at the inauguration of IIBE, India can not only influence the gold pricing but also play a role in setting the gold prices.

3. Government notifies new set of specified health warnings on tobacco product packs



Union Health Ministry has notified a new set of specified health warnings on all tobacco product packs. The amended rules will be applicable with effect from the 1st of December this year. The Ministry said, all tobacco products manufactured or imported, or packed on or after the 1st of December, 2022 will display the image with the textual Health Warning as - "Tobacco Causes Painful Death" or "Tobacco users die younger". The Ministry said, any person engaged directly or indirectly in the manufacture, production, supply, import, or distribution of cigarettes shall ensure that all tobacco product packages shall have the specified health warnings. Violation of the provision is a punishable offence with imprisonment or fine as prescribed in the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

**4- India receives highest-ever FDI inflow in financial year**

India has received the highest-ever Foreign Direct Investment inflow of over six lakh 31 thousand crore rupees in the last financial year. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash told this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today. He said, Central Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for attracting FDI. The Minister said, the FDI Equity inflow in Manufacturing sectors has also increased by 76 per cent to over one lakh 58 thousand crore rupees in the last financial year as compared to 2020-21.

5- Country installs capacity of electricity generation of over 403 Giga Watt as on June 30

The Country has an installed capacity of electricity generation of over 403 Giga Watt as on 30th June this year. This information was given by Power Minister R K Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. Mr Singh said this is sufficient to meet the Peak Power Demand of the country of around 215.89 Giga Watt (GW) which had occurred in the month of April this year.

He said that the Centre had launched Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) in 2015 with the objective of the financial and operational turn-around of the State-owned Power Distribution Companies. Mr Singh said reducing the gap between the Average Cost of Supply and Average Revenue Realised to zero is also targeted as one of the operational parameters.

6- PM Modi speaks to UN Chief over death of two Indian peacekeepers in Congo: calls for speedy probe into attack

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephonic conversation with the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. Both leaders discussed the recent attack on the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), where two Indian peacekeepers were martyred. PM urged the UN Chief to ensure expeditious investigations, to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice. Mr. Modi also underscored India's abiding commitment to UN Peacekeeping, with more than two lakh fifty thousand Indian peacekeepers having served under UN Peacekeeping Missions so far. 177 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN peacekeeping Missions, the largest by any Troop Contributing Country.

United Nations Secretary-General offered his condolences to the families of the two martyred Border Security Force personnel, as well as to the Government and the people of India.



7- US GDP contracts for second successive quarter amid recession talk

US gross domestic product (GDP) shrank at an annual rate of 0.9% in the second quarter of 2022, according to Commerce Department estimates. It is the second straight quarter of economic contraction, one informal indicator of a recession. The estimates came a day after the Federal Reserve hiked interest rates by .75 percent for the second time this year to tame inflation, which has been at a 40-year high for several weeks now. The interest rate hikes and now the GDP numbers have spooked many analysts into forecasting a recession.

US President Joe Biden has said that it is no surprise that the world's largest economy is slowing down amid rising inflation. In a statement, US President accepted that the economy is slowing down but he said that they are on the right path and US will come through this transition stronger and more secure.



8- Women outnumber men in Bangladesh population census

For the first time in the history of Bangladesh women outnumbered men in its total population. The preliminary result of the 6th population census of Bangladesh recorded 8.33 crore women, 8.17 crore men, and 12,629 transgenders in the total population. Releasing the summary data, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) revealed that the total population of the country increased from 14.4 crore in 2011 to 16.51 crore in 2022. Bangladesh recorded an average annual population growth rate of 1.22 percent., down from the average annual population growth rate of 1.37 percent recorded in 2011.

The population census also revealed that the percentage of minorities in the total population declined between 2011-2022.



9- 22nd Commonwealth Games kicks off at Birmingham in UK

The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games kicked off with a glitzy opening ceremony at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham last night. A total of 2,000 performers traced the story of Birmingham's past and present. A Giant animatronic bull took center stage during the opening ceremony. A total of 72 teams took part in the parade into Birmingham's Alexander Stadium. PV Sindhu and Manpreet Singh were India's flag-bearers at the parade of the CWG opening ceremony.

A total of 54 nations are participating in this sports extravaganza and 6,500 athletes will compete in 280 medal events. The event will be held till the 8th of August. A 215-member Indian contingent, which includes 111 male players and 104 female players, will compete in 15 sporting events in Birmingham.

**10- Govt gives consent to signing of guarantees for hosting FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022**

Union Cabinet has approved the signing of guarantees for hosting Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India. The tournament is scheduled to be held between 11th and 30th October this year. The seventh edition of the biennial youth tournament will be the first-ever FIFA women's competition to be hosted by India. It will encourage more youngsters to participate in sports and help develop the sport of football in India.

**11- India to host 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup**

International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that India will host the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup.

Bangladesh will host the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, while the 2026 edition will be held in England. Sri Lanka has secured hosting rights for the Women's T20 Champions Trophy, slated for 2027, provided it qualifies for the event.

**12- Neeraj Chopra creates history by becoming the first Indian to win Silver medal at World Athletics Championships**

Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra created history by winning Silver medal in men's javelin throw event at World Athletics Championships. In the prestigious competition held at Eugene in Oregon, United States, the champ grabbed second position with his best throw of 88.13 metres this morning. Grenadian javelin thrower Anderson Peters won the gold medal with a throw of 90.54 meters. Neeraj Chopra is the first ever Indian to win a silver medal at World Athletics Championships. He is the second Indian after former long jumper Anju Bobby George, who won a bronze medal in long jump at 2003 in Paris.

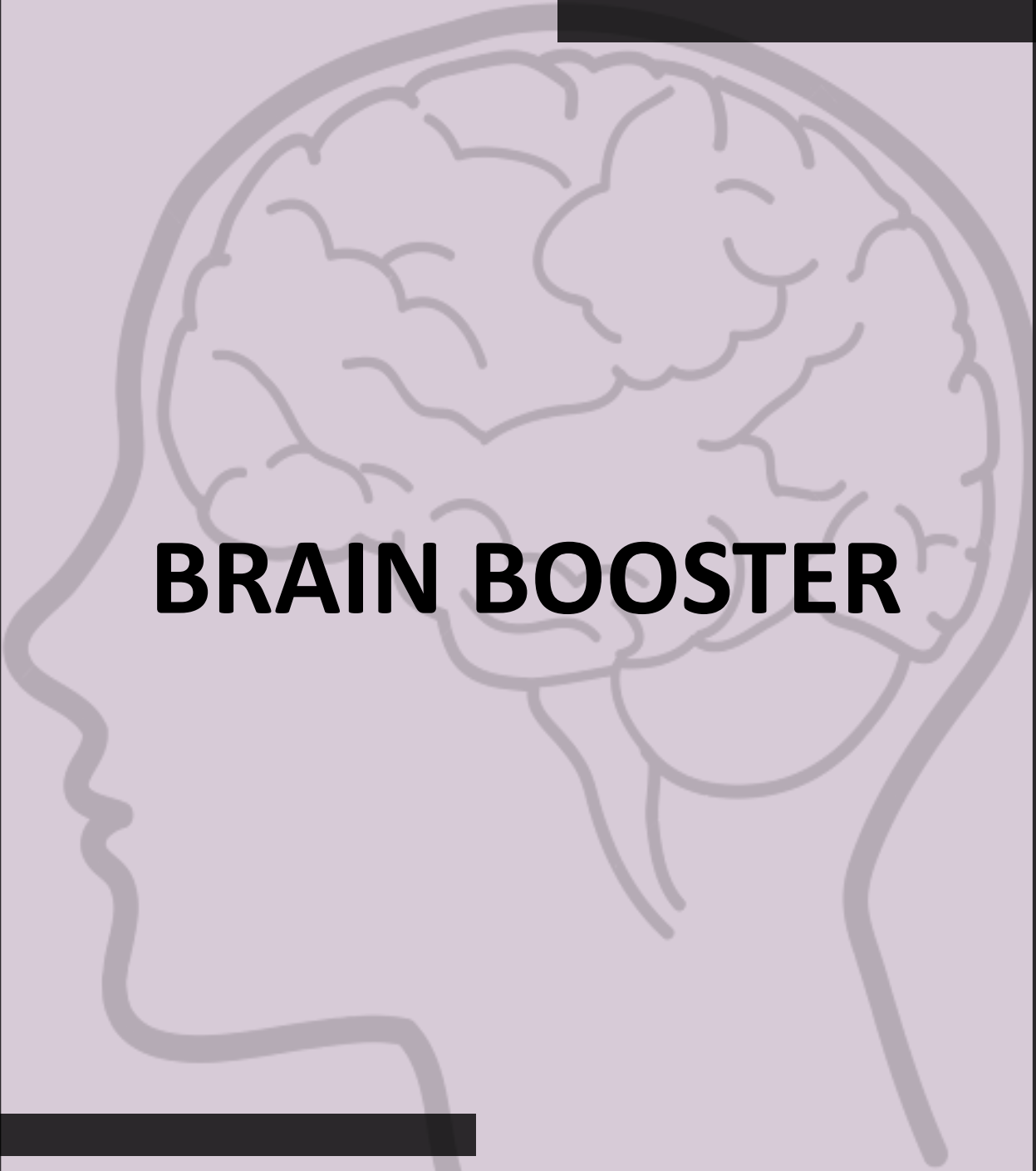
**13- International Tiger Day**

International Tiger Day is being celebrated on 29th July. The main aim behind this day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise awareness and support for tiger conservation. According to World Wildlife Fund, tiger populations are currently stable or increasing in India. The tiger reserves of India were set up in 1973 and are governed by Project Tiger, which is administrated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

There are a total of 51 Tiger reserves in India. According to the latest Tiger Census of 2018-19 conducted in India, 2,967 Tigers live in the country. The population growth rate of Tiger is six per cent per annum. India is home to 80 per cent of tigers in the world.

Current Affairs at a Glance

1. IOA to host first-ever India House at Paris 2024 after deal with Reliance.
2. Zimbabwe launches gold coin (Mosi-Oa-Tunya) as legal tender to tackle inflation.
3. The IIT-Madras has commissioned the Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat to advance Indian language technology with a grant of ₹36 crore from Nilekani Philanthropies.
4. SC upholds strict PMLA provisions and backs ED's sweeping powers .
5. Fiscal deficit widens to 21% in Q1; core sector growth slows.
6. RBI eases card data storage norms; new norms allow the merchant or its payment aggregator to save card data for a maximum period of four days.
7. India backs UN resolution to recognise human right to healthy environment.
8. Indian Navy receives two MH-60 multi-mission helicopters from US firm Lockheed Martin Corporation.
9. Cabinet approves Rs 1.64 lakh crore revival package for BSNL; BBNL (Bharat Broadband Network Limited) to be merged with BSNL.
10. Air India CEO-designate Campbell Wilson gets security clearance from Government.
11. Companies can spend CSR funds for activities related to 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign: Government.
12. International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem: July 26.
13. Ministry of Defence's iDEX-DIO signs its 100th innovation contract.
14. World Drowning Prevention Day : 25 July.
15. Maersk creates a fast and reliable India-Bangladesh cross-border logistics solution using inland waterways.
16. World Athletics Championships 2022: Tobi Amusan Breaks Record to Win 100m Hurdles Gold at 12.06sec.
17. Human Spaceflight Expo' held at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Bengaluru from July 22-24.
18. Income Tax Day observed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on July 24.
19. Lok Sabha passes Indian Antarctic Bill to extend application of domestic laws in Antarctic region.
20. ADB has reduced India's GDP growth projection for 2022-23 to 7.2% from its earlier projection of 7.5%.
21. Supreme Court ruled that the mother, being the only natural guardian of the child after the death of the biological father (husband), has the right to decide the surname of the child.
22. The Telecom sector is the 3rd largest sector in terms of FDI inflows, contributing 7% of total FDI inflow, and contributes 2.2 mn direct jobs and 1.8 mn indirect jobs.
23. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was announced to help mitigate some of the distress caused to the MSME sector due to the sudden demand fall.
24. CARE released a report named "Food Security and Gender Equality: A synergistic understudied symphony", which highlighted a global link between Gender Inequality and Food Insecurity.
25. Indian Army conducts Exercise Skylight to test resilience of its satellite communications.



BRAIN BOOSTER

1. Why in news?

- Recently, India's state emblem "Ashok Stambh" was in the news due to the unveiling by the Prime Minister on the top of the new Parliament House on 11 July 2022.
- The Culture and Civilization, National Unity, Integrity, Sovereignty and Independence of any country are identified by the national symbols of

that country.

- Not only this, these symbols also determine the state governing policy of that country and relations with foreign countries.

2. Features of the New Ashoka Stambha:

- It was unveiled by PM Modi and Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- The architects of this pillar are Sunil Deore and Laxman Vyas.
- This pillar made of bronze is 6.5 meters high.
- Its weight is 9500 kg.
- It was made by 2000 employees together.
- It is finished after 8 steps process-casting, clay modelling, computer graphics, bronze casting and polishing.
- Construction of 6,500 kg steel structure to support.
- But now a difference of opinion has arisen between the ruling party and the opposition parties regarding the design of this national symbol.
- Opposition parties say that in this national emblem, lions are shown in a state of anger, while in the real national symbol they are in a calm and serious posture.

3. What message does the Ashoka Stambha convey?

- It depicts four animals representing the four directions.
- It was built in memory of the first sermon given by the Buddha, which is known as Dharmachakrapravartana.
- It shows the policy of war and peace of Emperor Ashoka.
- The four lions in it signify Confidence, Strength, Courage and Pride.
- At the bottom there is a sutra of Mundakopanishad 'Satyameva Jayate' written in Devanagari, which means -

Truth Always Wins.

- In this, the four lions are considered to be symbols of Buddha, who spread Buddhism in all directions.
- The elephant made in the East direction represents Mahamaya's dream.
- The horse running in the West signifies the renunciation of the princely life by the Buddha.
- The lion in the North direction represents the attainment of knowledge.
- These roaring lions give the message of turning the wheel of Dharma.
- The Bull in the South direction represents the cycle time of Taurus, in which Buddha was born.

4. What are its Constitutional Provisions?

- Approved by the Government of India as a national emblem on 26 August 1950.
- This is marked on important government documents and currencies.
- This symbol can be used only by persons holding constitutional posts, such as President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Governor, Chief Minister and High Officials.
- The Indian National Symbols (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 2005 was enacted to prevent misuse of national symbols.
- It cannot be used by a common citizen, in case of its misuse, he/she can be punished with imprisonment for two years or a fine of five thousand rupees, or both.

5. What is the history of Ashoka Stambha?

- Emperor Ashoka was the third ruler of the Mauryan dynasty in ancient times in 273 BC. to 232 BC He was one of the most powerful kings of the Indian subcontinent.
- After the war of Kalinga, Ashoka gave up his cruelty and built stupas and pillars in the country and abroad for the propagation of Buddhism.
- The Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath is about 45 feet tall, built out of Chunar sandstone.
- Three articles have been written on this pillar, the first article in the Brahmi script is of Ashoka's time, while the second article is of Kushan period and the third article is of Gupta period.

6. Where are the Ashoka Stambha located in India?

- Ashoka's pillars are also located in Sarnath, Allahabad, Vaishali, Delhi, Sanchi, Nigali Sagar, Rummindei, Lumbini Nepal, Rampurwa, Lauria, Nandangarh, Champaran Bihar, Araj and Amravati.

Indian National Emblem "Ashok Stambha"



1. Why in News?

The World Health Organization, for the second time in two years, has declared a viral outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Four cases in India and around 14,500 monkeypox cases globally have been confirmed.

2. About Monkeypox

- First discovered in 1958, in monkeys at the Statens Serum Institute in Denmark. Monkeypox is a zoonotic virus that can infect humans as well as other animals, including rodents and other primate species.
- Currently the virus has become endemic in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central and West Africa.
- The virus belongs to the same family of viruses as variola that causes smallpox.
- Symptoms are similar to those in smallpox patients, although it is less contagious and less severe.

3. Symptoms

- Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, and lethargy along with rashes and blisters commonly on the face, palms, feet, mouth, eyes, or genitalia.
- Symptoms generally appear within two weeks since infection but can last for two to four weeks, with severe cases occurring mostly among children.
- In most cases, monkeypox is a self-limited disease that resolves spontaneously without any specific treatment.
- However, newborns, young children, and people with underlying immune deficiencies may be at a higher risk of developing more severe symptoms.
- In the early stage of the disease,

4. Virus transmission

- The virus can be transmitted from both animals to humans and between humans.
- Animal-to-human transmission of the virus can result from close contact with blood, fluids, or skin lesions of infected animals.
- Human-to-human transmission could happen through close contact, and through body secretions, skin lesions, or contaminated articles of individuals infected with monkeypox.
- Close human contact during sexual activities is believed to be a driver of the current spread of the disease, as evidenced by its predominant spread in gay, bisexual and MSM communities.

5. Declaring an Emergency

- The WHO defines a PHEIC as a disease outbreak that "constitutes a public health risk through the international spread of disease" which may require an immediate and coordinated international response.
- This designation entails accelerated international efforts to contain the spread of the disease before it escalates into a pandemic.
- **Three criteria for declaring emergency :**
 - * "Extraordinary Event,"
 - * "Constitutes a Public Health Risk"
 - * "Potentially requires a coordinated international response."
- **Previously Declared Emergency**
 - * Covid-19 pandemic.
 - * The West African Ebola outbreak, 2014.
 - * The Zika virus in Latin America, 2016
 - * Polio, 2014.

Monkeypox

Monkeypox can be distinguished from smallpox because the lymph gland gets enlarged.

6. Treatment and Vaccine

- There is no specific treatment or vaccine available for Monkeypox infection.
- In the past, the anti-smallpox vaccine has shown 85% effectiveness to prevent Monkeypox.
- But the world was declared free of smallpox in 1980 so the vaccine isn't widely available anymore.

1. Why in news?

- Recently Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) filed a general retail power tariff revision petition with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission proposing to hike power tariffs by 10% to 35%.

2. Reason for filling the petition

- Mounting losses, outstanding loans and the consequent increase in interest burden.
- Even after joining the UDAY in January 2017, Tamil Nadu could not bring down the gap between the Average Cost of Supply and the Average Revenue Realised to nil by 2018-19.
- On contrary, gap rose to ₹1.07 per unit in 2019-20 against ₹0.6 per unit in 2015-16.
- Data indicated, cumulative financial losses going up from ₹18,954 Cr in 2011-12 to ₹1, 13,266 Cr in 2020-21.
- Financial support from state govt, allocation of ₹13,108 Cr in this year's budget.
- RBI issued guidelines to banks regarding the lending is to be provided to any state-owned power utility.

4- Other States' Stand On Power

- In Andhra Pradesh, the power tariff hike took place in Mar, 2022 after a gap of 2 decades for domestic consumers.
- In Kerala, the increase came into effect in late June this year after the gap of 3 years.
- In March 2022, Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission issued an order and rejected the proposal for a 9.9% hike.

- In Punjab, there is no change in the tariff. From July 01, state has been giving free electricity up to 300 units each month for domestic consumers.
- In Tamil Nadu, up to 100 units of free electricity is entitled bimonthly for domestic use since May, 2016.

5. About Subsidies To The Agriculture Sector

- Tamil Nadu which has been implementing free power supply since mid-1980s for agriculture sector, has resisted the installation of meters even for fresh connections.
- Gujarat is cited as a success story to maintain balance between agriculture and other sectors.
- In Manipur, prepaid metering was supplemented with improved power supply, resulting in improved billing and collection efficiency as well as lower commercial losses.
- The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission came out with an incentive package in the area of demand side management.
- The general approach of many parties is to use electricity as a tool for their political agenda to gain power.

POWER TARIFFS

3. About Other Power Discoms

- Tamil Nadu case is the example of distribution sector in the country.
- According to the NITI Aayog's report, total loss was estimated around ₹90,000 Cr in the financial year of 2021.
- Due to these accumulated losses, DISCOMS were unable to pay to generators on time, as of March, 2021

an amount of ₹67,917 Cr was overdue.

- For helping these DISCOMS, central govt sanctioned loans of ₹1, 35,497 Cr under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in form of liquidity infusion scheme.
- As of Dec 31, 2021 a total of ₹ 1.03 lakh Cr has been disbursed.

1. Why in News ?:

- Over the past few years, the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector has been battered by a series of shocks.
- From demonetization to the transition to the goods and services tax to the pandemic, MSMEs have borne the brunt of the disruption in economic activities during each of these periods.

2. Financial status of MSMEs:

- While there are indications of this segment of the economy picking up, there are also signs that its financial position remains stretched.
- Data from the RBI's most recent financial stability report showed that while gross non-performing assets of the MSME sector have dipped recently, they remained uncomfortably high.
- At the end of March 2022, bad loans in the MSME sector stood at 9.3%.
- Restructured MSME loans, constituting around 2.5% of total advances, remain a source of concern.
- During these periods of disruption, the larger firms have benefitted at the expense of MSMEs. As per CRISIL, more than a quarter of the country's MSMEs have lost market share due to the pandemic.

3. Payment delays:

- Delayed payments are a critical issue for the sector, especially for micro and small enterprises.
- Approximately Rs 10.7 lakh crore is stuck as delayed payments to MSMEs in India, amounting to 6% of India's GVA (Gross Value Added) for FY 2020-21.
- Among the MSMEs, for the smaller enterprises, delayed payments as a percentage of sales, have seen a sharp rise over the past few years.
- This problem is more acute in labour-intensive segments such as construction, retail trade, and transport.

4. Impact of payment delay:

- Complicates the cash flow management.
- Increases the working capital requirements.
- Impacts the financial position and business prospects.

5. Solutions:

Market solutions:

- Working capital loans.
- Trade credit insurance.
- Invoice discounting.

Moral appeal:

- Appeals to larger buyers to honour their obligation to pay on time.
- While they are not legally binding, they potentially create persuasive pressure on defaulters in the ecosystem where brand reputation affects business outcomes.

Law and regulations:

- Laws can define the maximum number of days within which suppliers need to be paid after delivering goods and services and generally penalize delays.

MSE fund:

- To ensure that the continuum of working capital for micro and small units is uninterrupted, a permanent MSE fund may be created.
- The fund may be utilized to pay the entrepreneurs of MSE units after the passing of the order by the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC).

6. Conclusion:

- Considering that MSMEs employ a sizable part of India's labour force, and are also suppliers to the larger economy, their financial distress has far-reaching consequences. Appropriate steps should be taken to ease their woes.
- From the experiences of other countries, no single solution has been successful in dealing

Payment Delays & MSMEs

with delayed payments, but a combination of these solutions can address delayed payments and create an environment for MSMEs to flourish and grow.

1. Why in News?

- Four pro-democracy activists had been executed by Myanmar's junta on July 25. The junta spokesperson called the executions lawful and justice for the people. After coup in Myanmar, many leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi were arrested and still in detention.

2. About Latest Executions

- Two out of four executed activists have been identified as Ko Jimmy the veteran of '88 movement' students and Ko Phyto Zeya Thaw a rapper, hip-hop artist and member of former government.
- According to United Nations spokesperson, since junta came into power more than 1500 people have been killed and around 12000 detained.
- There is a growing restlessness within junta for failing to get legitimacy from inside and outside of the country.
- The junta is grappling with a resistance movement, ethnic conflicts, terror attacks and a failing economy.
- According to the World Bank, 18% economic contraction is estimated in the country by the end of Sep, 2021.
- His promises to conduct general election within two years is not fulfilled yet, that is why some military and police officials have also joined the pro-democracy movement.

3. WILL THE EXECUTION REDUCE HOSTILITY?

- Both the activists were youth icons and prominent leaders of the prodemocracy movement.

4. International Response After Execution

- Sanctions are not new for public and successive military regimes have resisted external pressures very easily.
- Senior general did not budge to honour ASEAN's five point consensus for the peace and stability of Myanmar, although agreed to implement them in a regional meeting.
- Execution has been condemned by more individually and not in substantial way.
- Neither these condemnations nor the earlier sanctions levied

by America, Canada, Australia, ASEAN, the EU and others, have made an impact on the regime.

- Russia and the junta's oldest ally China, has strongly supported junta regime in United Nations Security Council and were one of the first to give it de facto recognition after the coup.
- China has a high stake in Myanmar due to its infrastructural projects and investments.
- China also tries to give support in avoiding conflict within its borders and among ASEAN members.

5. Impact Of Execution On Democracy

- Democracy will remain a far-fetched dream for Myanmar.
- If the opposition continues despite executions, the junta will conduct general election that will be clearly repeat of 2011.
- The Tatmadaw's proxy union solidarity and development party may come back to power through a rigged election.

6. Role Of UNO And UNHRC

- There is not any such tough pressure made by United Nations, United Nation Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International on Myanmar.
- If these types of execution continue in different parts of the world, the voice against these institutions will be laudable and situation will be more dangerous as well as will deteriorate more than ever in the past.

Execution of Activists in Myanmar

- Aung San Suu Kyi's freedom is a hope that helps the pro-democracy movement to sustain.
- In coming days, there is a high possibility that the junta might face probable retribution.
- The equation between junta and ethnic groups is likely to remain unstable.

1. Why in news?

- Recently, the National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021 related to the National Anti-Doping Agency and National Dope Testing Laboratory, pending for the last few years, was approved by the Lok Sabha.
- With the enactment of Anti-Doping Act, India has now joined the list of countries like America, China, Australia and Japan.

2. Salient Features of the Bill:

Doping Ban:

- The bill will completely ban doping in all sports, among athletes, athlete support personnel and other individuals.

Punishment for Violation:

- Violation of the anti-doping rule may result in disqualification of the player, which may include forfeiture of medals, points and prizes of that player, as well as disqualification for a specified period of time or for life.

Legal form:

- After the approval of the President, this agency will become a statutory body.
- The Central Government will appoint a Director General to chair it.

Its functions:

- To plan, implement and monitor anti-doping activities.
- Investigate violations of anti-doping regulations.
- Promoting anti-doping research.

3. National Anti-Doping Board:

- There is a provision for the establishment of a National Anti-Doping Board in the sports sector to comply with international commitments related to anti-doping, to regulate anti-doping measures and to implement the advisory recommendations of the government.
- This board will supervise and direct the activities of the agency.
- The Central Government will set up National Dope Testing Laboratories

4. What will be the benefits of the approval of the National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021:

- The performance of Indian players at the international level will improve.
- Players can be made doping free.
- Dependence on other countries for players' doping tests will end.
- India's reputation in the world will increase.
- This will give strength to 'Self-reliant India'.
- The system of doping testing laboratories will be strengthened.

- Players from all over India, especially in rural areas, will get more incentives.
- The International Convention on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization against doping in sport, approved by India in November 2007, will come into force.
- Now NADA will get the right to investigate the cases and take action.

5. What is doping?:

- Doping refers to drugs or drugs that are strictly prohibited for use by athletes in competitive sports.
- Its use not only affects the performance of the players, but also tarnishes the image of that country at the international level.

6. What is National Anti Doping Agency (NADA)?

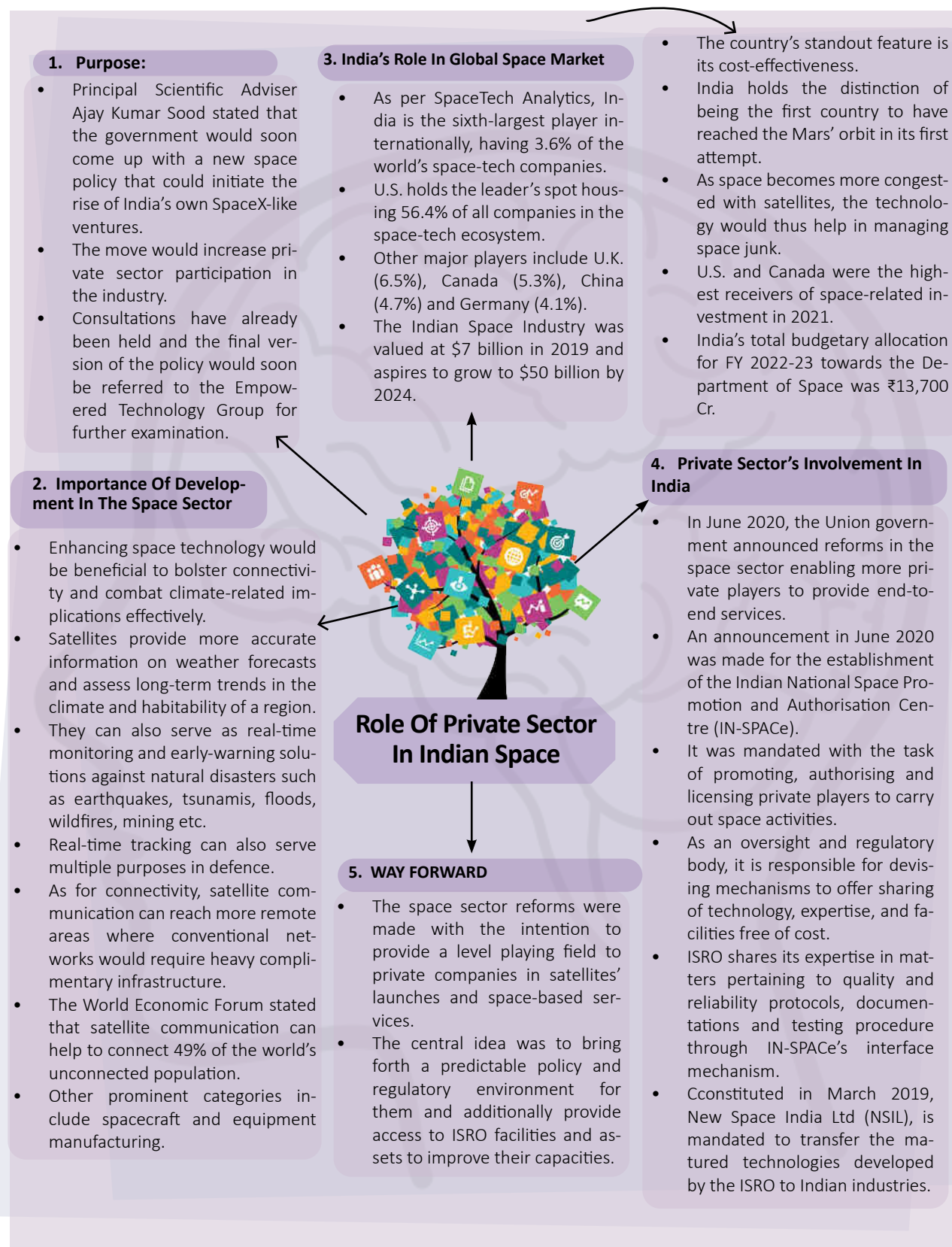
- It is a responsible national organization that regulates, coordinates and monitors anti-doping activities in all sports.
- This agency was formed on November 24, 2005 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- Presently its Chairman is Shri Nalin Kohli while Vice President is Shri Abhinav Mukherjee.
- Purpose- Enforcement of anti-doping rules,
- Regulating dope control program,
- Promotion of education and research,
- To create awareness among the people about the cases related to doping.

7. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA):

- This agency was established in the year 1999 by the International Olympic Committee
- Its headquarter is in Montreal, Canada.

Lok Sabha gave legal status to the National Anti-Doping Bill

- Current President- Craig Reedy (UK).
- Ensuring integrity, accountability and excellence are the core values of this agency.
- Its main functions are scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capabilities and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code.
- World Anti-Doping Code (Code) – This is the main document of anti-doping policies in all sports and countries.



Mains Special

Polity, Constitution, Governance, I.R. & Social Justice

01. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the formation of a federal counter-terrorism law enforcement agency, and thus the National Investigation Agency come into being. In this regard what are the roles and responsibilities of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)? What were the salient purposes of the amendment to NIA act in 2019? Elaborate.

Ans.

The main counterterrorism task force in India is the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The National Investigation Agency Act 2008, which the Indian Parliament approved on December 31, 2008 in response to the horrific 26/11 terrorist assault in Mumbai, gave rise to the Agency.

Roles and Responsibility of NIA

1. It is a central organisation that looks into and prosecutes crimes:
 - a. Impacting India's sovereignty, security, and integrity as well as state security and cordial ties with other countries.
 - b. Related to counterfeit Indian currency.
 - c. Pertaining to atomic and nuclear facilities.
2. It is also primary Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
 - a. It works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - b. It has the authority to handle offences connected to terrorism in several states without the governments' consent.
3. If a case has been lodged for one of the offences listed in the NIA Act's schedule, a State Government may ask the Central Government to turn the investigation over to the NIA.
4. Any listed offence wherever in India may also be subject to a Central Government order for NIA to take over the investigation.

Changes introduced by amendment to NIA Act in 2019

There are three major amendments to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act of 2008.

1. Change in type of office NIA can investigate: Allowing the NIA to also look into crimes including cyberterrorism, counterfeit money, the production or sale of illegal weapons, human trafficking, and

offences against the 1908 Explosive Substances Act.

2. Change in its Jurisdiction: NIA officers can even investigate offences committed outside India.
3. Related to trial courts: The earlier Act allowed the Centre to constitute special courts for NIA's trials. The Amendment enabled the Central government to designate sessions courts as special courts for such trials.

The NIA Act has equipped ample power to the investigating officers as well to the Indian government so that no undue hindrances occur in the investigation of terrorism and related offences. It has avoided chaos and given a unanimous approach to the State and the Federal Government to work coherently with the help of judiciary.

02. Delineate the complex nature of the debate on singular official language and multiple national languages in India. What is the spirit of the directive for the development of the Hindi language envisioned in the Article 351? Elaborate.

Ans.

The argument over whether Hindi should be considered India's "National Language" dates back to the time the Constitution was being drafted. In recent times, this debate has gained prominence. As such we do not have any 'National Language' rather we have Official Language.

Debate over the singular official language and multiple national languages

According to Article 343 of the Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script is designated as the official language of the Union. For official purposes, Indian numerals shall be written in their international form. However, it was resolved during the talks of the constituent assembly that English would be used for an additional 15 years.

Against singular official language

1. India being a multi-lingual society, it continues to generate debate over the imposition of Hindi. Southern India is particularly vulnerable in this regard. To a great extent they are even justified in their demand.
2. In fact, the number of native Hindi speakers in India

are only around 44%, which includes speakers of languages such as Bhojpuri. Thus, there are still 56% population who cannot comprehend Hindi.

3. It can also endanger other languages and dialects and reduce diversity. National integration cannot come at the cost of people's linguistic identities.

For Singular Official Language

1. It will create national integration and ease the governance of the country. It will benefit the domain of business, trade, research, education, job opportunities, etc. in the nation.
2. Hindi is world's 4th most spoken language in the world and with it being the national language of India will make the most spoken language of the world. The global dominance of the language will be helpful for the citizens to have companies learning the language to establish themselves in the nation.
3. Article 351 gives power to the Union Government to issue a directive for the development of the Hindi language.

Spirit behind Article 351

1. Art 351 states that it is the responsibility of the Union government to support Hindi's growth and integrate forms and expressions from Hindustani and the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule so that Hindi becomes a medium of expression for all components of the composite culture of India.
2. Given the poor state of communications and the lack of widespread knowledge of Indian languages and cultures, particularly those of Southern and Eastern India, the primacy given to Hindi-Sanskrit in 1950 seemed acceptable.
3. The idea was to create a common medium of expression for all, while assimilating with other languages in 8th schedule.

Only a sincere interest in India's many languages and cultures, as well as a commitment to respecting the dignity of those who speak these languages, would help to advance the notion of fraternity that our Constitution contains. If one language or culture is given precedence over another, this is not feasible. It is important to keep in mind the political repercussions of language imposition in East Pakistan and Tamil Nadu in 1965, 1948, and 1937.

03. India being a multicultural society needs safeguards for minorities. In this context, give an outline of the role, functions and powers of the National Commission for Minorities. Do you think Constitutional Status to the Minority Commission is desirable?

Ans.

Introduction

India is home to 1.4 billion people who belong to a variety of ethnicities and religions. There is substantial populations of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains. Every multi-cultural society has safeguards to its minorities in terms of affirmative actions such as reservations in politics, cultural and ethnic rights to protect them from discrimination, prosecution, hostility or violence. In this context the Parliament has set up a statutory body of National Commission for Minorities in 1992

Powers and Functions of National Commission for Minorities

Powers

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath.
- Requiring the discovery and production of any document.
- Receiving evidence on affidavit.
- Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.
- Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents.

Some of the Functions are

- Evaluate the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and States.
- Monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the constitution and in laws.
- Make recommendations for the effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of minorities
- Look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the minorities and take up such matters with the appropriate authorities.
- Suggest appropriate measures in respect of any minority to be undertaken by the Central government or the State governments.
- Make periodical or special reports to the Central government on any matter pertaining to minorities and in particular the difficulties confronted by them.
- Any other matter which may be referred to by the Central Government.

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18), in its 53rd report noted that the NCM is "almost ineffective" in its current state to deal with cases of atrocities against minorities. The committee recommended constitutional status to the body "without any delay".

If granted Constitutional Status

- NCM will be able to act against errant officials who do not attend hearings, follow its order or are found guilty of dereliction of duty,
- NCM can penalise or suspend an officer for two days or send him/her to jail.
- NCM will have greater autonomy, will have the power to take up inquiry suo moto and act as a civil court.
- The inaction of the government for the appointments in the NCM will be taken care of, if it is accorded the constitutional status.
- Constitutional Status helps minorities to improve their socio-economic conditions as the commission will have more powers and funds towards it.

Sachhar Committee reports on minorities have unearthed the dismal conditions in which some of the minorities live. Rising violence and hostility towards them is also a case for a constitutional status to the Commission so that it takes up its work freely and inquires into specific complaints with respect to deprivation of rights and safeguards.

04. In a democracy like India, it is expected that citizens should follow basic set of democratic rules and norms. In this regard, should Fundamental Duties be enforced as it is in the case of Fundamental Rights?

Ans.

The Supreme Court was petitioned recently to enforce the Fundamental Duties, including patriotism and unity of the nation, through “comprehensive and well defined laws”.

The Fundamental Duties are defined as the moral obligations of all citizens to help promote a spirit of

patriotism and to uphold the unity of India Under Part IV A.

Fundamental Duties

Originally there was no provision related to Fundamental Duties but added through 42nd amendment act 1976 in the Constitution and was based on the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee.

Significance of Fundamental Duties

Fundamental duties are obligatory in nature. But there is no provision in the constitution for direct enforcement of these duties. There is no sanction either to prevent their violation. However the importance of fundamental duties can be gauged from the following facts:

- As rights and duties are the two side of the same coin, it is expected that one should observe one's duties in order to seek the enforcement of one's fundamental rights,
- Some of the provisions of Fundamental Duties can help better enforcing of DPSPs. Eg: FD to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures has a direct bearing on DPSPs.
- While determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that it seeks to give effect to any of the duties, it may consider such law to be 'reasonable', and thereby, save such law from unconstitutionality.

Need to Enforce Fundamental Duties

- From Ancient times the concept of 'Kartavya and Dharma' has been in the forefront of Indian society and in ancient scriptures such as Arthashastra.
- The enforcement of Fundamental Duties will lead to achieve goals enshrined in Fundamental Rights (Part III) and DPSPs (Part IV) of the Constitution, helping in government's efforts by active participation of citizens towards them.
- The petition in the Supreme Court argued that non adherence of Fundamental Duties is directly affecting the enforcement of Fundamental Rights such as Art 14 (Equality Before Law), 19 (Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech) and 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution of India. Eg :- The trend of blocking of roads and violence in the recent protests affects others' right to safe movement, livelihood and life.

The most important task before us is to reconcile the claims of the individual citizen and those of the civic society. To achieve this, it is important to orient the individual citizen to be conscious of his social and citizenship's responsibilities. Therefore, awareness of our citizenship duties is as important as awareness of

Fundamental Duties**Article 51-A Says that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India-**

1. to abide by the constitution and respect its ideal and institutions;
2. to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
3. to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
4. to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
5. to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional diversities, to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
6. to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
7. to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wild-life and to have compassion for living creatures;
8. to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
9. to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
10. to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement. Further, one more Fundamental duty has been added to the Indian Constitution by 86th Amendment of the constitution in 2002.
11. who is a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his child, or as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

our rights.

05. What are Scheduled Areas, and how are they distinct from Tribal Areas? What kind of provisions apply to administration and welfare of tribes living outside these areas? Elaborate.

Ans.

India is home to the largest tribal population in the world. For the governance of tribal dominated areas in India and welfare of tribes in general, special mechanisms have been created in the Part X of the Indian Constitution under Articles 244 – 244 A.

Schedule Areas

1. Scheduled Areas are defined under Article 244 (1) as the areas inhabited by socially and educationally backward tribes, and so declared by the President of India and enumerated in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. The central government along with the state have a direct role in safeguarding and promoting the cultural and economic interests of scheduled tribes in these areas.
3. The President of India can appoint Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission to report on the administration and welfare of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes.
4. The Governor is entrusted with special responsibilities and powers with respect to tribal populations in these areas, which includes issuing directives to the state government, and limiting the effect of acts of the central or state legislature on the Schedule Areas.
5. Each Schedule Area have Tribes Advisory Council which consists of 20 members.

There are 10 states which have such scheduled areas:

1. Himachal Pradesh,
2. Rajasthan,
3. Gujarat,
4. Madhya Pradesh,
5. Chhattisgarh,
6. Jharkhand,
7. Odisha,
8. Maharashtra,
9. Telangana,
10. Andhra Pradesh.

Tribal Areas

1. Tribal Areas are defined under Article 244 (2) as the areas so declared by the President of India and mentioned in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution,

and provides for District or Regional Autonomous Councils for such areas.

2. There are 4 states which have such scheduled areas – Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
3. Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) have up to 30 members with a term of five years, and can make laws, rules and regulations with regard to land, forest, water etc.
4. The tribes inhabiting the regions are given extensive powers to administer customary laws, planning and development schemes. The central government can directly fund these autonomous bodies.

District and Regional councils can enact laws on a number of subjects and pending the assent of the Governor. Additionally, there are certain restriction in the application of central and state government laws.

MEGHALAYA	
● Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council	● Mara Autonomous District Council
● Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council	TRIPURA
● Garo Hills Autonomous District Council	● Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council
MIZORAM	ASSAM
● Chakma Autonomous District Council	● Dima Hasao Autonomous Council
● Lai Autonomous District Council	● Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council
	● Bodoland Territorial Council

Welfare of Tribals living outside these areas

There are various provisions which take into account the tribal population throughout India, irrespective of their region.

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation (ANPATR), 1956 was promulgated by the President for the protection of tribes living in that region.
2. Fundamental Rights like Article 14 which confers equal rights and opportunities to all, Article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of sex, religion, race, caste etc;
3. Article 46 enjoins upon the State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and, in particular the STs.
4. Various targeted schemes and programmes have been rolled out by government in the areas of health, skill development, tribal produce marketing etc.

The Government has special concern and commitment for the well-being of the Scheduled Tribes (also referred to as STs/Tribals) who suffer as a Group due to their social and economic backwardness and relative

isolation.

06. Presidential elections are held in India through Indirect elections and not direct elections.

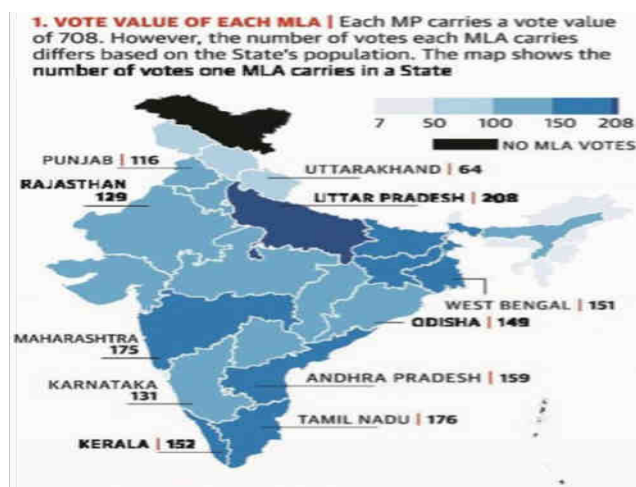
Explain the process and importance of indirect elections for such a significant authority?

Ans.

According to Article 52 of the Indian Constitution, the president is the official head of state. The President of India plays a similar function to the monarch in Britain because the Indian parliamentary system is based on the British parliamentary system. The prime minister of India and his or her chosen council of ministers are the actual executive authority.

Process of election of President

- The electoral college is made up of :-
 1. all the elected members of the Upper House (Rajya Sabha)
 2. elected members of Lower House of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
 3. and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies of States (MLAs)
 4. elected members of each union territory possessing a Legislative assembly (i.e. Delhi, (Jammu & Kashmir not included) and Puducherry etc.
- Before voting, there is the nomination stage, during which the prospective candidate submits their name together with a signed list of 50 proposers and 50 seconders.
- Value of votes:- The fixed value of each vote by an MP of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha is 708.
- MLA's vote value varies from State to State taking in account of population and the seats of legislative assemblies.



- Article 55 (3) of the Constitution provides that the election shall be held in accordance with the

system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

- A nominated candidate wins by accumulating a predetermined number of votes rather than by winning with a simple majority. The electoral college's paper ballots are tallied up by the EC during the counting process, and for a candidate to win, they must receive 50% of the total votes cast plus Significance of Indirect Election.
- Under the system of Parliamentary Democracy present in India, the President is only the nominal executive and the real power resides with the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. Direct election would have been a bone of contention between them.
- Direct elections are elaborate process where huge state machinery is to be involved as spending huge amount of money will be an unnecessary waste of resources.
- The president is elected indirectly by an electoral college constituting MPs and MLAs, who themselves are all directly elected.
- Well suited to the concept of parliamentary form of government which was adopted earlier as the political class was much more familiar with it.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has suggested that the post of President does not belong to one party but to the whole country, the method of Indirect election has been accepted as the fairest way to elect President.

07. In the 17th Lok Sabha, 43% of the MPs have a criminal record. In this context discuss the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1951 to decriminalize Indian politics. In the context of rising criminalization of politics, what measures can we take to strengthen the Representation of People Act 1951?

Ans.

Introduction

The criminalization of politics means the participation of criminals in politics. Means that persons with criminal background contest in the election and get selected as a member of parliament or state legislature. Growing criminalisation has been a constant theme of Indian politics. According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), 233 MPs in the current Lok Sabha are facing criminal charges, up from 187 in 2014, 162 in 2009 and 128 in 2004.

Impact of criminalization of politics

- It curbs the democratic behaviour in the society, law

breakers become the law makers with the help of black money and muscle power.

- It breaks the trust of the general public in the political processes of the country as it affects the principle of free and fair elections.
- Priorities of these lawmakers are to get elected and serve their personal interests, ultimately affecting the good governance.
- It also hampers the working of honest lawmakers and other civil servants, as they get sidelined and ignored for their honest behaviours
- It leads to general distrust on each other and affects social harmony

Provisions under the Representation of People Act 1951 to curb criminalisation of politics

- Conviction : A member of Parliament or State legislature can be disqualified, if he has been convicted of an offence which results in imprisonment for not less than 2 years and he can also
- be disqualified if was convicted in the following Acts..
- Foreign Exchange (Regulation) Act,
- Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act,
- Prevention of Corruption Act,
- Prevention of Terrorism Act
- Dowry Prohibition Act
- Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act
- Hoarding or profiteering
- SC/ST Act,
- Under Section 375 of IPC for sexual offences
- Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2005
- Some Corrupt Practices : Such as bribery and an effort to rig the elections to impact the outcome of an election leads to the disqualification,
- Violation to RPA Act: Section 10A, talks about disclosing the election expenses and criminal background, failure to do so will attract disqualification under the Act

These provisions of the Act had limited impact on curbing the criminalisation as the number of persons with criminal background has increased over the last few decades. There has been a low rate of Convictions, delays in trials, and lack of adequate deterrence.

Some Measures to Strengthen the Act

Representation of the People Act should be amended to include measures like

- Fast Track Courts: Cases against a sitting MP/MLA should be heard in special fast track courts for speedy adjudication on a day to day basis with a time limit.
- Supreme Court Guidelines for disqualification of MPs and MLAs, if the law enforcement has chargesheeted in courts in the above statutes.
- Stringent enforcement of the existing law should be

observed as long delays and lack of active deterrence leads to increasing criminalisation of politics.

- Make an amendment in the RPA, 1951, to insert a new section that should make a declaration of assets and the criminal cases that are pending against the candidate, be made necessary as part of the qualification for membership to the House of the People.
- Unearth the nexus between a criminal, business person and a politician, when one of these are convicted to create a deterrence.
- Concept of Negative Voting be used against such accused MP/MLA.

The RPA 1951 in its present form and practice is unable to curb the growing threat of criminalisation of the politics. Politicians should be made accountable by amending the laws and strict adherence to those laws in addition to the active participation of ordinary citizens in politics so that they can hold their political leaders accountable to the principles of democracy.

08. Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution is an 'organic list' of the constituent items. Discuss the evolution of the 'Doctrine of Basic Structure'. What are some significant items which have been held as comprising the Basic Structure by the Judiciary?

Ans.

The Doctrine of Basic Structure is a legal doctrine in Common Law countries that the legislature of the sovereign state can't erase certain characteristics of the constitution. The doctrine is recognized in India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, Uganda, etc. The term "Basic Structure" hasn't been mentioned anywhere in the Constitution of India.

Evolution of Basic Structure

It has evolved gradually through judicial verdicts in constitutional cases over the period of time, which are:

1. Shankari Prasad vs Union of India (1951): The SC held that the powers of the Parliament to amend the Constitution under Article 368 are Constituent Powers and include the power to amend the Fundamental Rights (FRs) given in Part III.
2. Sajjan Singh vs State of Rajasthan (1965): SC upheld the above view point.
3. Golaknath vs State of Punjab (1967): The SC reversed its previous stance that the Fundamental Rights can be amended. SC held that the FRs are not amendable as Article 13 restricts the powers of the Parliament which is not part of Article 368 and the FRs have a 'transcendental position' in the governance of the country.

4. **Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973):** In this landmark judgement the SC referred the Doctrine of Basic Structure for the first time. The SC held that although no part of the Constitution, including FRs, was beyond the ambit of Article 368, but the “Basic Structure of the Constitution could not be abrogated even by a constitutional amendment.” The power under Art 368 is power to amend and not a power to destroy. Few Basic structures stated by SC were- Supremacy of the Constitution, Unity and Sovereignty of India, Democratic and Republican form of government, Federal character of the Constitution etc.
5. **Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975):** The SC struck down Clause(4) of Article 329-A, inserted by the 39th Amendment in 1975, on the grounds that it was violative of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. The 39th Amendment Act had made elections of the President, the Vice President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha beyond the judicial scrutiny.
6. **Minerva Mills vs Union of India (1980):** The SC reaffirmed the Doctrine of Constitutional Supremacy and struck down two changes made by the 42nd Amendment Act 1976, holding them to be violative of the Basic Structure.
7. **Waman Rao vs Union of India (1981):** The SC held the Doctrine of Basic Structure can't be applied retrospectively to question the validity of any amendment prior to April 24th, 1973, the date of the Kesavananda Bharati judgement, and held that amendments made to the 9th Schedule until the Kesavananda Bharati judgement are valid, and those passed after that date can be subject to scrutiny.
8. **Indra Sawhney and Union of India (1992):** In this case the SC examined the scope and extent of held the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs under Article 16(4) with certain conditions of: exclusion of creamy layer, no reservation in promotion, and total quota not exceeding 50%. ‘Rule of Law’ was added to the list of basic features of the constitution.
9. **S. R. Bommai vs Union of India (1994):** The SC applied the Doctrine of Basic Structure to curb the imposition of President's Rule on states under Article 356, although there was no question of constitutional amendment. SC held that policies of a state government in violation of the basic structure of the Constitution would be a valid ground for the exercise of the central power under Article 356.

The Doctrine of Basic Structure inhibits the tendency of legislative excesses. And provide resilience

to the constitution as law or amendment distorting the functioning of the Constitution can be struck down. This protection against misuse of constitutional authority by any arm of the state helps in retaining the original spirit of the Constitution. The Constitution is an organic document and amendments make it viable to survive. Basic Structure too is an organic list which evolves overtime and seeks to prevent overturn of the spirit of the constitution.

09. Despite being among the five globally in industrial minerals, India's import is seven times of its domestic production and there is immense scope to expand exploration. What are the roadblocks in the path of mineral exploration in India? Also highlight steps taken by the Government of India to usher 'Explore in India'.

Ans.

Introduction

The Supreme Court recently has received a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) demanding a Collegium for the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. The collegium will comprise the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. It has also sought to ensure more autonomy for the office of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners

Election Commission of India

It is an autonomous Constitutional body under Article 324 mandated to administer the election process of the Members of Parliament, posts of President and Vice President and Members of States Legislative Assemblies and Councils.

Present System of Appointment

- Under the Transaction of Business rules, the President shall appoint the CEC and ECs based on the recommendations made by the Prime Minister. Thus, the power to appoint Election Commissioners lies in the hands of the political executive.
- Article 324(5), has given Parliament a power to regulate the terms and conditions of service and tenure of ECs.
- Article 324(2) talks about Parliamentary power for establishment of a Selection Committee for regulating the appointments made by the President, but nothing has been done on this.

Need for a Selection Committee for ECI

- Deficiencies in the present system of appointment process has led to the raising of questions on working of ECI and creates a dent on free and fair elections in a democracy.
- Several political parties have accused the Commission

of partisanship towards the ruling political party.

- **Independence:** The ECI is a constitutional body mandated with a very important task, and also renders a quasi-judicial function between the various political parties including the ruling party. It should have independence in the matters of appointments, service conditions and tenures at par with other constitutional bodies.
- The expenses should be Charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Transparency:** Collegium or a Selection Committee will ensure the transparency in appointment process and will bring balance between executive, legislature and judiciary in this regard.
- The Dinesh Goswami Committee recommended a Selection Committee or a panel of other Constitutional Post holders to appoint CEC and ECs.
- The Law Commission in its 255th report on electoral reforms also suggested a Selection Committee to ensure transparency and autonomy.
- Appointments of CEC by the Executive to the poll body violate the 'Basic Structure of the Constitution'.

Way forward

- There is a need for debate and discussions in the Parliament on the issue of independence of ECI and consequently passing of required legislation.
- For effective operation, the ECI must constantly rethink and reinvent the authority granted to it by the Indian Constitution.
- For an election in India to be free and fair and to keep the public's trust and confidence in the Election Commission of India, the integrity and independence of the ECI and its procedures must be protected.

The ECI ensures that democracy runs smoothly and effectively, thus not doing so would cause democracy to fail, so it cannot become arbitrary and political.

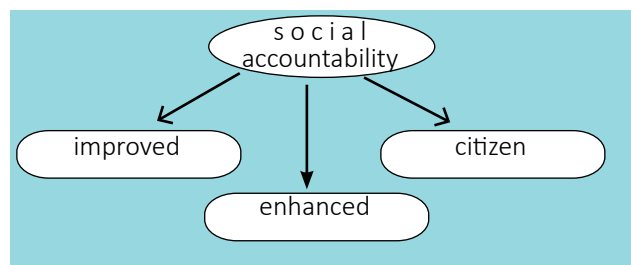
10. Citizen participation is a must for working of a healthy democracy. In this context elaborate on Social Accountability and its tools. Also discuss the need for Social Accountability Law at all levels.

Ans.

Citizen Participation refers to citizens acting individually and directly in political decisions and policies that affect their lives, rather than through elected representatives. It is necessary for a healthy democracy as it ensures

- improved governance,
- better dialogue between communities,
- improved quality of services through public awareness,
- and capacity building of the public bodies.

- Citizen Participation manifests itself in the form of Social Accountability. Social accountability is an obligation and responsibility on the part of the government to be answerable to the citizens for its actions.



Tools of social accountability:

- **Social Audits** are powerful community monitoring processes that are often used to look at the utilization of resources in public works programs, employment schemes, etc.
- **Community Score Card** is an effective community monitoring and planning process that looks at the perception and performance of state services such as health, mother and child development, or water supply.
- **Participatory budgeting** offers a bottom-up approach for financial planning and management.
- **Community-led planning and implementation** is a process in which certain authorities in planning and implementing projects are delegated to the community to empower citizens as well as improve ownership and effectiveness of the interventions.

Significance of Social Accountability Law:

There have been demands from social activists for Social Accountability Law in the Country to ensure citizen's participation in the governance.

- It ensures that the citizens are able to access their rights and have their complaints redressed in a time bound manner by holding public officials accountable through the statute.
- It gives the right to citizens to hold the errant public officials and public institutions accountable to their duties through a wide range of actions, tools and mechanisms.
- It ensures that there is a Citizen's right to be heard in the matters of governance, not just being suggestive.
- The Law will provide a Collective Platform for Jan Sunwai(People's Court) on Janta Ka Manch (Public Platform).
- Information and reports of public works are disseminated to the public on a regular basis by the officials as part of their job.

Thus, Social Accountability Law, will ensure that citizens

are actively involved in day to day governance, which generates civic sense in the Citizens and helps them to build democratic culture in the country.

11. According to UNDESA the number of elderly people in India is expected to rise to 20% of the total population by 2050 from 8.6% as per Census 2011. In this context discuss the socio-economic challenges faced by elderly in India and the measures that can be taken for their betterment.

Ans.

The elderly Indian population is one of the fastest-growing in the world. Fulfilling needs for services and social protection for senior citizens, protection of their rights and enabling them to contribute in the development process must be priorities for India.

Socio-economic challenges faced by elderly in India:

- Majority of elderly population reside in rural areas, belong to low socioeconomic status (SES), and are dependent upon their families.
- Lack of quality, affordable, and accessible health and care services to the elderly.
- The high prevalence of several risky behaviors, such as tobacco and alcohol use and also physical inactivity.
- Familial neglect, low education levels and mental health issues.
- Due to lack of skills the elderly is not able to an active participant in the economy.
- Lack of physical infrastructure is a major deterrent to providing comfort for the aged.
- Inadequate welfare schemes.

Measures to be taken for betterment of elderly people:

- Stronger partnership between civil society, community and families are necessary to complement the actions taken by the government.
- Adoption of Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.
- India should reimagine its entire health-care policy for the next few decades, with an elderly prioritized approach.
- India needs to accelerate implementation of programmes such as the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE).
- Elderly-inclusive policies which bring the larger segment of the elderly within the ambit of the welfare schemes shall be formulated ensuring the coverage upto the last mile.

Conclusion:

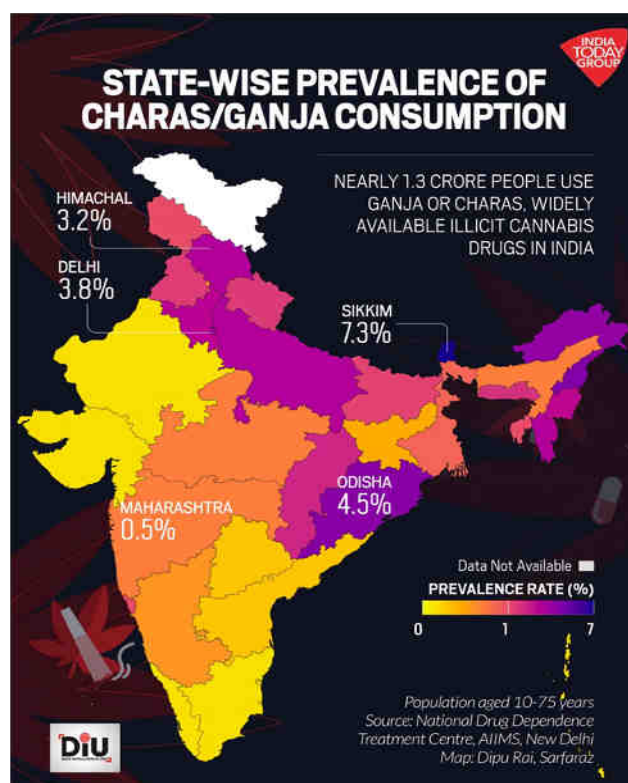
India needs timely action based on the existing global

framework and ensure that action should not fall behind this demographic trend. Increased investments, political will and addressing gaps in data and statistics are the key to concerted response.

12. Narcotic drug use has grown significantly in India in recent years, ranging from traditional plant-based narcotics like cannabis, cocaine, and heroin to synthetic opiates like tramadol. What is the socio-economic impact of drug abuse on India? Suggest some measures to check the use of drugs among the vulnerable population.

Ans.

The Global Burden of Disease Study estimates that illicit substances killed close to 7.5 lakh persons globally in just 2017 alone. 22 000 lives are thought to have been lost in India. Some estimates place the astonishing value of the world's drug trade at \$650 billion.



Socio-economic impact of drug abuse on India:

1. Psychological Effects: Prolonged drug usage results in chronic mental illnesses and a propensity for habit formation. Numerous long-term health consequences may result from it. These include paranoia, hallucinations, increased aggression, panic disorders, anxiety, and sadness.
2. Impact on the body: Misusing or abusing a substance can also have short-term physiological effects such as changes in hunger, insomnia, restlessness, elevated heart rate, slurred speech, alterations in cognitive function, a brief feeling of euphoria, and loss of coordination.
3. Drug misuse has a social impact that extends beyond the addicts themselves and into their families and the larger society. Families with substance misuse may also struggle with issues including criminal activity, alienation, domestic violence, and child abuse or neglect.
4. Economic Impact: Drug usage, according to studies, causes poverty and family dissolution. Poverty is frequently passed down from parents to children in families where substance misuse has caused disruption.

Measures to curb abuse:

1. The only way to stop drug usage in India is to step up internal enforcement and tight border, airport, and sea port surveillance.
2. It's critical to distinguish between legalization, decriminalization, and commercialization of cannabis/marijuana.
3. The use of cannabis needs to be controlled, taxed, and monitored, just like the use of alcohol and tobacco products. Threats from it must be communicated in a suitable manner, just as we do with tobacco.
4. Children, the young, and people with serious mental problems must all have adequate safeguards in place because they are individuals who are most susceptible to its effects.
5. Drug abuse prevention and the health and psychosocial effects of drug use should be taught in schools starting in upper primary.

As stated in its constitution's Article 47 and as a signatory to the United Nations' International Conventions, India had a responsibility to take action to end the use of illicit drugs, devise strategies to prevent drug use, and make sure that those with drug use disorders could access treatment.

13. Call for reservation in private sector has been rising in recent times to protect the right to life/

livelihood of people domiciled in the State. What are the implications of reserving the private sector jobs?

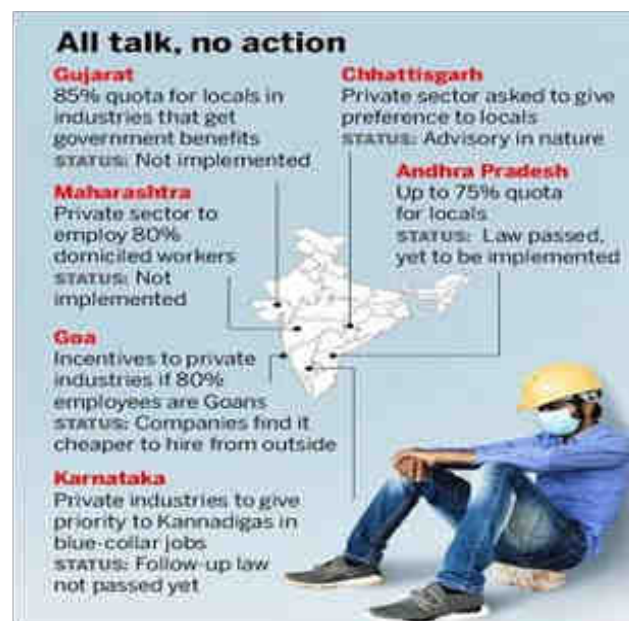
Ans.

There is increasing demand for reservation of jobs in private sector. Recently, Haryana government passed an act that reserved 75% of private jobs for the residents of the Haryana. Similar demands are being raised in other states like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra etc.

Reasons behind demand for reservation in private sector:

- The perception that outsiders and migrants are "taking away the jobs" meant for locals.
- Rising unemployment and lack of access to skills and low employability locally.
- The agrarian sector is under tremendous stress across the country, and young people are desperate to move out of the sector, hence seeking local jobs.

Several reports have shown that discrimination is one of the reasons for under-representation of Dalits and Muslims in the corporate sector.



Implications of reserving the private sector jobs:

- New avenues for employment will open for lakhs of youth in the private sector.
- Reservation in private sector may stifle labor market and can choke the growth of the state.
- Labour productivity in the private sector may decline as some of such jobs would be done by people who might be less qualified.
- It would curb the unemployment rate within the

states where these policies are to be implemented.

- It may discourage the influx of migrants seeking low-paid jobs, which has a “significant impact” on local infrastructure and leads to the “proliferation of slums”.
- It was found that there were inherent biases among the corporate sector against minorities and Dalits and this will ensure that no such prejudice would be made.

Conclusion:

As the world turns inward, it is more than likely that these measures would soon be replicated in other Indian states. Thus, instead of rejecting or accepting such proposals in an outright manner, it would be better for all stakeholders to sit together and find the middle ground rather than disturbing the peace and harmony in the workplace.

14. Crisis in Sri Lanka has provided an opportunity to India to deepen its ties with its island neighbour. Discuss the strategic significance of Sri Lanka for India and enumerate the measures taken by Indian government to aid Sri Lanka to overcome this crisis?

Ans.

Sri Lanka has been going through worst economic crisis since its independence owing to serious balance of payment problem, depleting foreign reserves and very low import cover even for essential commodities. This economic crisis may transform into severe political crisis, which is detrimental for India.

Significance of stable and prosperous Sri Lanka for India:

1. Strategic location in Indian Ocean:

- a. Critical for ensuring India’s energy and trade security, 90% volume of trade through seas.
- b. Countering China’s presence as it seeks to advance its string of pearls for encircling India.
- c. India friendly government critical for India emerging as net security provider in Indian Ocean.

2. Trade and economy:

- a. Significant reliance on Sri Lankan ports for trans-shipment business.
- b. India among one of the top exporters and investors in Sri Lanka.
- c. Significant presence of major Indian companies like Indian Oil, Dabur, Ashok Leyland etc.
- d. India’s strategic projects like Trincomalee Oil Tank farm.

3. Security concerns: Instability may provide fertile

ground for extremist forces in Sri Lanka, which may adversely impact India’s security due to proximity.

- 4. Indo-Pacific vision:** Free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific requires political stable and economically prosperous island nations to counter China’s Cheque book diplomacy.
- 5.** Any instability in Sri Lanka may lead to migration from Sri Lanka and refugee crisis for India.

India’s assistance to Sri Lanka in the crisis includes:

1. Currency Swap facility of USD 400 million under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework.
2. Loan deferment of about USD 500 million.
3. A dedicated USD 500 million Line of Credit for fuel imports.
4. Extension of a short term concessional loan of USD 1 billion.
5. A delegation headed by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra visited island nation and assured Sri Lanka of its ‘fullest support’.
6. Supply of essential food item, medicines, fuels, fertilizers etc. under the credit line facility.
7. Accelerated implementation of ongoing infrastructure and investment project to revive Sri Lankan Economy.

India being a larger neighbor and civilization friend must offer every possible financial help, policy advice as well as investments to help Sri Lanka rebuild its economy and also to prevent opportunistic China from making further inroads.

15. " Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) is a declaration of a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific region an engine of global economic growth". Critically examine the significance of the framework for India’s strategic interest in the region.

Ans.

IPEF is a US led initiative launched with 13 initial partners, including India, and aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries towards a resilient, inclusive, sustainable, prosperous, fair and competitive Indo-Pacific.



Significance of IPEF for India:

1. Offers an alternative to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) through an opportunity to be part of value chain in Asia-Pacific region.
2. Opportunity to be part of a block currently representing 40% of global GDP.
3. Can help India to counter China's economic dominance in the region (China being part of RCEP), as it excludes China.
4. Coordination on the four pillars of IPEF, trade, supply chain resilience, clean energy and decarbonisation and tax and anti-corruption would help India to emerge as robust and responsible economic power.
5. It will help India and the world to improve mitigation and adaptation efforts toward climate change and realizing their Intended Nationally Determined Contribution.
6. It may facilitate development of 'Quad plus' architecture critical for India's security interest in Indo-Pacific region.
7. It may supplement India's effort under Act East Policy by providing opportunities for wider engagement.

Associated challenges include:

1. Possible conflict with India's policy like Data Localization rules, environment and labour standards etc.
2. India needs to strategically balance its engagement with IPEF vis-à-vis its membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
3. Negotiations among the participating nations are yet to start, India must be vocal about its concern like Trade in Services, Intellectual Property Rights etc.
4. China views it as a US led Anti-China tool, and therefore India joining this initiative might antagonize China. This may lead to increased border tension.

Thus India must actively engage and cooperate with partners under the IPEF to materialize the objectives set under the framework as it is a sure path towards India's vision of free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

16. Recently Finland and Sweden has applied to join NATO. Describe the aims and objectives of NATO and also discuss the apprehensions of Russia against the expansion of NATO in its neighbourhood.

Ans.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet

Union. There are currently 30 member states.

Aims and objectives:

- NATO's essential and enduring purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means.
- NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defense and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.
- NATO strives to secure a lasting peace in Europe, based on common values of individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.



Apprehensions of Russia against the expansion of NATO in its neighborhood:

- Vladimir Putin has consistently maintained that the actions of current Ukrainian government pose a direct threat to Russia. Fear of NATO military presence at Russian border. In fact, large scale NATO military buildup over time in Ukraine. Russia called a red line beyond which there must be Russia's control. Russia feels that Ukrainian government is

puppet government controlled by NATO.

- Russia wants NATO to return to its pre-1997 borders. Russia's concerns are understandable given that NATO was founded as a direct counterbalance to the USSR and Russia share considerable land border with the NATO Countries.
- Former Soviet republics such as Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia had already joined NATO which was hardly accepted by Russia. Thereafter Russia drew red line in case of Ukraine and Georgia.
- For centuries Russia viewed the Black Sea as central to its security due to its abundance of warm water ports, including Sevastopol in Crimea. However, access out of Black Sea into the Mediterranean is still restricted by the Montreux Convention of 1936, which gave Turkey, now a NATO member, control of Bosphorus Strait.
- NATO played a critical role in stabilizing Europe after World War II, preventing great-power conflict and overcoming Cold War divisions after 1989. However, many people are questioning the relevancy of NATO in today's world. Thus, all parties should adopt an amicable approach to allay fears of each other.

17. The success of democracy lies in accountability and transparency for both executive and legislature. Write how digitalization helps in this regard with special reference to Digital Sansad's objective and features?

Ans.

Introduction

Fundamental principles of any democratic government are transparency and accountability, not just in terms of clear command of hierarchy of seniors but also with the other stakeholders including, voters, citizens and civil society at large.

The Executive, which is the Council of Ministers, is accountable towards the Parliament for its decisions. Parliament scrutinises its functions through various methods such as debates on Bills, issues on the floor of parliament, process of Question Hour and by scrutiny in Parliamentary Committees. Similarly, the Legislature is accountable to the Citizens of India by the electoral process. They have to get elected to the houses of the Parliament every five year.

Digitalisation of the Parliament

A digital parliamentary system uses digital media to enable lawmaking bodies to conduct meetings, conferences, and other forms of discourse. By doing so, the process can be made more efficient, and democratic

ences, and other forms of discourse. By doing so, the process can be made more efficient, and democratic governance can be improved.

Mechanisms of the Digitalisation

- Live proceedings of the sessions of parliament available to the Citizens.
- All records are stored electronically instead of on paper. The aim is not just to ensure data can't be manipulated, but to ensure no one can silence the public voice anymore.
- It is possible for all stakeholders to receive real-time updates about the law-making process.
- We produce more data, demographic data, social media data, etc., than we can possibly consume. Leaders in government must be able to leverage this information in order to make better decisions.

With an aim to make Parliamentary proceedings accessible not just to the members but also to the public at large, 'Digital Sansad App' was launched recently by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Features of Digital Sansad App

- Updates on all Parliamentary proceedings and other activities will be available for the citizens on the 'Digital Sansad App'.
- It will further make it convenient for people to get general information on Members of Parliament, their participation in Sessions, on budget speeches from 1947 onwards.
- The archive of the House proceedings will be available from the 12th Lok Sabha to the 17th Lok Sabha.
- Users can see Members' profile, Question/Answers, and Today's Papers.

Thus, this app will make sure that information about the functioning and happenings of Parliament flows between all the stakeholders including Citizens seamlessly to hold those principles of transparency and accountability. In a sovereign democratic republic, it is the duty of the Parliament to uphold the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

18. What is Digital sovereignty? While briefly mentioning the provisions of Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Elaborate on the significance and challenges of achieving Digital Sovereignty in India.

Ans.

Digital Sovereignty refers to the ability to have control over your own digital processes— the data, hardware and software that you rely on and create. It means that the information which has been converted and stored in binary digital form is subject to the laws of the country in which it is located rather than in foreign country.

Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021

- According to the new rules, in the case due diligence is not followed by the intermediary, the **safe harbour provisions** would not apply to them.
- **Mandatory in house Grievance Redressal setup.** Rules prescribe that the intermediary shall appoint a Grievance Officer. He /She has to deal with complaints. The intermediary has to share the name and contact of that officer. He must give acknowledgement of the complaints it receives and resolve within 24 hours and 15 days respectively.
- These rules also provide for the establishment of a new **Grievance Appellate Committee**, which will see into the grievances and resolve them, of consumers regarding the adjudication of intermediary grievance officers, within 30 days
- Social media Intermediaries have to appoint two officers apart from Grievance Officer for various other purposes. The **Chief Compliance Officer, Nodal Contact Person** with provision of a monthly report detailing the action taken on complaints received.

Significance of Digital sovereignty in India:

- **To uphold right to privacy:** it is important to use a safe internet which is free from foreign surveillance and breach of Article 21
- **Data security :-** The Digital India Campaign has significantly increased the flow of digital public, personal and government data. Without the data security mechanisms, it can lead to a disaster as the selling of this data might lead to ethnic conflicts and other dangers.
- **Jobs and employment :** The need to reap digital dividends of faster growth , more jobs and better services by expanding safe internet for all.
- **Enhancing IT capabilities:** It is essential for policy making within India towards big data analytics as data is new oil.
- **Digital India:** The initiatives like paperless economy which is in harmony with SDGs. It is also in line with Make in India initiative
- **Businesses:-** The MNCs demand high IT standards and digital safety to start and run businesses

Challenges of achieving digital sovereignty:

- Standardization of policies is absent across sectors and ministries.
- Dependence on foreign countries for Network products like IC chips, Motherboards etc.
- Absence of proper data storage infrastructure in the country. These rules have provided for data

localisation.

- Increased globalization and entry of MNCs which run on Big data analytics.
- Increased cyber attacks on government significant public enterprises.
- Eg. Chinese cyber attack on Ladakh Electricity Grid
- Pressure from the International community for open data infrastructure. e.g. Osaka track.
- Lack of awareness in citizens for data security.

Way forward:

- Cross border transfer of data and storage should be done on strict prescribed standards.
- Critical personal data, must be stored and processed locally as against foreign located data centres as the case now.
- Data Protection Act to be implemented as soon as possible.
- Awareness drives for data security among the common citizens.

Since we are living in the age of Artificial intelligence and Machine learning it is necessary to protect and prevent data from political interference from other countries.

19. India has proposed to institutionalise “India Africa Defence Dialogue” during the successive DefExpos. How far this will help India in deepening its ties with African continent? Also discuss other areas of strategic significance along which India must engage with Africa for mutual benefit.

Ans.

According to Defence Ministry India Africa Defence Dialogue to be held biennially, will help build on existing partnership between African countries and India and explore new areas of convergence for mutual engagements.

Role of Defence Dialogues in deepening ties with African continent:

1. **Periodic meet:** Dialogues will be held biennially and therefore would provide regular platform for constructive engagement.
2. **Defence exercise:** May help to materialisedefence exercise between Indian and African continent, critical for mutual security benefits.
3. **Defence deals:** It will facilitate procurement of Defence Equipment by African countries, promoting India's domestic defence industry.
4. **Net security provider:** Consistent dialogue and engagements with African countries would enable India's emergence as net security provider in Indian Ocean region, for ex- through establishment of

Defence bases.

5. **Battling Chinese influence:** China is actively engaging African countries this must be countered for mutual benefit of India and African countries.
6. Dialogues will help in **developing consensus** against common security threats like terrorism, extremism, piracy etc.
7. The **mediated background** will provide opportunities for engagement in other strategic areas, such as cooperation in manufacturing through technology transfer.

Other focus areas for strategic engagement with African Continent:

1. **Energy and mineral resources:** African continent is rich in energy resources like fossil fuel (West and North African countries), and other minerals like copper, gold, manganese etc., this can be explored for the mutual benefits.
2. **Communication:** 21st century is witnessing digital revolution and in this background collaboration in communication technologies like 5G, broadband etc. is must.
3. **Space Diplomacy:** India's ISRO have expertise as well as cheapest technology. African countries could get

technical know-how and India will get large market.

4. **Blue economy:** India and coastal African nation may collectively reap benefits of blue economy as both having large coastlines.
5. **South-South cooperation:** on geopolitical issues like Climate Change, Global Warming, Security Council reforms, disarmament etc. as well as geo-economic issues like WTO and associated reforms.
6. Promoting tourism, student exchange programmes, health diplomacy, entertainment industry etc. to strengthen **people to people contact** and soft diplomacy.
7. **Infrastructure development:** in African countries through platforms like Asia-Africa Growth corridor, would help deepen ties and protecting them from debt trap of China.

India's engagement with Africa is guided by the principles like 'VasudhaivKutumbakam' (World is our home) and SAGAR, that is Security and Growth for all as India has an intrinsic interest in helping Africa achieve progress.

MCQs Based on Current Affairs

1. Choose the true statement/s from the following regarding 'Core Industry Index':

- Electricity sector has the highest weight among the eight major sector industries.
- The 'Fertilizer Sector' gets the least weight.
- These comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of the items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

alternative:

- only 1
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

2. In which state is the Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- Tamil Nadu
- Kerala
- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh

Answer: B

3. Choose the true statement/s about 'Shaheed Udham Singh':

- He joined the Ghadar Party in the year 1924 to organize the overseas Indians with the aim of overthrowing the British rule.
- On March 13, 1940, Udham Singh shot and killed General Dyer to avenge the Jallianwala massacre.

- only 1
- 2 only
- 1 and 2
- none of these

Answer: A

4. Recently India's first indigenous aircraft carrier I.N. S. Vikrant is built by which shipyard?

- Goa Shipyard
- Cochin Shipyard
- Hindustan Shipyard
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

Answer: B

5. What is false about the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission?

- This mission has been launched under Green Revolution

2. This mission is being implemented through National Bee Board (NBB)

3. It comes under Central Sector Scheme

- 1 only
- 2,3 only
- 3 only
- 1,2,3 only

Answer: A

6. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a package of how many lakh crore rupees for the revival of BSNL?

- Rs 1.64 lakh crore
- Rs 2.46 lakh crore
- Rs 1.46 lakh crore
- Rs 2.64 lakh crore

Answer : A

7. Consider the Haroon Report released in July, 2022-

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra ranks first as the richest woman in India
- The first three places on this list are Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Bernard Arnault

Choose the correct statement/s:

- only 1
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

8. Select the true statements about Anushilan Samiti-

- Anushilan Samiti was a prominent secret revolutionary committee operating from Bengal in the 20th century
- The Union Minister for Education and Skill Development has asked to include the history of Anushilan Samiti in the National Curriculum of NCERT.
- Satish Chandra, Pramath Mitra, Aurobindo Ghosh and Sarala Devi were the founders of this committee

- only 1
- Only 2
- 2 and 3
- all

Answer: D

9. Where is India's first International Bullion Exchange launched?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Kerala

Answer: C

10. Choose the correct statement regarding Electoral Bonds (EB):

1. State Bank of India (SBI) is the authorized bank to issue and encash these bonds.
2. These bonds are valid for fifteen days from the date of issue.
3. Only such registered political parties which have secured at least 1% of the votes cast in the last general election to the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly are eligible to receive the Electoral Bond.
 - (a) only 1
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) All the statements are true

Answer: D

11. The 'National Flag of India' was designed by which of the following?

- (a) Pingali Venkaiah
- (b) Mohammad Iqbal
- (c) Rabindranath Tagore
- (d) SN Banerjee

Answer: A

12. Choose the correct statement regarding Andal Thirunakshatram, a famous Tamil saint poet:

1. She is called Mira of the South.
2. Andal is the only female saint among the 12 Alvar saints.
 - (a) only 1
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 and 2
 - (d) none of these

Answer: C

13. Loktak Lake in India, is located in which state?

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: C

14. The Crafts Village Scheme is an initiative of which union ministry?

- (a) Union Ministry of Culture
- (b) Union Ministry of Textiles

- (c) Union Ministry of Education
- (d) Ministry of MSME

Answer: B

15. Which Indian state has launched the first AI-powered digital Lok Adalat?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Orissa
- (d) Maharashtra

Answer: A

16. Which became the first state in India to start its own internet service?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Kerala

Answer: D

17. Select the correct statement regarding Henley Passport Index 2022:

1. According to this the ranking of Japan is first.
2. India's ranking is 85th.
3. Afghanistan has got the final ranking.
 - (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 2 and 3
 - (c) 1 and 3
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

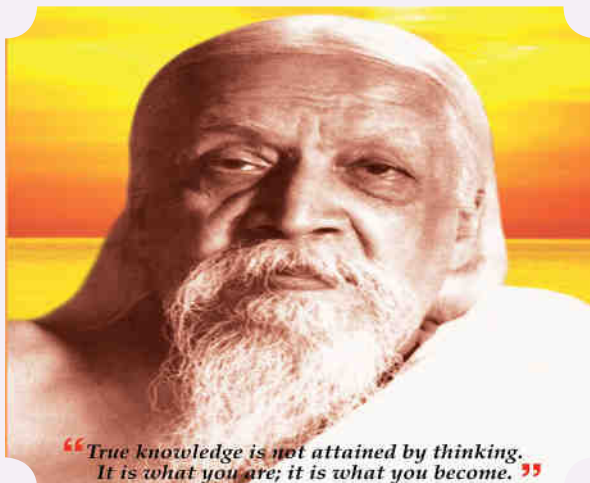
Answer: C

18. Operation Breaking Dawn is related to which country?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) Taiwan
- (d) Israel

Answer: D

Sri Aurobindo Ghosh



Sri Aurobindo was born on 15th August, 1872 in Calcutta now Kolkata. He was poet, seer, philosopher, yogi and Indian nationalist who propounded a philosophy of divine life on the earth. His father Krishna dhun was doctor by profession in Rangpur.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 150 universities across India will be involved in writing papers on different aspects of spiritual leader and freedom fighter Sri Aurobindo's life to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary.

Education

Sri Aurobindo started primary education in a Christian convent school in Darjeeling. He was sent to England for further education at the age of 6 years. There, he studied many subjects like history, French, Arithmetic and geography because his father wanted to appear for Indian Civil Services. After that he took admission in Cambridge University and very soon he became proficient in two classical language and several European languages. He passed ICS exam and secured 11th rank out of 250 candidates.

Return to India

Once completed his education in England, decided to return India in 1892 and participated actively in Indian Independence movement. He worked on the various administrative as well as professional posts in Baroda and Calcutta. He worked in the field of yoga and Indian language including classical Sanskrit language.

Sri Aurobindo was much influenced by the American Revolution, revolts in Italy and the medieval French revolution against the British Empire.

Indian National Struggle

From 1902 to 1910 he partook in the struggle to free India from British rule. He attended congress session

many times and helped in establishment of the Anushilan Samiti in 1902, Calcutta. Sri Aurobindo and his brother revolutionary Barindra Ghosh also contributed articles for the famous magazine Jugantar which inspired hundreds of young at that time to take up revolutionary measures towards then British rule. In this political presence, he was imprisoned in 1908 Alipore bomb case. After two years, again Police wanted to arrest him for sedition of his writings but he fled from British India and got refugee status in French colony Puducherry. In Puducherry, Aurobindo devoted his whole life for spirituality and developed a kind of yoga called Integral Yoga. Sri Aurobindo was considered as a prophet of Indian nationalism. Along with Bankimchandra, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Dayanand Saraswati, he developed the theory of nationalism in India.

Spirituality

Sri Aurobindo said that he heard the voice of swami Vivekananda in prison and got convinced of the truth of the Sanatana Dharma.

He also founded a huge community of his followers within India and abroad. Later it became as Sri Aurobindo ashram in 1926, Puducherry.

He believed that the basic principles of matter, life and mind would be succeeded through terrestrial evolution by the principle of super mind as an intermediate power between the two spheres of the infinite and the finite.

Sri Aurobindo declared that India was in fact Mother India which represented the united and strong power of millions of her children. According to him, Mother India has the infinite energy for her people.

He believed that the village should retain its autonomy and self-government but at same time he emphasized to promote national cohesion. He said that the idea of national Swaraj must be modelled on the old village community which was self-sufficient, autonomous and self-governing.

Some literary works:

- An English newspaper called Bande Mataram in 1905.
- Bases of Yoga
- The message of The Gita
- The Future evolution of man
- Rebirth and Karma
- Savitri: a legend and a symbol
- The Hour of God

Sri Aurobindo passed away on 5th of Dec, 1950 in Puducherry aged 78.

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AN INTRODUCTION



Dhyeey IAS, two decades old institution, was founded by Mr. Vinay Singh and Mr. Q. H. Khan. Ever since its emergence it has unparalleled track record of success. Today, it stands tall among the reputed institutes providing coaching for Civil Services Examination (CSE). The institute has been very successful in making potential aspirants realize their dreams which is evident from the success stories of the previous years.

As the nation progresses, the young generations become more conscious and aware about their career options. There is plethora of jobs and one among them is civil services, the most prestigious service in the country, which needs no introduction. It attracts many young minds hailing from almost all spectra of academic disciplines. The popular belief that the examination for this service is only meant for the brilliant lots has become a taboo as it also attracts the hardworking, sincere and disciplined minds. The saying- "In the end passion and hard work can substitute natural talent" holds true. It gives immense power and opportunity for young folks to bring about the positive changes in the society which would bring harmony and development. It inculcates values, moral, ethos and feeling of national integrity.

Quite a large number of students desirous of building a career for themselves are absolutely less equipped for the fairly tough competitive tests they have to appear in. Several others, who have a brilliant academic career, do not know that competitive exams are vastly different from academic examination and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here one single move may invariably put one ahead of many others who lag behind. Dhyeey IAS is manned with qualified & experienced faculties besides especially designed study material that helps the students in achieving the desired goal.

Civil Services Exam requires knowledge base of specified subjects. These subjects though taught in schools and colleges are not necessarily oriented towards the exam approach. Classes at Dhyeey IAS are different from classes conducted in schools and colleges with respect to their orientation. Classes are targeted towards the particular exam. Classroom guidance at Dhyeey IAS is about improving the individuals' capacity to focus, learn and innovate as we are comfortably aware of the fact that you can't teach a person anything, you can only help him find it within himself.

We feel that despite brilliance and diligence, most of the students are lacking proper guidance and aptitude needed to clear Civil Services Examination. This is why, we at Dhyeey IAS amalgamated the traditional as well as modern approach of teaching by incorporating best educators of the industry ably supported by Academic Associates, Class Notes and printed Study Material, routine as well as surprise Tests. Due to its arduous efforts, Dhyeey IAS is able to carve a niche among all the civil services coaching institutes in India. Access to an institution is as important as the quality of Institution. Our faith in this philosophy made us grow. With 12 Face to Face Centers located in different parts in India, Distance Learning Program, Live Streaming Centers and Residential Academy, we have made truly pan India presence. Ever since the foundation the institute has produced a heavy pool of bureaucrats both at central and state level. Dhyeey IAS not only aims at imparting the content of civil services in best way but also nurturing the aspirants as leaders of tomorrow who have a responsibility of fulfilling the dreams of around 1.4 billion Indians. Dhyeey IAS has guided over 50,000 aspirants with more than 4500 selections in civil services. Our journey is a small contribution for the development of the society and nation by nurturing the potential civil services aspirants.

Considering the toughness of Civil Services Exam, where success rate is a meager 0.1 percent, Dhyeey IAS has continuously produced phenomenal results over the years. Year after Year Dhyeey IAS is being recognized for imparting guidance to civil services aspirants using benchmarked quality practices. On the basis of scalability, innovation, achievements, impact potential our efforts and contribution have been acknowledged and rewarded with Education Excellence Awards by ET NOW, Brands Academy, Times of India, etc. This has enhanced motivation, pride and self-esteem of entire Dhyeey family.

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