

PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

December 2021 / Issue-1

Agri-Tech Startups in India

India's Proclamation in COP 26:
Promise or Reality

Naxalite Activities in North East
India

Why is necessary to bring back
ancient Indian Idols

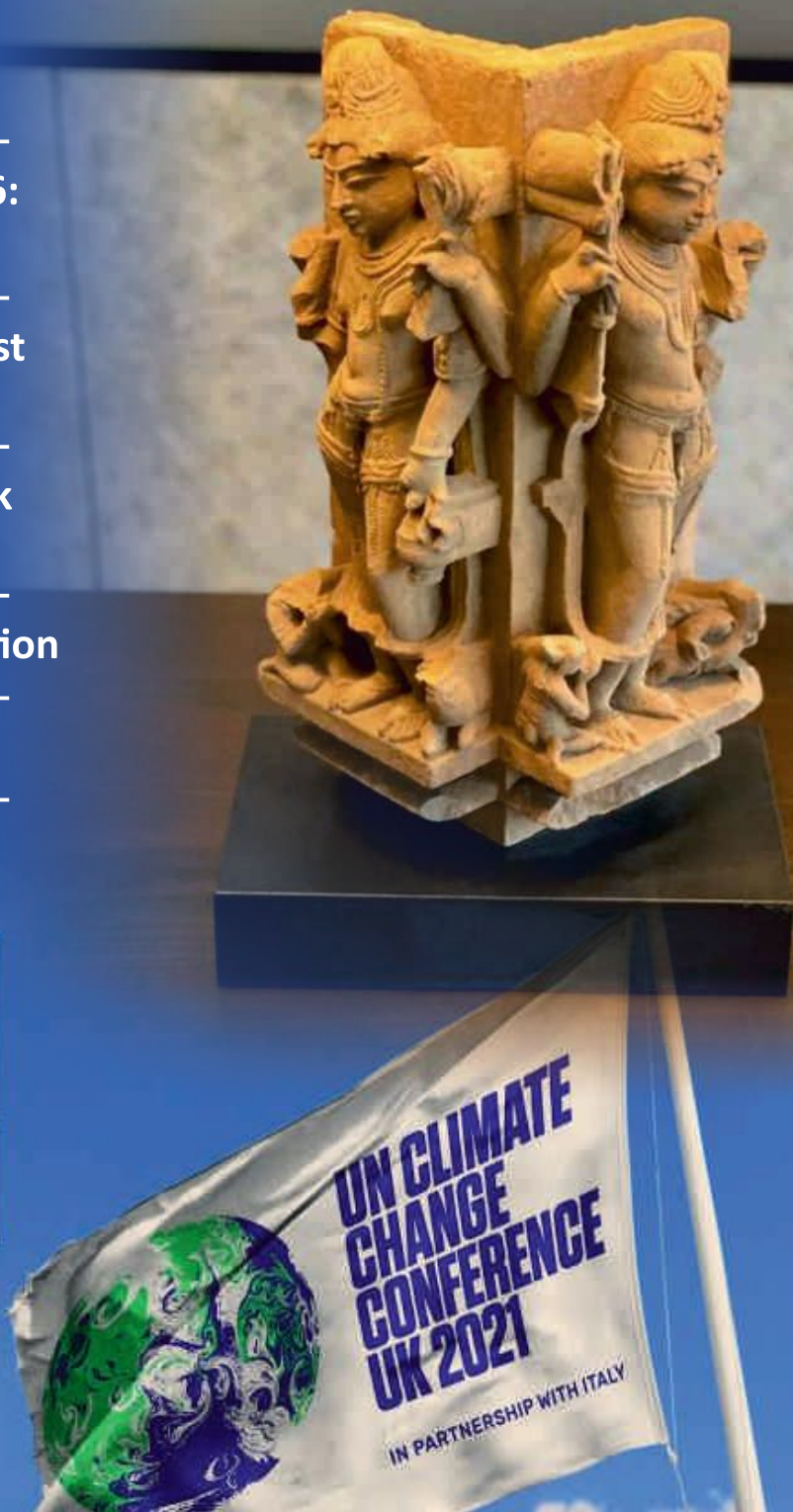
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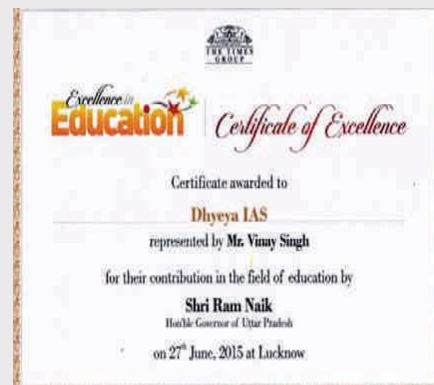
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Current Affairs has an important role in the examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions. It is necessary for the candidate to have knowledge of relevant information on issues of national and international 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. 'Perfect 7' 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, 7 Model Question & answer, 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 asking in Medieval India will also be part of Perfect 7 Magazine.

Brain boosters and 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. We are starting a new section named Global Institutions Tracker, which will comprise the news related to all the international institutions like UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, IUCN, IPCC, UNFCCC etc. because 2 to 3 questions in civil services exam from this section are always asked in form of global initiatives and campaigns.

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.

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PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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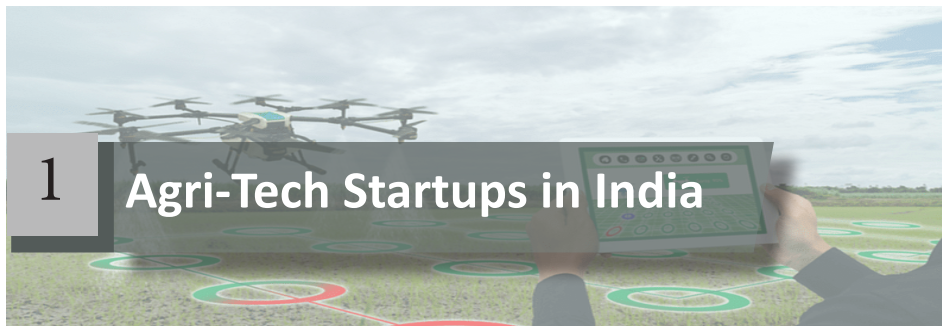


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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES



1 Agri-Tech Startups in India

- Context
- Introduction
- Scope in Agri-Tech Startups in India
- Positives from Agri Tech -Startups
- Challenges in front of Indian Agri-Tech Startups

• Conclusion

Context-

India's agri-tech companies are receiving a huge amount of investments. Agritech startup Gramophone has raised Rs 25 crore in a funding round from Siana Capital, while agri-tech startup Waycool has raised around \$70.6 million from investors such as Lightbox, LGT Lightstone, and others. This reflects the growing investor confidence in Indian agri-tech startups.

Introduction:

Agri-tech startup refers to the innovative use of technology at any stage of the value-added chain of agriculture. Today more than a thousand agri-tech startups are working in the country. Presently, India has emerged as a rival to the US and China in the agri-tech startup space. These startup companies are using technologies like machine learning, artificial intelligence in the field of agriculture. There are many startup companies like Ninjakart Dehat Crow Farm which have given a new dimension to the Indian agri-tech sector.

Scope in Agri-Tech Startups in India:-

- India is an agricultural country where more than 49% of the population is dependent on agriculture. The economic

development of the agricultural sector in India has not reached its peak, so it has immense potential for economic growth.

- A long value-added chain operates in India from agricultural produce to marketing. There is a need for technology in all these series so that maximum efficiency can be achieved.

- According to government data, Indian farmers suffer a loss of about Rs. 90000 crores after harvesting and its benefits are taken by middlemen or due to lack of infrastructure, the crop gets damaged. Agri tech companies can be useful in bridging this gap.

- Government in India is continuously promoting the entry of technology in the agriculture sector. Recently a draft has been released by the government in the context of increasing digital progress in agriculture. It supports Agritech.

- In the 2019 Agri Tech in India Emerging Trends report released by NASSCOM, it has been told that globally there are around 3000 startups in the agriculture technology sector, of which more than 450 are in India. At present this number has reached around 600 to 700.

- According to a 2020 study by Ernst & Young, India's agri-tech market has the potential to reach \$24 billion by 2025. Supply chain technology in various

agri-tech segments on its own can reach \$12.1 billion.

- Gross investment in agri-tech startups was \$162 million in 2014, whereas, in October 2021, the investment of a country agri-tech startup alone is \$115 million. Agri tech in itself is showing the growth of startups. In the first half of the year 2021, India has received agri-tech startup investment of \$2 billion and India ranks third in receiving a restart after US 9.5 billion, China 4.5 billion.

- Recently all the three bills brought by the government will help convert agriculture into a business that will be better for agri-startups.



Positives from Agri Tech -Startups:

- After production in India, about 20 to 25% of the grain is destroyed before reaching the market. Agri tech startups can reduce these figures.

- Agriculture sector in India is still unexplored from an economic point of view. Agritech can be helpful in the overall economic development of the Indian agriculture sector.

- Technology can be upgraded from crop production to marketing with the help of Agri -tech startups, which will increase the use of technology like robotics and drones in agriculture. This will promote precision farming.

- Financing is facing a significant problem in Indian agriculture. Increasing funding of Agri-tech startups can end this problem.

- It can reduce the hidden unemployment problem of Indian agriculture.

- It can be helpful in the goal of doubling the farmer's income.
- It Can be helpful in increasing the export of agri-culture.

Challenges in front of Indian Agri-Tech Startups:

- Most of the farmers of India are illiterate. In such a situation, technical agriculture cannot be expected from Indian farmers. Mechanization of agriculture in India is only 40% (Economic Review 2019-20)
- There is a huge gap between the farmers and the government in India. Which fulfills the immediate need of the farmer and deprives him of more profit.
- Most of the small and marginal farmers are not technology-friendly. Most of the farmers are not adequately educated from the point of view of capacity building, as a result of which the farmer is not much aware of the agri-startups.

from which they are not able to get real benefits.

- India's digital divide and digital illiteracy are a major deterrent in the growth of agri-startups.
- More than 65% of India's land is dependent on monsoon instead of irrigation. At present, divergence in monsoon has also been observed as a by-product of climate change.
- In the absence of a strong data protection act, the possibility of misuse of farmer data can increase. Along with this, cyber vulnerability also increases the problem. This problem is also associated with agri-startups.
- Problems like lack of data speed, cheap data also exist in India. 2G communication technology has not yet been reached in the North-Eastern regions. This situation limits the reach of agri-startups.
- Most of the small and marginal farmers are not technology-friendly.

Most of the farmers are not adequately educated from the point of view of capacity building and these farmers are neglected in such ambitious development goals.

- In the initial stage, there is a lack of faith in the farmers towards online marketing and technological up-gradation in agriculture.

Conclusion-

Undoubtedly, the growth of agri-tech is necessary for the development of Indian agriculture. The current status of agri-tech startups shows that there is immense potential in agri-tech which can increase farm income. In NITI Aayog's @ 75 documents, it has been suggested to shift from agriculture to Agri-preneur, Agri-tech Startups are working in the same direction.



the fulfillment of these proclamations seems difficult amidst the conflict between India's industrial progress, economic development, and the high quality of life of the large population, the amount of energy required to meet the needs, and the lack of technology towards renewable energy sources.

Proclamations of India at the Glasgow Conference: Regarding India-

• Panchamrita Principle

The Panchamrit principle has been given by the Prime Minister of India at the conference. Its 5 principles are as follows-

1. India will reach 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.
2. India will meet 50% of its overall energy requirement from renewable energy sources by 2030.
3. India will reduce its total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030.
4. By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy to less than 45%.
5. By the year 2070 i.e. in the next 50 years, India will achieve the Net Zero target.

- Apart from this, the Prime Minister

- Reference
- Introduction
- Proclamations of India at the Glasgow Conference
- Other important suggestions given by India

- Challenges in the way of fulfillment of Proclamations
- India's efforts for reducing impact of climate change
- Conclusion

Reference-

Recently, several announcements were made by India at the Glasgow Conference (UNFCC COP-26) including the Panchamrita Doctrine. Keeping in view the energy requirement and lack of technology and finance for the growing population of India, the path of realization of these proclamations seems to be very difficult.

Introduction:

The 26th meeting of the Conference of

Parties of the UNFCCC on Climate Change was held in Glasgow. Amidst the impasse on climate change, the uncertainty of the Paris conference, and the effects of climate change, the whole world had hoped for this conference. India presented its positive policy towards the environment at this conference. Many important announcements have been made by the Indian Prime Minister, including the "Panchamrut Principle" to deal with the ill effects of climate change. At present,

has told the relevance of the mantra of "Sangachhdhvam Samvidhvam San Vo Manansi Jaantam".

- India highlighted the benefits of adaptation derived from projects like Nal Se Jal, Swachh Bharat Mission, Ujjwala in India.
- He has pointed out the need to live in harmony with nature in the traditional community and the need for adaptation policies to be appropriately placed and integrated into the school curriculum.
- He said that India has launched the Coalition for Disaster Resistance Infrastructural Initiative for Disaster Management and urged the world to join this initiative.

Other important suggestions given by India :-

- India has pointed out that the efforts made so far towards climate change have remained only in policies and have not been reflected on the ground. The provision of finance and technology transfer was full of cover up. To prevent climate change, efforts have not yet been made on adaptation, which was very necessary.
- India has proposed a global movement against the ill effects of climate change and suggested that the term Lifestyle for Environment be the basis of this movement.
- Developing countries are more vulnerable to climate change and farmers are most affected by climate change. Therefore these countries need global cooperation. India has called for free technical and financial transfer in the form of cooperation.

Thus we find that the Panchamrita doctrine given by India is very ambitious. There are also many challenges before India in achieving its goals-

Challenges in the way of fulfillment of Proclamations -

- According to the @75 report of NITI Aayog, coal accounts for 49.6 percent of India's gross energy, followed by oil (28 percent), biomass (11.6 percent), gas (7.3 percent), renewable and clean energy (2.2 percent).) and nuclear power (1.2

percent). In this way, 77.6% of fossil energy is used. It is difficult to reduce fossil energy by 27% by 2030.

- The total installed power capacity in the country as of July 2019 was 360456 MW. In which thermal power contributes 63.2%, hydro-nuclear power 1.9%, and renewable energy 22.0%. With the launch of the National Action Plan on Climate Change in India, work on renewable energy sources has started effectively since 2008. This progress has been 22% in the last about 15 years, so it is difficult to reach 50% in the next 8 years only.

- For the success of schemes like Make in India, Startup India, Digital India in India continuous electricity is needed to fulfill the target of surplus production to make the economy export-oriented.

- Providing energy from renewable energy sources will require huge investment. There is uncertainty in the investment scenario after Corona, so private investors will be skeptical to invest in renewable energy. The government lives in a constant deficit and the fiscal deficit in Corona had reached around 12.34 lakh crore, so government investment will increase the fiscal deficit.

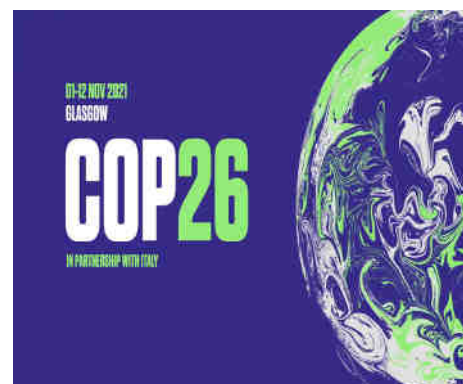
- It is clear that India needs more energy to achieve the pace of economic growth. The recent shortage of coal in the post-Corona economy has created an atmosphere of apprehension which reflects India's dependence on coal in energy production. Large amounts of carbon dioxide are emitted in the production of coal. Reducing one billion tonnes of sponsored carbon emissions by 2030 without stopping the energy supply is a difficult task due to the lack of technology. It is noteworthy that at present India ranks third in global carbon emissions.

- Net zero means that all countries have to achieve carbon neutrality, that is, neutrality in the emission of carbon to stop climate change. Globally, the target has been set to achieve Net Zero by 2050 while India by 2070. Being a developing country, India's dependence on fossil fuels is high. Unlike developed countries, the demand for energy in India's economy is increasing continuously, so there is no possibility of India's

emissions level coming down for two-three decades.

- Irrigation of irrigated agricultural land uses a large amount of diesel, which is a major fossil fuel.
- Improper management of the transfer of finance and technology is a major challenge at the global level.

Along with these challenges, several policy problems in India such as various subsidies and taxes distort the energy market and encourage the use of more inefficient than efficient fuels. Along with this, there are practical problems such as excessive use of subsidized power in agricultural irrigation, which hinders the achievement of these goals.



India's efforts for reducing impact of climate change:

- India's strong push for the International Solar Alliance shows India's commitment. The International Solar Alliance's projects receiving international funding demonstrate its credibility.
- It is clear from the data given by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) that till July 2018 installed solar capacity is 23.12 GW and is continuously moving ahead in this path. In 2018, a written reply to the Rajya Sabha by the Minister of Renewable Energy said that a tender has been floated for additional installation of 24.4 GW of solar power.
- India is continuously promoting other sectors of renewable energy sources such as wind energy, geothermal energy. In this sequence, the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, has installed a

remote sensing instrument “LEADER” for estimation of offshore wind resources in the Gulf of Khambat off the coast of Gujarat. India is continuously increasing the production of wind power in the coastal areas.

- India’s private sector is also moving ahead in this. India’s second-largest software services firm, Infosys met 43 percent of its power requirements through renewable energy sources during 2017/18. It is a model for other private sectors.

- At the regional level, states like Karnataka, Gujarat have started promoting renewable energy. Karnataka is getting 27% of its gross energy requirement from renewable energy.

- In the period from 2018 to 2022 (mainly during the Corona period), coal-fired fuel in electricity generation has come down from 77 percent to 66 percent. This clearly shows the efforts of

India.

- To reduce the use of fossil fuels like petrol, diesel, the government is taking steps like solar pumps, use of BS-6, schemes like solar rooftop, Kusum and Sky, and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Irrigation. Electric vehicles have been promoted in the new vehicle scrapping policy of the government.

- In the same year, the Central Government has also announced the National Hydrogen Energy Mission in its budget, which will prepare a roadmap for using hydrogen as an alternative energy source. Which will reduce the use of fossil energy

- According to the joint report towards a Clean Energy Economy’ released by NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute in the year 2020, India’s transport sector can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1.7 gigatons by using renewable energy. This will help achieve

the goals of Panchamrita.

- The success of schemes like India’s Nal Se Jal, UjjwalaYojana demonstrate India’s commitment towards adaptation.

Conclusion:

India indeed faces challenges in fulfilling Glasgow’s commitments, but because of the problem of climate change, it becomes imperative to fulfill its commitments. If technical and finance supported are available at the global level, then these goals will be easily achieved. However, India’s commitment shows that Paris is not for them a summit but a sentiment and commitment. At present, India has emerged as the main architect of climate justice in its capacity.

Therefore, India’s commitments are not mere promises, but India is trying its best to make them a reality.



3 Naxalite Activities in North East India

• Why in News

• Background

• Manipur-Myanmar: Drug trafficking and violent activities

• The Rise of Militancy again in the Northeast

• Strong Intelligence needed

• Surrender of militants in Northeast

Why in News?

Naxalites activities, violent acts by insurgents, separatist movements, and ethnic violence have long been a serious challenge in North East India.

Recently, four soldiers and Commanding Officer Col Viplav Tripathi of the 46th Assam Rifles of the paramilitary force including his wife and child were martyred in the attacks of militants. Assam Rifles personnel have been ambushed by Naxalites in the Singhat

area of Churchandrapur, Manipur. This attack indicated a resurgence of militant violence again in Northeast India. People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and Manipur Naga People’s Front (MNPF), two banned extremist organizations operating in other parts of the north-east also committed this violent and heinous crime. In fact, the internal security situation has improved over the past few years in Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and large parts of Assam. Due to which

the army has moved two division headquarters along with 14 infantry battalions and placed them on the LAC of the Chinese border in eastern Ladakh. Since then, Chinese-made weapons like AK-47 assault rifles, machine guns, anti-tank mines and grenades are continuously reaching Myanmar, from where they are coming into the hands of Indian extremists from across the border.

Background:

There are many such organisations in north-eastern states of India, including Manipur, where extremists and separatist organizations challenge the integrity of the Union of India, brainwash the local tribal people and made them a part of their violent activities. Many of these extremist organizations, influenced by Maoist ideology, continue to use guerrilla warfare to remove state power. Historically Manipur was a princely state but on September 21, 1949 it was merged with the Indian Union. After the merger rebel groups such as UNLF, PLA, KCP, KYKL, and Prepak, aim at autonomous government. While promoting separatist demands, he started a movement to separate from

the Indian Union. To deal with this situation, the Government of India on several occasions declared Manipur an internally disturbed area and deployed paramilitary forces there under the AFSPA. It is noted that whenever AFSPA is imposed, the law and order related powers of the state government are exercised by the paramilitary forces for 3 months. Time to time the Government of India has tried to control the situation by imposing President's rule on the grounds of failure of the constitutional machinery.

Manipur-Myanmar: Drug trafficking and violent activities

Manipur shares a 398-km-long border with Myanmar. Provision for free movement has been made in the area up to 16 km of the border. Myanmar is part of the drug-trafficking Golden Triangle region so insurgent groups get funding for violent activities in Manipur. Some Insurgent groups in Myanmar and Naga insurgents of Manipur, colluding with each other, have also targeted key energy and other development projects of Manipur and Myanmar. These include the National Socialist Council of Nagaland and the Arakan Salvation Army of Myanmar. Drug addiction among youth in Manipur is also a serious challenge to internal security. In such a situation, the Government of India needs to agreements with Myanmar, Bangladesh and China to stop drug smuggling, arms smuggling, terror funding. Surgical strikes against terrorist groups and militants are also an option for India. Perception management of the local citizens of North East through inclusive development, infrastructure creation, welfare works is not enough along with this, it is necessary to work on aggressive strategies as well.

The Rise of Militancy again in the North-east:

Establishing peace talks by the Indian Government, has achieved great success in the last two years. As a result, these talks made help in getting surrender of the militant organizations of Northeast-states of India. The cadres of some Naga rebel groups, Bodo cadres of Assam,

extremist groups of Tripura have surrendered which shows the sign of establishing peace in Northeast India. This has thwarted the plans of other extremist organizations. Through Bodo Accord and Bru Accord, the government of India has tried to lay the foundation of a better governance system in Northeast India. In the manner in which the strategies for the inclusive development of the entire Northeast India have been made, some radical extremist organizations of Northeast India have started feeling that the Central Government and the State Governments together will soon end the extremism. Due to this reason, some militant organizations are again active in many parts of Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Assam. These militant organizations have taken seriously the actions of the Government of India.

Strong Intelligence needed-

An effective and strict strategy is needed to deal with the Naxalites in Northeast India. During counter emergency operations, there is a need to ensure proper coordination among the paramilitary forces. Apart from this, there must be a need of strong intelligence system also, finding out the attack plans, sources of arms supply, terror funding routes by extremists, separatists, Maoists, insurgents in the Northeast and the role of foreign organizations who support these activities in Bangladesh, China and Myanmar. It is very important to build such information system efficiently, because without this the actions of security forces or para

military forces will not be effective. The Government of India and the states of the Northeast have such arrangements of intelligence but the security forces and innocent civilians also have to become victims of militant violence every day, so it clearly means that there is a mistake somewhere.

Surrender of militants in Northeast:

ULFA(I), NDFB(S), Kamtapur Liberation Organisation, National Liberation Front of Bengalis, Rabha National Liberation Front, Communist Party of India (Maoist), National Santhal Liberation Army and Tribal Dragon :The fighter are 8 militant groups from Northeast India which had surrendered to the government. A total of 2323 militants have surrendered this year. This is an important step for the security of Assam and North East. Those who surrender will also be provided benefits under the Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme 2018 of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Government of India and the respective State Governments have achieved great success this year in getting the Naga insurgent groups to surrender. Recently in Assam also 62 Naxalites of four big insurgent groups United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent), United People's Revolutionary Front (UPRF), Dimsa National Liberation Army (DNLA), People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK) has surrendered in the front of the Chief Minister of Assam. The activities of insurgent groups in Assam has create a serious challenge to the internal security of Northeast India and the country. By following the strategy of separatism movements, ethnic identity and autonomy and demands for a separate state or country, extremist organizations have challenged the Indian Union. In this sequence, extremist organizations like ULFA in Assam have promoted internal unrest. Drishti Rajkhowa, a former self-proclaimed Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the ULFA (I), was among those who surrendered in Assam. DrishtiRajkhowa was an expert in Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) and played his role as a mastermind in carrying out violent extremist activities in



Assam. Drishti Raj khowa was the second most prominent figure in the organization after ULFA (I) Commander-in-Chief Paresh Barua. In January 2020, 1615 cadres of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland surrendered under the Bodo Peace Accord. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on August 10, 2019 between the Government of India, Tripura and the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT-SD) led by Sabir Kumar Debbarma. NLFT has been banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act since 1997. This organization has been involved in activities like spreading violence from its camps located across the international border. The NLFT carried out 317 extremist incidents during the period 2005 to 2015, in which 28 security forces and 62 civilians lost their lives. The peace talks with the NLFT that began in 2015, the organization has not involved in any violent action since 2016. NLFT (SD) has agreed to shun the path of violence, join the mainstream and abide by the Constitution of India. The organi-

zation has also agreed to surrender along with its 88 members. Surrender cadres will be given the surrender benefit as per the Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme, 2018 of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Each beneficiary has been made eligible for a monthly stipend of Rs 6,000 for a maximum period of 36 months, under the scheme "Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme of Left Wing Extremists" being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.



4 Why is necessary to bring back ancient Indian idols from abroad?

- Art works are a symbol of cultural splendor
- Artwork returned after smuggling
- Other Efforts
- Law to prevent smuggling of artistic assets in India

Art works are a symbol of cultural splendor:- The ancient sculptures of India are a symbol of Indian artistic and cultural splendour. Various Indian Kings of ancient kingdoms have created strong cultural patterns through sculpture and temple architecture. The sculptures of the oldest Hindu deities were made with special artistic skill, which highlights the characteristics of that society's faith, religion, belief, spirituality. This is the reason that now different agreements are being made with different countries to stop the smuggling and to bring back the smuggled ancient idols of gods and goddesses to India. Many countries are agreeing to do this that they will return the idols of India present in their country. This will also improve the bilateral cultural relations between the two countries. In the last 5 years, the process of bringing the idols back to the country has accelerated. Every year an

average of 1000 ancient sculptures and artifacts from the country go to other countries by sea. So far many such artifacts have been brought back to the country from America, Australia, France and Germany.

Artwork returned after smuggling:

Recently received from Canada, The idol of Goddess Annapurna was installed at her rightful place on November 15, 2021, at Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Apart from this, during the visit of the Indian Prime Minister to the United States in September 2021, 157 works of art and antiquities were handed over to him by the United States. The Indian Prime Minister strongly appreciated the move of the United States of America for returning these antiquities to India. Prime Minister Modi and President Biden also reiterated their commitment to further strengthen efforts to combat the theft, illegal trade and smuggling

of cultural things. The list of these 157 artifacts includes a diverse set of objects from a one-and-a-half meter tall sandstone carved plaque of Revanth of the 10th century to an exquisite bronze statue of Nataraja of the 12th-century which is 8.5 cm high. Most of the items date back to the period from the 11th century to the 14th century. In addition, they also include historical antiquities such as copper-made anthropomorphic objects dating back to 2000 BC or terracotta vases from the 2nd century. Some 45 antiquities date back to BC era. Half of these artifacts (71) are cultural and the rest include sculptures related to Hinduism (60), Buddhism (16) and Jainism (9). The building materials of these artifacts are mainly metal, stone and terracotta.

The bronze collection mainly consists of sculptures of famous postures of Lakshmi Narayan, Buddha, Vishnu, Shiva, Parvati and 24 Jain Tirthankaras and Kankal-murti, Brahmi, Nandikesha and other unnamed deities and divine figures.

The motifs or design include religious sculptures related to Hinduism (three-headed Brahma, Surya driving a chariot, Vishnu and his wife, Dakshinamurti Shiva, dancing Ganesha, etc.), Buddhism (Buddha in standing posture, Bodhisattva Majushree, Tara) and Jainism related (Jain Tirthankara, Padmasana Tirthankara, Jain Chaubisi) sculptures as well as secular motifs (figureless couple in sambhanga, chauri carrier, woman playing drums, etc.). A total of 56 terracotta pieces include a 2nd-century vase, a 12th-century pair of deer, a 14th-century female bust and an 18th-century

sword, which mentions Guru Hargobind Singh in a Persian text. This is a result of the efforts of the Modi government to bring back our antiquities and artifacts from across the world.

Other Efforts:

The Union Minister of Culture and Tourism participated in the transfer ceremony of 3 statues at the High Commission of India, London in September 2020 through a virtual medium. After Meeting the three idols of Lord Rama, Lakshman and Sita were handed over by the British Police to the Indian High Commission in London. For this, the British Police, Special Idol Wing, Government of Tamil Nadu, Archaeological Survey of India and High Commission of India, London were thanked by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India for their efforts to bring back these precious statues to India.

In addition, bronze statues of Lord Rama, Lakshmana and Sita height of 90.5 cm, 78 cm and 74.5 cm respectively which are masterpieces of Indian metal art have also been successfully brought back. These idols were stolen from a temple of the Vijayanagara period about 40 years ago. In style-wise, these sculptures are date back to the 15th century.

The India Pride Project had informed the Indian High Commission in London in August 2019 that four ancient idols (Shri Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman) were stolen from a temple built during the Vijayanagara period in Tamil Nadu which was probably smuggled from India. The photo documentation of these three metal sculptures was done in June 1958 at the Sri Rajagopala Vishnu Temple (built during the Vijayanagara period) located at Anandamangalam in the Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. There were four idols of Shri Ram, Sita, Lakshman, and Hanuman in this picture. It is proof that the idols were in the temple until at least 1958 and were later stolen. The matter was taken up with the Art and Antiquities Unit of the London Metropolitan Police as well as the Idol Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police after verifying the sculptures with relevant records. The idol branch of the Tamil

Nadu Police sent a comprehensive report confirming that the idols were stolen from the Sri Rajagopal Vishnu temple on 23/24 November 1978 and that the thieves were later caught. Based on the photograph, these idols were examined and it was found that all these idols were stolen from the Sri Rajagopal Vishnu temple. The idol wing of Tamil Nadu Police also provided expert opinions on matching the idols with the IFP photo collection. After investigation, a detailed report was sent to the High Commission of India in London. The Art and Antiquities Unit of the London Metropolitan Police investigated the matter. Based on the information and documents provided, the owner of the idols was contacted. Subsequently, the Metropolitan Police handed over the statues to the High Commission of India on 15 September 2020. These statues have now been returned to the country due to the continuous efforts of the Archaeological Survey of India, the Special Sculpture Wing of the Government of Tamil Nadu, and the High Commission of India in London.

The Ministry of Culture has made it clear that since independence, only 13 sculptures from abroad were found in India. But since 2014 till now the country has received more than 40 sculptures and the Government of India is trying to get more sculptures in the coming years. Ministry of Culture Govt. of India has also said that India is in talks with the British Museum to bring the Vag Devi statue back to India. Australia also announced that it would return 14 artifacts kept in the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra to India. In fact, after a long investigation, Australia has come to know that these artifacts were brought to their country through smuggling and sold. Apart from this, A bronze statue of Lord Buddha of the 12th century BC seated in the 'Bhumisparsha mudra' was stolen from the Nalanda Museum of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on 22 August 1961 and it was sold at an auction in Maastricht (February 2018 organised by a London dealer Rossi & Rossi). After getting information about the auction, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)



officer at the Indian High Commission in London contacted the Art and Antiques Unit of the Metropolitan Police. The ASI also certified that the idol was stolen from the Archaeological Museum, Nalanda. Scotland Yard handed over the statue to the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Shri YK Sinha on 15 August 2018, on the occasion of India's Independence Day.

Law to prevent smuggling of artistic assets in India-

The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 came into force on 9 September 1972. According to this act, export trade in antiquities and art objects is regulated and illegal and fraudulent trade in antiquities and ancient monuments is prevented. This law is important to prevent theft of antiques in the country. Under this, sculptures made of metal, stone or other types of art work, paintings, jewellery, artifacts on paper, wood carvings, artwork on cloth and hundreds of years old manuscripts is talked about to be protected from smuggling.

The Act also states that if a private collector has an ancient artefact, it will have to be registered with the Archaeological Survey of India and if the artwork is sold to someone else for any reason within the country, then it will have to get a license. If someone does not follow it, then there is a provision of punishment for him.

However, due to various reasons this act is not being implemented properly. This is the reason why Indian artifacts worth trillions of rupees are going to other countries every year.

Apart from this, important provisions have been made in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 which came into force on August 29, 1958. According to this act, protection and preservation of ancient and historical monuments, sculptures and other similar objects, archaeological sites and relics are done. Archaeological excavations are regulated and are of na-

tional importance.

There are also some other legislation in the country for the protection of antiquities and treasures and other artistic assets which include:

- Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878
- ancient monuments preservation act 1904
- Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954

- Distribution of Books (Public Libraries) Rules, 1955
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and remains act 1958
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Site and Remains Rules, 1959
- Antiquities and Art Fund Act, 1972
- Antiquities and Art Fund Rules, 1973
- Public Records Act, 1993
- Public Records Rules, 1997 ●●●

5

ASER report on school education

- **Why in News**
- **Introduction**
- **Basis of the report**
- **Suggestions on policy-making**
- **Support by family in children's education**

- **About ASER report**
- **About the Pratham**

Why in News?

Recently, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is released. According to the report, there has been an overall decline in school enrolment during the corona pandemic.

Introduction:

Each year from 2005 to 2014 and in all alternate years until 2018, ASER consistently presented rural India data on the schooling status of children aged 5-16, their reading and maths learning abilities. Last year due to the Corona pandemic, this was not possible. But it was important to understand the impact of corona on schools, families and children due to school closures. To collect national-level data to understand this impact, ASER developed an innovative phone-based survey in 2020. The purpose of this survey was to find out how children are studying at this time? This year also it was not possible to conduct a village-to-village survey due to the

pandemic. Hence, ASER 2021 was also conducted as a phone-based survey. It discussed the impact of the pandemic on education.

Basis of the report-

This report has been prepared on the basis of a survey in 25 states and three union territories. In this report, 75234 children in the age group of 5 to 16 years from 76,706 families have been included.

Report on School Enrollment:-

- There has been an overall decline in school enrollment of students in rural areas.
- The report states that at the national level, there has been an increase in admissions in government schools. Uttar Pradesh and Kerala have seen the maximum increase in admission in government schools. Both Uttar Pradesh has 13.2 percent higher admissions in government schools and Kerala has 11.9 percent more admissions.
- The report indicated that there was a

steady increase in private school admissions between 2006 and 2014. In the last few years, this growth was on average 30%. There has been a continuous decline in the admission level of private schools in 2020 and 2021. Enrollment in private schools has decreased from 32.5% to 24.4% from 2018 to 2021, while in government schools it has increased from 64.3% to 70.3%. But it cannot be said right now whether this trend is permanent or due to the epidemic. The ASER report has pointed out that this may be due to the deterioration in the economic condition of the people during the pandemic.

- The number of children who did not take admission in 2020 had increased from 1.4 percent to 4.6 percent. Even in 2021, the number of children who did not take admission remained the same.

Report on Online Education:-

- The report also presented data on online education. Smartphones have had an impact on online education. 68% of the households had the availability of a smartphone but only 25 percent of them were available to children for online class.
- 26% of children could not have access to mobile while 47% of children had no regular availability of mobile.
- States have also seen a disparity in access to online classes. Online classes were available to 91% in Kerala and 80% in Himachal Pradesh, whereas in Bihar it was only 10% and in West Bengal, it was only 13%.

Report on Learning Status:

- Admission in schools is not directly related to learning which is clearly visible

in this report. According to this report, 92% of the children surveyed were unable to read the books of their respective class.

- Most of the children depend on the institution for education, only one third of the children use other sources to enhance their learning capacity.
- According to the report, 37% of the children studying in class 1 and 2 have never attended school. Along with this, due to the epidemic, there has been a situation of obstruction in the traditional teaching method.

Report on Tuition:

- There has been an increase in tuition from private teachers from 2018 to 2021. It was 30% in 2018 while it has gone up to 40% in 2021. Such a situation was due to the closure of schools. Tuition has increased in all other states except Kerala.

Other important points

- Family support for education has seen a decline during the pandemic and the decline was highest at the level of classes 9 and 10.
- There is adequate availability of educational material. Almost all children (91%) have their own books. Along with this, there has also been an increase in additional educational material.

Suggestions on policy-making:

When schools are reopening after 18 months of closure, it is essential to understand the impact of their closure on students, so that comprehensive policies can be formulated to address the issues. Here are some broad policy findings from ASER 2021:

Enrollment:

- Enrollment in government schools has increased in the last two years. Therefore, it is compulsory to make the infrastructure of government schools and the capacity of teachers in line with this.

Support by family in children's education:

- Family support for children has de



creased since 2020, but family support is still important for elementary grades.

- The involvement of parents in children's education should be ensured while making education plans.

"Hybrid" Learning:

Children are doing different activities at home. Hybrid learning has increased with the coming together of online content, educational institutions and tuition. There is a need to develop effective methods of "hybrid" learning, which can lead to the holistic development of the child.

Tuition:

- The proportion of children going to private tuition has increased since 2018 during school closures. This will create a disparity in the capacity of rich and poor children on the basis of the affordability of tuition fees.

Reducing the "digital divide":

- Expectedly, there was the great impact on the education of children whose families had low literacy levels and who did not have smartphones. Everyone is facing this situation as much as possible but it is widening the digital divide.
- In this context, inequality is visible even among the states. So the digital divide has to be reduced. Children who do not get online education will need more cooperation than other children.

Smartphone Achievement:

- ASER 2021 stated the fact that even when there is a smartphone in the family; it is often not available for

children to use. This fact should be taken into account in future plans while making digital content and remote learning.

About ASER report:

This report is issued by Pratham organisation. The main subject of this organisation is the status of primary education.

About the Pratham:

This institute is an innovative learning organization created to improve the quality of education in India. It was established in 1995 to provide education to the children in the slums of Mumbai. One of the largest non-governmental organizations in the country, Pratham focuses on high-quality, low-cost and exemplary interventions to address gaps in the education system. Pratham's TaRL (Teaching at the right level) has demonstrated the impact on children's learning outcomes which is helpful for policy making.

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NOTES

6 Inter-caste Marriage

- **Why in News**
- **Background**
- **Provisions supporting inter-caste marriage**
- **Elements obstructing the path of inter-caste marriage**
- **Process of nomination**
- **Death penalty in India**
- **Argument against death penalty**
- **Conclusion**

Why in news?

In Tamil Nadu, accused have been sentenced to death by the High Court for killing a couple against inter-caste marriage in 2003.

Background :

In India Incidents of “honor killing” are seen in many parts (eg- Haryana, Tamil Nadu). Depressed classes are vulnerable against such crimes. Although Strict laws like SC/ST Act exist, but such crimes are committed under the pressure of social prestige. In Tamil Nadu alone, 192 such incidents were recorded between 2013 and 2019.

In Indian society castes determine economic-socio-political status. Due to which social mobility is very less in India even today. The spirit of fraternity as mentioned in the Indian Constitution has not got that kind of acceptance in the traditional society as it should have. The traditional society does not respect the right of ‘freedom of choice’ among the youth especially women. Even today, there is negativity in Indian society about girls being sent out of their homes to study, do jobs, etc. In the process of socialization, individual assimilates the values of the family. Gradually the values/traditions among which he lives coexist with his personality. For this reason, the caste system in India is making stability with more strength. So we can say that

the main driving force behind the caste system is family and social acceptance.

Provisions supporting inter-caste marriage-

1. Constitutional Provisions -

The Indian Constitution emphasizes on values like equality, liberty and dignity of the individual. The constitution expects the state (government and institutions) and citizens to follow this morality, but the traditional society has not been able to adopt constitutional morality in its life. That is why even today caste animosity, gender discrimination, communalism are seen in Indian society. The result of which is reflected in the incidents of honor killing in the name of inter-caste marriage/ Inter-religious marriage.

2. Statutory Provisions like – SC/ST Act –

Despite several constitutional or statutory efforts, SC/ST community is vulnerable to these crimes. In such circumstances the SC/ST act passed by the Indian Parliament in 1989, 22 acts have been listed as offenses under this Act. Those who humiliates or hurt self-esteem, discriminates, misuse of legal process and violation of economic, democratic and social rights of a person of SC/ST community have been included in the category of crime. It has been included in the category of heinous crime and non-bailable warrants can be issued against the offenders.

But due to the prevalence of a special kind of prejudice (caste animosity) among the criminals, the number of such crimes is not decreasing.

Although provisions have been made to provide legal protection to adult couples doing inter-caste marriages, but they have not been implemented efficiently.

3. Scientific Reason–

According to Professor Lalji Singh, a scientist who is considered to be the father of genome fingerprint in India, marriage within the same caste can increase the risk of genetic diseases. For this, he gave the example of the tribal tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He told that these tribes remained isolated from the whole world and lived in a limited area. They should also have marital relations among themselves. This led to genetic malformations and they are constantly dying of unknown diseases. Further Prof. Singh said that for this reason, homosexual marriage was opposed in India from the very beginning.

4. Modern Ethics –

The morality of modern society is human centered which gives freedom to take decisions for the all round development of the individual and opposes the role and pressure of the state, society and family in the formation of matrimonial relations. The culture of ‘live-in-relationship’ in metropolitan cities is a product of this modern ethic. We can say that modern society morally supports inter-caste marriage. It also argues that marriage is a private matter of two persons and the decision should be at their discretion.

Elements obstructing the path of inter-caste marriage-

1. Lack of scientific thinking
2. Failure to embrace constitutional morality

Efforts made to encourage inter-caste marriages under a closed social system are performed only in the castes. This system violates the Constitution’s ‘right to choose’ and the right to live a dignified life.

Eliminate - In order to eliminate the caste

system from the root, it is necessary to give social acceptance to inter-caste marriage and the acceptance of this system by the society has to be ended.

Process of nomination-

1. For the nomination, the society has to give examples of such role models who have done 'inter caste marriage' and earned a special position in the society.
2. Civil society and NGOs should emphasize on intellectual and emotional aspects.
3. Media, celebrities (cricketers, leaders and actors) should continuously take positive initiatives in this direction.
4. Modern thought, rationalism and humanism should be encouraged.

Death penalty in India-

In the case of heinous crime in India (in the rare and rarest case), there is a provision to give death penalty to the offender. Scholars appear to be divided into two groups regarding this topic. While the nationalist advocates the death penalty,, the humanist intelligentsia opposes the death penalty.

Arguments in support of capital punishment –To establish the fear of law in the minds of criminals and to ensure rule of law by state.

1. The Constitution has made provision under Article 21 to prohibit life and personal liberty by procedure established by law because challenges like separatism, communalism and Naxalism exist in India.
2. Law makers are under pressure that the laws made represent the collective consciousness of the society. After the Nirbhaya case in Delhi, a provision of capital punishment was made in the rape case.
3. In India, the convict who has been sentenced to death has the facility to go to the Supreme Court and mercy appeal before the President (Article-72).

Argument against death penalty-

1. The provision of death penalty violates the right to live with dignity (Article 21) which is guaranteed by the Constitution.



2. There is no evidence available to prove that punishments such as the death penalty have reduced rape or heinous crimes.
3. Most of the countries of the world have removed the provision of capital punishment from their judicial system.
4. If after the death sentence any new fact comes in favour of accused person which may prove the innocence of the offender or reduce the magnitude of the offence.
5. No person is a criminal by birth. Circumstances are responsible for making him a criminal, for which society is also responsible. In such a situation, why should only the criminal get a harsh punishment like the death penalty?
6. The purpose of punishment is not to take revenge from the offender but to give him an opportunity to improve while the death penalty deprives from this opportunity.

Conclusion: -

The purpose of the law is to provide an opportunity to the criminal as well as to operate the public order uninterruptedly, it means to generate minimum deterrence against the crime, so having laws like death penalty in India to maintain public order, national security and integrity of India. It is necessary but they should be used only in 'rare and rarest cases'. No law is in its nature as good or as bad as its implementation can prove it.

NOTES

7 Global Green Grid

- **Why in News**
- **What is Solar Green Grid**
- **Significance of Regional Electricity Grid in South Asia**
- **Green Growth Equity Fund**
- **Road map of Project**
- **India's path in solar energy**

Why in News?

Recently, there has been talks between India and the UK on issuing a Joint Declaration on Solar Green Grid. It is also being called the Global Energy Grid. In this direction, the concept of One Sun, One World, One Grid has been propounded by the Prime Minister of India. India wants to develop this global grid exactly as it worked towards launching the International Solar Alliance.

What is Solar Green Grid:-

Under the Global Green Grid, India wants to build a global solar grid to promote the use of solar energy on a global scale as well as to combat climate change so that by 2050 all continents have access to renewable energy. Create a single power grid that can help with global energy security and also address climate challenges.

Indian interest through the proposed electricity grid:

India has several infrastructural development and energy projects going on with South East Asian countries. In such a situation, when the South East Asian countries are troubled by China's encroachment policies, then the idea of connecting ASEAN countries with solar energy projects can prove to be fruitful for India in many ways. In these situations, India can achieve the goals of the

Act East Policy to ASEAN countries with stronger relations through its proposed energy diplomacy.

India has started efforts to mobilize African countries on the issue of solar energy. Several African countries are members of the International Solar Alliance led by India. China, on the other hand, has been active in recent times in linking African countries with its Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. In such a situation, through this grid, India can pursue its interests in African countries.

Significance of Regional Electricity Grid in South Asia:

India has also emphasized on building cross-border energy corridors with neighboring countries. Maitri Super Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh, Rampal Power Plant, cross-border oil pipeline between Nepal and India from Motihari to Amlekhganj have been started for this purpose. India has also planned on a regional power grid with neighboring

countries, similar to the global electricity grid, and through this it can supply energy to countries like Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh as well as Sri Lanka. The cross border electricity trade has acquired an important place in India's foreign policy. In November 2014, India had also signed an agreement in this regard with SAARC countries and in August 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding for Electric Grid was signed with BIMSTEC countries. Apart from this, increasing its solar energy diplomacy, the Government of India has also made a provision of 10 billion dollar line of credit at concessional interest rates for solar power projects in Africa. The Export Import Bank of India is implementing this credit facility in collaboration with the member countries of ISA. During the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2019, India has extended a grant of US\$ 12 million and Loan facility of \$150 million at concessional rates to the developing countries of the Pacific Island region for their projects related to solar energy, renewable energy and climate.

Green Growth Equity Fund:

India and the UK have also created a Green Growth Equity Fund of \$120 million, which has now been increased to \$200 million. The aim of this fund is to invest more and more in green projects tackling climate change and global warming. This is an important step in the development of low carbon economy or green economy. In september 2021 The UK has agreed with India to invest \$1.2 billion in green projects in India. This investment will be made in India for the period from 2022 to 2026.



Road map of Project:

India has proposed the creation of a Global Electricity Grid, reinforcing the concept of One Sun One World One Grid. Under this, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has drawn up a plan to build a global consensus for the sharing of solar energy resources among more than 140 countries in West Asia and South East Asia. In the next phase of the project, there is plan to link this grid to African energy stations as well. The Government of India has recently invited proposals from consultancy firms on the subject to prepare a roadmap for a sustainable global electricity grid in an inclusive manner. India wants to play a leadership role in the field of global energy security by undertaking this energy project in collaboration with South East Asian countries, Middle East and African countries.

Analysts also believe that the idea of One Sun One World One Grid has been conceptualized by India as like of China's One Belt One Road initiative to show China its global role in the era of this epidemic. While China's One Belt One Road initiative focuses on infrastructure development projects in countries around the world, India's plan focuses on cooperation with countries around the world in the field of solar energy.

India's path in solar energy:

The Government of India has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy installed capacity by the end of 2022. Out of this, 60 GW is from wind power, 100 GW from solar power, 10 GW from biomass power and 5 GW from small hydro power. The emphasis on the need for global cooperation in this area to give impetus to this

vision reflects India's rational thinking. Under Grid Connected Renewable Energy, capacity addition of 27.07 GW of renewable energy has been done during the last three and a half years, which includes 12.87 GW from Solar Energy, 11.70 GW from Wind Energy, 0.59 GW from Small Hydro and 0.79 GW from Bio-energy. Encouraged by the growth rate of the clean energy sector, the Government of India, in its report to the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention on Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), has said that India will be supported by low-cost international finance including technology transfer and Green Climate Fund to achieve 40 percent cumulative electric energy efficiencies by 2030 from non-fossil fuel based energy resources.



NATIONAL

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SabzBurj ("Green Dome")

Context-

Recently, the work of preserving the Mughal era's SabzBurj in Delhi has been completed. It took about 4 years to complete this work.

About Sabz Burj:

- It is a building located in Humayun's Tomb (included in the list of World Heritage Site of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)).
- Its height is about 70 feet and its dome is blue in color and it is an octagonal building.
- In this "Double Dome" has been used, which is decorated with golden colors. It is a masterpiece of Indo-Islamic architecture.

- Conservators believe that its paintings are wonderful specimen of the Mughal painting.
- It was built in 1530. This Mughal era building was used as a police station in the 19th century in the Nizamuddin area.
- Its original tiles and precious metals were looted by the invaders.

Conservation Works:

- The Aga Khan Cultural Trust (AKTC) and the corporate company Havells are credited for the conservation efforts of this monument which is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- The work of its conservation has been done even before the start of World Heritage Week.

Humayun's Tomb:

- It is a tomb monument inspired by Mughal architecture.
- During the time of the slave dynasty, this land was in the kilokhari fort and was used as the capital of Sultan Qaiqabad.
- In 1562, during the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar, this tomb was built under the supervision of Humayun's widow Begum HamidaBano.
- The tomb of Emperor Humayun is the most famous tomb in this complex, along with, the tombs of Hamidabans, Dara Shikoh, Jahandar Shah etc. are also located here.
- Charbagh style has been used for the garden here.

- The tomb was originally constructed of joining stones using slaked lime and covered with red sandstone. In this building, white marble has been used for the floor, lattices of vents, door and frames and balcony.

Archaeological Survey of India -

- The Department of Archaeological

Survey of India is a department under the Ministry of Culture.

- It is built for the purpose of archaeological research and conservation of the cultural heritage of India.
- Its main function is to maintain the ancient monuments and archaeological sites of national importance.
- This department is responsible for

the implementation of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. As per the provisions of this Act, it regulates all the archaeological activities in the country.

- It also regulates the Antiquities and Valuable Artifacts Act, 1972.

2**Chardham Yatra****Why in News?**

Recently, the Supreme Court has said that increasing the width of the Chardham road is the priority of the security of the nation. At the same time, environmental safety should be kept in mind in the construction of the road project.

Char Dham:

Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath are four pilgrimage sites in the heights of the Himalayas, collectively known as the Char Dham. These pilgrimage sites attract a maximum number of pilgrims every year. Due to this, it becomes the most important

center of religious pilgrimage in India. Traditionally, the pilgrimage begins in the west and ends in the east. Thus, the Chardham Yatra starts from Yamunotri, then goes to Gangotri and ends at Kedarnath and Badrinath.

Chardham Project:

The objective of the Chardham project is to connect four religious places Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath in all weather. After the completion of this project, Char Dham Yatra can be done in every season. Under this project, a 900 km long road project is being constructed, the duration of the

project construction is 4 years. The estimated cost of its construction will be Rs.1119.69 crore. With the construction of the tunnel, all-weather connectivity will be available to reach the Chardham Yatra. This will boost the socio-economic development of the region as well as trade and tourism. This will reduce the road distance between Dharasu to Yamunotri by about 20 km and the travel time will also be reduced by about an hour. The project was inaugurated in December 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

3**Rezang La War Memorial****Why in News?**

Recently, the renovated 'Rezang La War Memorial' was inaugurated by the Indian Defence Minister on the anniversary of 'Rezang La' war (India-China war of 1962).

Rezang-La War:

- During the Indo-China war of 1962, there was an encounter between the armies of India and China in the Rezang-la pass.
- This place is situated at a height of about 18,000 feet. In this war, 114 Indian soldiers fought with 2000 Chinese soldiers and had protected the Kailash ranges and their surrounding areas by inflicting heavy damages on them.
- Charlie Company of the Kumaon-Reg-

iment took part in this war, which was led by Major Shaitan Singh. In this war, 98 Indian soldiers including Major Shaitan Singh were martyred. For his supreme sacrifice, Major Shaitan Singh was posthumously awarded the ParamVir Chakra, India's highest military honor.

- The Battle of Rezang La is considered one of the most important battles of the Indo-China war in Ladakh.
- The Defense Minister of India has described it as one of the important wars of the world.

Location of Rezang-La:

- It is a mountain pass located in the southeast of Chushul Valley in the Ladakh region of India.

- It is 2.7 km long and has an average height of 16000 feet.
- It is 11 miles south of the Spanggur Gap (China claimed as its 'traditional border' during the 1960 border talks).
- Its altitude is 5,500 meters (18,000 ft).
- About 2-3 km to the north-west of Rezang La is Rechin La, which is located on the Line of Actual Control.

About War Memorial:

This War Memorial Located in 'Chushul' of Ladakh, this monument is situated at an altitude of more than 15,000 feet and is located very close to the Indo-China border. It has now been opened to the public.

This step has been taken at a time when there is an atmosphere of tension on the

India and China border. This shows that India is conscious of protecting its sover-

eignty and is not afraid of anyone.

4

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

Why in News?

Recently the government has announced to partially withdraw the MPLADS scheme. MPs will now get 2 crores instead of the annual sanctioned 5 crores. The scheme has been suspended for two financial years (2020-21 and 2021-22). The Union Cabinet has decided to continue this scheme till 2025-26.

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

- Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is a central sector scheme fully funded by the Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets, primarily

in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads etc.

- Parliamentary Local Area Development Scheme was announced in December 1993. Earlier the annual fund entitlement of the Member of Parliament under this scheme was Rs.5 crores, which was released in two installments of Rs.2.5 crores, subject to fulfillment of conditions as per MPLADS guidelines.

- The withdrawal of this scheme will also help in reviving the local economy.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation is responsible for policy formulation, fund release and laying down the monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the scheme. The Government of India informs the State Nodal Department about the

MPLADS funds released to the district. District authorities report the status of MPLADS implementation.

- For the approval of any work of irrigation, flood control etc. under the MPLAD scheme, it will be necessary to take specific approval from the Ministry of Water Resources.

- It is mandatory for MPs to spend 5 percent of the MPLAD Scheme fund in the areas of Scheduled Tribe population and 15 percent in the areas of Scheduled Caste population.

- Funds released under the MPLAD Scheme are non-lapsed.

- At least 10% of the projects being implemented in the district will be inspected every year by the district authority.

INTER-NATIONAL

1

International Law Commission

The International Law Commission was established by the General Assembly, in 1947, to undertake the mandate of the Assembly, under article 13 (1) (a) of the Charter of the United Nations to "initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of ... encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification".

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the General Assembly, on 12 August 2020, decided to postpone the seventy-second session of the ILC to 2021. Subsequently, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/135 of 15 December 2020, the International Law Commission held

its seventy-second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 April to 4 June and from 5 July to 6 August 2021 (11 weeks).

The term of office of the present 34 members of the International Law Commission will expire at the end of 2022. The election of the members of the Commission for a five-year term beginning on 1 January 2023 will take place at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly (on 12 November 2021).

The General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of resolution 36/39 of 18 November 1981, decided that the 34 members of the International Law Commission shall be

elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) Eight nationals from African States;
- (b) Seven nationals from Asia-Pacific States;
- (c) Three nationals from Eastern European States;
- (d) Six nationals from Latin American and Caribbean States;
- (e) Eight nationals from Western European and other States;
- (f) One national from African States or Eastern European States in rotation, with the seat being allocated to a national of an African State in the first election held after the adoption of the resolution

36/39;

(g) One national from Asia-Pacific States or Latin American and Caribbean

States in rotation, with the seat being allocated to a national of an Asia-Pacific State in the first election held

after the adoption of the resolution 36/39.

2

Attempts to mediate between Gulf countries and Lebanon by Arab League

Recently, The Arab League has been in the limelight because it is trying to resolve the diplomatic ties of Gulf countries especially Saudi Arabia and Bahrain with Lebanon. The current dispute between Lebanon and the Gulf states is linked to Yemen's Houthi rebels. To deal with Yemen's Houthi rebels, Saudi Arabia launched Operation Decisive Storm a few years ago, in which a dozen countries along with Saudi Arabia conducted military operations against Houthi rebels.

Recently, Saudi Arabia's role in Yemen was criticized by a Lebanese minister, after which the diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Lebanon became very tense.

Recently, Saudi Arabia called back its ambassador from Beirut after a controversial video of Lebanese Information Minister George Kordahi became public and also asked the Lebanese ambassador to leave Saudi Arabia within 48 hours. This had a serious impact on the diplomatic relations between the two countries. Along with this, Saudi Arabia has banned its imports from Lebanon. Hours after the Saudi Arabian government's decision, Bahrain also ordered the Lebanese ambassador to return to his country within two days. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain gave information about this. Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati expressed regret over the move by the Saudi government and urged Saudi Arabia to review its decision.

Apart from this, the Arab League is also in news for another reason. The Arab League urged the two countries to end the growing disputes and to renew diplomatic ties between Morocco and Algeria. Algeria closed airspace to Moroccan aviation when it decided to cut diplomatic ties with Morocco due to the



dispute. Algeria has been supporting separatists in Western Sahara. This has been the main cause of controversy for Morocco. The Arab League has stepped up political-diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute.

Structure and Functions of the Arab League:

The Arab League is a regional organization that includes countries from North Africa, North-East Africa and South-West Asia, also known as the Middle East, as members. The Arab League was formed during the period of the Cold War. It was formed on March 22, 1945, in Cairo, the capital of Egypt by six countries – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria. These six countries are its founding member countries and now, at present, the Arab League has a total of 22 members. Its headquarter is in Cairo, Egypt.

Syria was also a member of the Arab League but Syria was suspended from the Arab League in the year 2011 because of government atrocities, repressions, crimes during the civil war in Syria for many years.

The purpose of the Arab League is to make relations between the member countries closer and coordinate their political activities, to protect their independence and sovereignty and to work primarily towards promoting the interests of Arab countries.

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed a peace agreement called the 'Abraham Accord' last year to normalize their ties with Israel. In protest, Palestine had left the presidency of the Arab League Council. The Abraham Accord is the first peace agreement between Israel and the Arab countries to be signed in the last 26 years, before the peace agreement signed by Israel and Jordan in 1994. The USA had mediated this agreement and said that this agreement would prove to be a milestone for the establishment of peace in the entire Arab region.

NOTES

ENVIRONMENT

1

India's first 'Grass Conservation Zone' inaugurated

Grasses play an important role in the ecosystem. Whether it is the savanna grasslands of Africa or the Shola grasslands of the Western Ghats of India or the seagrasses of the Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, all contribute significantly to the ecosystem. Now India's first 'Grass Conservation Area' was recently inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand which is spread over two acres. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Research) of Uttarakhand said in this regard that the research unit of Uttarakhand Forest Department has developed the protected area in three years with funding under the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) program of the Central Government. About 90 species of grasses of significant scientific, ecological, medicinal and cultural importance are grown in this conservation area. The objective of this project is to conserve different species of grass. The latest research has proved that grasslands are more effective in 'absorbing carbon' than forest land. Grasses have multifaceted importance in India. Grasses are used for perfumery,

medicinal, fodder, decoration, agriculture and religious uses. But today the way grasslands are facing threats and their area is shrinking, threatens the entire ecosystem of insects, birds and the mammals that depend on them.

In the same year, the Forest department in Uttarakhand had also issued a directive to all the Conservators of Forests. Under this, the forest of Uttarakhand is to be freed from the lantana (Kurri) of the bush species considered dangerous for the environment. For this, the lantana eradication campaign will be carried out in all protected, reserved, civil soyam lands and Panchayati forests. Removal of lantana from forest areas will be done by planting grass in its place. Actually, Lantana is such a shrub species, which does not allow other vegetation to grow around it. Along with this, due to the quality of blooming throughout the year, it is continuously spreading. There will hardly be any area of Uttarakhand which does not have Lantana. Therefore, this time it has been decided to replace the lantana grass spread in about 12 thousand hectares of forest area and prepare meadows

in its place, besides planting other tree species including bamboo. 37 crore has been made available from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in this campaign, which is run in mission mode.

CAMPA is a type of environmental fund established in 2006 to manage compensatory afforestation. It is known as Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Scheme. In 2002, the Supreme Court had observed that the funds given to the states for afforestation were not being adequately utilized and hence the Supreme Court had ordered that these funds should be consolidated at the central level to form a Compensatory Afforestation Fund. Keeping this direction in mind, the Government of India passed an Act named Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Act. The main objective of this act is to use the amount received in return for the reduction in forest areas and re-invest it in afforestation.

2

Big decision on the State Butterfly and Environment Ministry in Arunachal Pradesh

On November 13, 2021, the Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet has adopted the Pakke Tiger Declaration 2047 on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal with an aim to accelerate the climate resilient and inclusive development of the state. In an important decision, the state cabinet has renamed the Department of Environment and Forests as Environment Forest and Climate Change Department. The cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, was held for the first time outside the state capital in the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve area'. In the firm declaration, Arunachal Pradesh has talked about tackling climate change,

giving priority to the conservation of forests, ensuring health and well-being, livelihood and opportunities for all.

Under this, the government aims to make every effort to deal with both economic and ecological threats to protect people from the challenges posed by climate change and its impact on biodiversity.

The cabinet approved the adoption of a rare species of butterfly 'Kaiser-e-Hind' as the state butterfly on this occasion. The scientific name of this butterfly is *Teinopalpus Imperialis*. It is found in broad-leaf temperate evergreen forests at high altitudes. Temperate evergreen forests are found in eastern and western

Himalayas. This butterfly with a wingspan of 90–120 mm is also found in the eastern Himalayas (West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim and Manipur). This butterfly is also found in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and South China.

Status of butterfly species in India:

According to the Zoological Survey of India, 1,318 species of butterflies have been recorded in India. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 35 species of butterflies in India are critically endangered for their survival. The IUCN has placed 43 species of butterflies in India as endangered and

three butterfly species in the critically endangered categories.

If butterflies disappear from the earth, we will be deprived of the taste of many food crops, from apples to coffee. When butterflies pollinate by drinking the nectar of flowers, the transformation of flowers into fruits becomes possible. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 75 percent of the world's agriculture depends on pollination. Environmentalists believe that the extinction of butterflies could affect other organisms as well, as the larvae and pupae from their eggs are food for many other organisms.

Measures for the protection of butterflies in India:

In the year 2020, the Vice President inaugurated the Nature Park and Interpretation Center at Haddo in Port Blair. About

300 species of butterflies exist in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, of which 207 are local to the region. The water bodies are connected to this conservatory with inter-connecting channels, to provide the necessary moisture and airy climate for the butterflies to thrive. In order to improve the number of butterflies, financial assistance is being provided to the State Governments for the establishment of butterfly parks. After Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, such parks have been made in the cities of Indore and Bhopal of Madhya Pradesh. In the first year, about three dozen species of butterflies have been seen in the Butterfly Park located in Bhopal. These include species such as Common Jazz well, Village Blue, Common Banded All, Common Evening Brown, Blue Tiger, Plain Tiger, Striped Tiger, Common Indian Crow and Common Grass Yellow.

The country's first state butterfly was announced in Maharashtra. Blue Mormon butterfly found in the hills of Sahyadri has been declared as the state butterfly. The velvety black blue Mormon butterfly is the largest after the birdwing. Apart from Sri Lanka, the butterfly of this species is found in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, South India, and the eastern seaboard area. Along with this, the country's first butterfly park has also been opened in Karnataka named Bannerghatta National Park. The Golden Birdwing butterfly of the Himalayas has been named India's largest butterfly after 88 years. A female golden birdwing butterfly with a wingspan of 194 mm was found in the Didihat town of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, while a male golden birdwing butterfly with a wingspan of 106 mm is present at the Wankhar Butterfly Museum in Shillong.

3

Ethanol: an alternative to fossil fuels

Why in News?

Recently the Government of India has approved the proposal to mix 20% ethanol with gasoline by 2025. Blending of ethanol will help in reducing the subsidy on sugar from 2023.

Ethanol-

Ethanol is a biofuel which is produced from agricultural products like wheat, potato, sugarcane etc. Ethanol is produced in India by the fermentation process of sugarcane molasses. It is also used as a synthesis of organic compounds.

Steps taken by the government-

Some measures have been taken by the government to achieve energy efficiency in the transport sector, which are as follows-

1. Ethanol Blending Program- Recently the Government of India has released a roadmap for ethanol blending. In which it has been asked to change the target of ethanol blending (the target of 2030) to be completed by 2025. Under which up to 20% ethanol is to be mixed in petrol. Presently this mix is 8.5%.

2. Hydrogen Fuel- Recently the Government of India has also started the National Hydrogen Mission. Under this mission, the emphasis will be on hydrogen production from green energy modifications. The mission also includes linking renewable energy potential with hydrogen economy.

3. Electric Vehicle Policy- The goal of Electric Vehicle Policy 2020 released by the Government of India is to cover 25% electric vehicles in total vehicles and 50% electric buses in buses by 2024. The main goal of the electric policy is to reduce air pollution because rising air pollution has raised health concerns in cities like Delhi. India needs to learn from other countries-

The level of ethanol blending in India is low as compared to other countries. Today most of the countries of the world are increasing the proportion of ethanol blending to reduce the use of fossil fuels. For example, Brazil is blending up to 48% ethanol in petrol. Ethanol blending will lead to the use of alternative and eco-friendly fuels.

Potential benefits of ethanol blending:-

- Reducing crop burning and converting agricultural waste into biofuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Alternative markets will be available for the crops, which will increase the income of the farmers.
- Reduction in import dependence on fossil fuels.

Comparison between battery-operated vehicles and ethanol-fuelled vehicles:-

- Ethanol-fuelled vehicles are more efficient, economical and convenient than electric vehicles.
- In battery-powered vehicles, the battery has to be charged with electricity, for which energy is usually obtained from coal. Therefore, it indirectly encourages the use of non-renewable energy whereas most of the ethanol-fuelled vehicles consume clean energy.
- Battery operated vehicles are less convenient as there is an infrastructure problem for charging stations and they are not efficient for long-distance travel whereas this is not a problem in ethanol fuel.

- The life span of the battery in vehicles is 8 to 10 years which increases the cost.

Limitations of energy obtained from renewable sources-

- There is still not enough production capacity of renewable sources.
- Renewable energy is generally unreliable because it is more affected by natural phenomena such as solar energy, wind energy, etc.

- The cost of renewable energy is high. In addition, the maintenance cost adds up to the total cost.

- Renewable energy will also require the replacement of conventional engines which can increase the cost of production of the vehicle.

Way Forward-

It is our duty to give a healthy environment to future generations, for which it is

necessary to move towards alternatives to fossil fuels. The Ethanol Blending Program can support our goal. This requires an integrated approach and a coherent policy. The government must build a sustainable and resilient future by shifting dependency on fossil fuels.

SCIENCE-TECH

1

Norovirus: Found in Wayanad district in Kerala

Why in News?

A case of another disease named Norovirus has been confirmed in Wayanad, Kerala. Two weeks ago, norovirus infection was reported in 13 students of a veterinary college at Pookode near Vythiri in Wayanad district. In view of this, the Kerala government has asked people to be alert and has also issued some guidelines in this regard.

Norovirus is contagious-

Norovirus is a contagious infection. It was formerly known as the Norwalk virus. Another name for this is winter vomiting disease. This virus originated in America. Cases of infection with this virus are very high in America, but it is not considered fatal.

Symptoms of Norovirus-

In July this year, 154 new cases were registered in England. Symptoms of this virus infection are sudden vomiting and diarrhea, along with high fever, body pain. These symptoms appear about one to two days after infection. It is a zoonotic disease i.e. spread from animals to humans. Its spread is very fast. The virus

is spread through contaminated food and water and through an infected person. An infected person can spread millions of particles of norovirus, and only a few particles are enough to become infected. Some experts say that norovirus does not greatly affect healthy people, it can be serious for young children, the elderly and people with other health problems.

Efforts being made by Kerala Government

Officials in Kerala have said that 'super chlorination' is being done to purify the water. Apart from this, people infected with norovirus have been advised to take rest at home. Doctors have the opinion that such people should drink ORS and boiled water. People should wash their hands thoroughly with soap before eating food and after using the toilet. Clothes and toilets should be kept clean and household spaces should be cleaned by adding bleach to the water. This virus is not eradicated by alcohol like coronavirus, but it is beneficial if clothes are cleaned at a temperature of 60 ° C.

NOTES

2

NCRA has discovered eight new “main-sequence radio pulse emitters”.

Astronomers from the National Center for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) in Pune have discovered eight such stars which belong to a rare category. Which are called main-sequence radio pulse emitters (MRP).

These MRPs have been discovered by the ‘Giant Meter-Wave Radio Telescope (GMRT)’. These rare-class radio stars are hotter than the Sun. They have unusually strong magnetic fields. Due to which these stars emit bright radio vibrations. Earlier also three more similar MRP stars have been discovered using GMRT.

When was the first MRP discovered?

The first MRP star was discovered in the

year 2000 due to the high sensitivity of GMRT.

Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (GMRT)

The completely indigenously built GMRT is located near Pune.

It is a series of 45 meter diameter parabolic radio telescopes, which observe meter wavelengths. GMRT is a versatile instrument capable of investigating various radio astrophysical problems ranging from the solar system to the observable universe. It is operated by the National Center for Radio Astrophysics. It was constructed from 1984 to 1996. Due to the recently upgraded receivers, it is now known as the Upgraded Giant Meter

Wave Radio Telescope (UGMRT).

National Center for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA)

NCRA is a research institute, which works in the field of radio astronomy. It is located in the Pune University campus. NCRA has active research programs in many areas of astronomy and astrophysics, such as the study of the Sun, pulsars, interplanetary scintillation, active galaxies, interstellar mediums, etc.

ECONOMY

1

Minimum Support Price

Why in News?

Even after the announcement of withdrawal of agricultural bills by the Prime Minister, farmers’ unions will continue to protest till the Minimum Support Price (MSP) becomes regular and permanent.

What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

- Minimum Support Price is a means of intervention by the Government of India in the agricultural markets, which protects the farmers from the volatility in the agricultural markets.
- Minimum Support Price was introduced for wheat in 1966-67 during the Green Revolution.

Objectives of Minimum Support Price-

The objectives of Minimum Support Price

are followings:-

- Farmers can increase investment in agriculture.
- Increase farmer production so as to ensure food security and farmer income.
- Adoption of advanced farming techniques and investment should be available to the farmer.

Who determines MSP?

On the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the support price is announced at the time of sowing the crops. This increases the bargaining power of the farmers. At present, it is issued on 23 items, including seven kinds of cereal (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley, and ragi), five pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad and lentil), and 8 oil

seeds (groundnut, mustard, Soybean, sunflower seeds, sesame, nigerseeds) along with coconut, raw cotton, raw jute, and tobacco are included.

Note: There is no Minimum Support Price on sugarcane. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for Sugarcane fixes the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane.

Benefit from MSP:

- In the case of surplus production, there should be a fall in the price of food grains based on the market rule but the MSP protects the farmers from such uncertainty.
- The crops included in MSP mainly include cereals and pulses which play an important role in achieving the goal of

food security.

- It gives farmers access to investment, finance, and motivation to increase production.
- Continuously decreasing profit in agriculture, MSP is a ray of hope for the farmers.

Problems in minimum support price:

- Only a few crops have been included in the Minimum Support Price, so the farmer produces only those crops in the hope

of a certain profit. Due to which the crop rotation is affected and the production of other crops stops.

- The main benefit of MSP has been to the areas affected by the Green Revolution and the farmers of these areas did not keep into mind area's climate and produced MSP cereals, which has affected the environment. For example, exploitation of ground water for rice production in Punjab.

- Corruption in the government sector,

strict rules and lack of awareness among the farmers results in the middlemen getting the benefit of MSP, who take the crop from the farmers at a lower price and sell it to the government at the MSP price.

For the improvement of agriculture, it is necessary to rationalize the minimum support price so that the farmers get maximum benefit and there is minimum burden on the Government funds.

2

Cryptocurrency regulation: Need and Scope

Context:

Recently in Sydney Dialogue, the Indian Prime Minister has talked about global cooperation in the virtual address on Cryptocurrency.

What is CryptoCurrency?

There is no clear definition of cryptocurrency globally. In fact, this currency originated in the form of a cryptocurrency called bitcoin whose founder is believed to be Satoshi Nakamoto. This currency is based on a technology called Blockchain. Cryptocurrencies cannot be regulated because blockchain technology removes third parties from any transaction. It is a fully electronic transaction system based on blockchain technology which is interpersonal and decentralized. There are currently more than 1500 cryptocurrencies in use. In addition to bitcoin, Libra, Ethereum, etc. are some examples of cryptocurrencies.

Benefits of crypto currency

- The biggest advantage of crypto currency is its privacy. In the absence of any third parties, personal information of people is protected which is essential for data protection.
- Additionally, cryptocurrency transactions do not require any bank or other intermediary, which increases the efficiency of the transaction and enables transactions at very low cost.
- Foreign transactions are also possible

using cryptocurrencies without any additional charges.

Cryptocurrency concerns:

Despite having a suitable electronic transaction system, there are many concerns associated with cryptocurrency, which require its regulation.

- Being a decentralized system, cryptocurrency cannot be regulated.
- There is no guarantee of cryptocurrency in the way that the rupee is guaranteed by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Cryptocurrency demands very high technology while the number of people using such advanced technology in the whole world including India is very less.
- After investing in cryptocurrency, the investor becomes extremely vulnerable to any kind of fraudulent fraud.
- There may be a possibility of using cryptocurrency transactions for any illegal work such as arms, drug supply, black marketing etc.
- You cannot get a refund of your money if you make a mistake in your cryptocurrency transaction.

Efforts to regulate cryptocurrencies:

Many steps are being taken by the Government of India for the regulation of cryptocurrency. Some important regulations are as follows:

The government will bring 'The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill 2021' in the winter session

of Parliament to regulate cryptocurrencies. All private cryptocurrencies will be banned in this bill. For the proper use of cryptocurrency technology, the government will make a provision for a framework for running government digital currency on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in this bill.

Conclusion:

The cryptocurrency was banned by the Reserve Bank of India in 2018 but that ban has been removed by the Supreme Court. Cryptocurrency has the potential to become the currency of the future, so India being a technology-oriented country cannot run away from it. Therefore it is necessary that the regulatory system of India should regulate cryptocurrency. The government is making continuous efforts in this direction.

NOTES

NEWS OF NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

1. 52nd International Film Festival held in Goa

The 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India was held in Goa from 20 to 28 November. American director Martin Scorsese and Hungarian director Istvan Szabo were honored with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the festival. This year the chairman of the jury was Iranian filmmaker Ms. Rakhshan Banietmad.



2. India elected to the Executive Board of UNESCO

India has been re-elected to the Executive Board of UNESCO (2021-25 term). This time India has got 164 votes. India has been elected to Group IV of Asian and Pacific states. The Executive Board of UNESCO oversees the organization's program and related budget estimates. The Executive Board of UNESCO consists of 58 members and each member has a four-year term.

3. India won seven medals in the Asian Archery Championships.

This year Asian Archery Championship (2021) was held in Dhaka. India won seven medals in this championship. India won one gold, four silver, and two bronze medals. The Korean team defeated the Indian trio of Ankita Bhakta, Ridhi Four and Madhu Vedawan in the women's recurve final.



4. Football commentator Novi Kapadia passes away

Famous football commentator and former Delhi University professor Novi Kapadia passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 67 years old. Novi Kapadia was suffering from motor neuron disease, a rare disorder in which neurons in the spine and brain gradually stop working. Apart from being a football commentator, Kapadia has also authored several books, among which are Barefoot to Boots, The Many Lives of Indian Football.

5. Prakash Padukone receives Badminton World Federation's Lifetime Achievement Award

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) will honor India's legendary badminton player Prakash Padukone with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Prakash Padukone's name was nominated by the Badminton Association of India. After which the Indian veteran has been shortlisted by the BWF Council on the proposal of the BWF Awards Commission. Earlier in 2018, he has also received BAI's Lifetime Achievement Award.



6. Smriti Irani's first novel 'Lal Salaam' published

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani has written her first novel titled 'Lal Salaam'. This novel is inspired by a true incident. The novel is based on the killing of 76 CRPF personnel in Dantewada in April 2010. Smriti Irani said that this novel is a tribute to the extraordinary persons who have faced the challenges in the Red Corridor.

7. State's first air pollution control tower installed in Noida, Uttar Pradesh

The state's first air pollution control tower has been installed in Noida city of Uttar Pradesh. This Air Pollution Control Tower (APCT) has been built near Sector 16 on the green belt of the DND Expressway. The tower has been built by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. In Noida from November to January, the Air Quality Index (AQI) drops to a low of 320 to 400. Along with absorbing the dirty air, this tower will also diagnose the filter particulate matter installed on it.



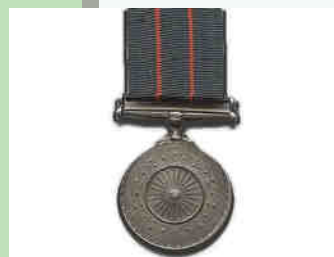
8. Indigenous INS Visakhapatnam commissioned into Indian Navy

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the indigenously built INS Visakhapatnam into the Indian Navy on 21 November 2021 at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. The first ship built under Project 15B, INS Visakhapatnam is a stealth-guided missile destroyer. It is designed by the Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. It measures 163 meters in length, 17 meters in width with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes. It can be considered as one of the most powerful warships built in India. INS Visakhapatnam has been designed in such a way that it is capable of fighting in nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) warfare situations.



9. Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations presented to Armed Forces Personnel

At a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Ram Nath Kovind presented gallantry awards and distinguished service medals. Corps of Engineers Sapper Prakash Jadhav was posthumously awarded the Kirti Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award. While Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal and Naib Subedar Sombir have been awarded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously. At the same time, Veer chakra was given to Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman.



10. Andhra Pradesh ranks first in Indian Police Foundation's Smart Policing Index

Andhra Pradesh ranks first in the list of Indian Police Foundation's Smart Policing Index. On the other hand, Telangana and Assam are in second and third place respectively. Uttar Pradesh Police (with 5.81 marks) has secured 28th rank in this index. The idea of smart policing was introduced by PM Modi in the conference of DGPs of state and central police organizations held in Guwahati in 2014.

IPF Smart Policing Survey 2021:

- In this survey of the Indian Police Foundation, 28 states and 8 union territories of India have been included.
- Around 10 areas of smart policing were identified by the IPF in the survey. This included 6 indicators of competence, 3 indicators of values and 1 indicator of public confidence.
- A score from 1 to 10 has been given in this survey. A score of 10 meant the highest satisfaction level.
- The survey included experts from IIT-Kanpur, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and other institutions.



11. Handloom village to be set up in Manipur

The Ministry of Textiles has decided to set up a handloom village at Moirang, Manipur. The city of Moirang in Manipur is important in the history of India's independence movement. The Indian National Army (INA) led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisted the tricolor flag here in the Imphal campaign during World War II. In memory of this event in history, an INA museum is located in Moirang.



12. ABU-UNESCO Peace Media Awards

UNESCO in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union organized the ABU-UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The show produced by Doordarshan and All India Radio has received several awards at the event. Doordarshan's program 'Definitely Leading the Way' won an award under the 'Living Well with Super Diversity' category. On the other hand, All India Radio's program 'Living on the Edge- The Coastal Life' has won the award in the category of 'Ethics and Sustainable Relationship with Nature'.



13. Fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation held in Kolkata

The Fifth East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Kolkata. This conference was organized in partnership with Australia. At the conference, experts discussed maritime security cooperation. At the conference, experts discussed maritime security cooperation.

- Maritime security.
- Sharing of resources and information.
- Science and technology cooperation.
- Epidemic and disaster risk reduction and management.

The first such conference was held in New Delhi in November 2015 where as the 4th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Chennai.

**EAST ASIA SUMMIT****PROMOTING PEACE,
STABILITY AND PROSPERITY****INDIRA
GANDHI
PEACE
PRIZE**

14. NGO Pratham got Indira Gandhi Award for the year 2021

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2021 will be given to NGO Pratham. Pratham has been given this award for his contribution in the field of quality education. The Indira Gandhi Award is given annually by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. The award is given annually since 1968 for peace, disarmament and development. The award carries a citation and an amount of Rs.25 lakh.

15. SDG Urban Index 2021-22 released by NITI Aayog

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Urban Index 2021-22 has been released by NITI Aayog. A total of 56 urban areas were included in the index. Out of 56 urban areas, 44 areas have a total population of more than 1 million. Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) has got first place in this index. On the other hand, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Chandigarh are in second and third place respectively. The last three urban areas in the index are Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) respectively. NITI Aayog believes that such indices will strengthen the localization of SDGs.



16. Andhra Pradesh Best Marine State in Fisheries Sector

On the occasion of 'World Fisheries Day', the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying have awarded the Best Marine State to Andhra Pradesh. In the fisheries sector, Balasore has been named India's "Best Performing Maritime District". This is the first time that any district of Odisha has received this award. Telangana and Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh) got the best award for inland state and district respectively. Tripura has got the best hill state award.



17. El Salvador to Build World's First Bitcoin City

El Salvador has officially announced that it will issue the world's first sovereign bitcoin bond, as well as build a bitcoin city, free of income, assets and capital gains. The city of Bitcoin will be established in the eastern part of the city of La Union. In an announcement except for VAT, no other tax will be levied on the city. It is estimated that the total cost of the city's public infrastructure is around 300,000 bitcoins.



18. 'GopalRatna' award to Kamdhenu Hitkari Manch

Kamdhenu Hitkari Manch of Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh has been given the 'GopalRatna' award by the Union Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. This award has been given in the category of Best Dairy Cooperative Society. Along with this, the award of 'Best Milk Cooperative Society' has also been given to Kamdhenu Hitkari Manch. Kamdhenu Hitkari Manch is one of the leading dairy cooperatives in the state.



19. Magdalena Andersen becomes first female prime minister of Sweden

Magdalena Andersen has been approved by the Swedish parliament as the first female prime minister of the country. This is the first time Sweden will be headed by a woman. Once approved by parliament, Magdalena Anderson will replace Stefan Lofven, leader of the center-left Social Democrats.



20. NFHS-5 Report: Women Outnumber Men In India

According to the report of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 2019-21, the number of women in India has exceeded that of men. It has been said in this report that the sex ratio in India has increased to 1,020. This means that there are now 1,020 females per 1000 males in India. Comparing the previous years, it has been told in the report that the sex ratio fell from 1,000 in 2005-06 to 991 in 2015-16. The NFHS-5 sex ratio figures differ from the census figures. For example, according to the 2011 census, the sex ratio in India is 940, while according to the 2015-16 NFHS-4 survey, the sex ratio was 991. The worst urban sex ratio in the NFHS-5 survey was found in the union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. There are 775 females per 1000 males.



21. Constitution Day celebrated on 26 November

Like every year, this year also Constitution Day has been celebrated on 26 November. On this day in 1949, the Indian Constitution was adopted and enacted by the Constituent Assembly. Later on 26 January 1950, the constitution was implemented. It was decided by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to make 26 November as Constitution Day from 2015. The purpose of celebrating Constitution Day is to promote constitutional values among citizens. The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any democratic nation in the world.



22. NASA launches planetary defense system DART



NASA has launched the world's first planetary defense system Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART). This NASA spacecraft was launched by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. For the experiment, this mission will collide with the Dimorphos asteroid. There is no danger to the earth from this asteroid, it is just an experiment keeping in mind the future dangers. NASA estimates that DART will hit Dimorphos between September 26 and October 1, 2022.

23. Tashkent to host Asian Youth Para Games in 2025

On the recommendation of the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC), the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games has been hosted by Tashkent. With the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Uzbekistan, these games will be organized in Tashkent in late September or early October 2025. The fourth edition (in December) of the 2021 Asian Youth Para Games will be held in Bahrain.



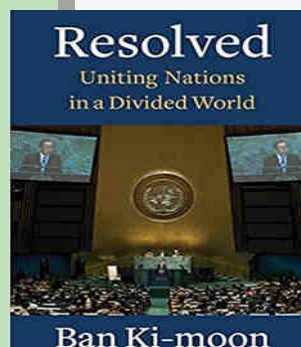
24. Five-day biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' concluded



The 15th edition of India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' concluded in the Maldives on 24 November. This is the 30th edition of the exercise 'Dosti'. The first such exercise was held in the year 1991 between India and Maldives. Further in the year 2012, Sri Lanka also joined this exercise. ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva have participated from the Indian side for the five-day exercise in the Maldives.

25. Ban Ki-moon's autobiography "Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World" published

Ban Ki-moon (former Secretary-General of the United Nations) has published his autobiography "Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World". Ban Ki-moon was the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations for two terms 2007-2016. The interesting fact about Ban Ki-moon is that his first appointment as a diplomat was in India. He has served as the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations for two 5-year terms (2007-2016). His book is being published by Harper Collins India. In this autobiography, he has told the sequence of changes in his own personality.



Meaning of repealing a law:-

- Nullifying a law can be done in many ways, repealing is one of the ways.
- A "Sunset" clause can be added during legislation process, a date after which it ceases to exist.
- Parliament passes another legislation to repeal a law, for which there is no sunset clause.

How the government repeal a law?

- Article 245 says, "Subject to the provisions of this constitution, Parliament may make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India and the Legislature of a state may make laws for the whole or any part of the State."
- Parliament draws its power to repeal a law from the same provisions.
- Parliament can repeal a law in entirety, in part or even just to the extent that it is in contravention of other laws.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19, 2021 announced the repeal of the three contentious farm laws. These laws had witnessed protests from farmers for more than a year.

Repealed farm laws

- The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020. This act allowed trade in agriculture produce outside the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandies.
- The farmers (Empowerment and protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. This provided a framework for contract farming.
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. This act was aimed at removing the restrictions on stocking of certain essential commodities such as cereals, pulses, oil seeds, edible oil, onion, potato etc.

Process to Repeal a Law:-

- Law can be repealed in two ways
 - o Through an ordinance
 - o Through legislation
- When repealed through an ordinance, a law passed by Parliament would have to replace it within 6 months.
- After issuing the ordinance, if the law is not passed by Parliament in 6 months, repealed law gets revived.
- Legislation to repeal a law, have to pass through both the houses and get President's assent before it comes into force.



Farm laws repealed

Need of the Acts:-

- Reforms in the agricultural marketing is a long pending demand. It comes under the purview of state governments.
- In the early 2000's Central Government pushed for reforms in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APC) Acts of the state.
- In the backdrop of huge majority in 2019 general elections, current government tried to implement the reforms by passing these laws.

Circumstances:- when laws were passed

- Under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to support the economy during the fight against covid-19, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced these reforms.
- Union cabinet approved these three laws and initially cleared them as ordinances in June 2020.
- Government moved them as bills in monsoon session in September 2020.
- Not only opposition but also NDA allies, protested against the bills.

Impact of the repeal:-

- May be these 3 Farm laws had some deficiencies in design and mechanism but supporters of reform say they were in Right direction.
- Government's push for the reforms without consulting many stakeholders created this backlash.
- Repeal confirms the need for wider consultations & better design of reforms.
- It would also stop the government from pursuing reforms in stealth mode.

Constituent assembly demanded

- For the first time, M. N. Roy in 1934 demanded a Constituent Assembly for India.
- Indian National Congress officially demanded a Constituent Assembly for the first time in 1935.
- By "August offer" in 1940, British government finally accepted the demand in principle.
- Cripps Mission came to India in 1942 and offered full dominion status after the end of World War-II. Gandhi called the Cripps offer a "Postdated Cheque drawn on a falling Bank".
- Cabinet Mission came to India in 1946; it put forth a scheme for the Constituent Assembly.

Composition of the constituent assembly

The Constituent Assembly had 389 members. Of it 296 were from British India and 93 were from Princely States.

First meeting of Constituent Assembly

- First meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held on December 9, 1946.
- Dr. Sachidananda Sinha was elected as the temporary President of the assembly.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Constituent Assembly.

Objective Resolution

- On December 13, 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru presented Objective Resolution in Constituent Assembly.
- It laid down the fundamental and philosophy of the constitutional structure.

Indian Independence act passed

Due to Indian Independence Act 1947, three major changes took place:-

- The Constituent Assembly became of fully sovereign body.
- Now Constituent Assembly had to perform two task:-
 - 1. Constitution making:-** It was chaired by Dr Rajendra Prasad. Later Dr Rajendra Prasad became the first President of India.
 - 2. Provincial Legislature:-** It was chaired by G V Mavalankar. Later he became the first Speaker of Lok Sabha of India.
- Muslim league members (from Pakistan areas) withdrew from the Constituent Assembly for India. Now Constituent Assembly had 299 members, of which 229 members were from Indian Provinces and 70 were from princely states.

Constituent Assembly's Committees:-

- Union Power Committee- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Union Constitution Committee- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Provincial Constitution Committee- Sardar Patel
- Drafting Committee- Dr B R Ambedkar
- Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas- Sardar Patel
- Steering committee- Dr Rajendra Prasad
- Rules of Procedure committee- Dr Rajendra Prasad

Drafting Committee

- On 29th August, 1947 Constituent Assembly appointed the Drafting Committee. It's 7 members were
 1. Dr BR Ambedkar (Chairman)
 2. N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar
 3. Alladi Krishna swamy Ayyar
 4. Syed Mohammed Saadullah
 5. Dr K M Munshi
 6. N Madhava Rau (Replaced B L Mitter)
 7. TTKrishnamachari (Replaced DP Khaitan)
- On 21st February, 1948 the first draft of the Constitution of India was published.

Process of Making the Constitution

Constitution's enforcement

- On 26th November 1949, Constitution of India was partially enforced.
- Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 60, 324, 366, 367, 379, 380, 388, 391, 392 and 393 came into force on 26th November 1949.
- On 26th January 1950 rest of the articles came into force.
- "Commencement of the Constitution" took place on 26 January 1950

Enactment of the Constitution

- Final draft of the Constitution of India was introduced on 4th November, 1948 and the first reading took place.
- Second reading took place from 15th November, 1948 to 17th October 1949.
- Third reading took place from 14th November 1949 to 26th November 1949.
- On 26th November 1949, Constituent Assembly adopted the "Constitution of India". It had a Preamble, 395 Articles in 22 parts and 8 Schedules.



Reach of the scheme

- During the first lockdown, only the families having ration card were eligible.
- During May and June 2020, under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme, 8 lakh tonnes of food grain was made available to states for distribution to stranded migrants and other without ration cards.
- The 2011 Census data, put the cap of 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries.

Why in news?

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is to provide free food grains to 80 crore ration card holders as part of the Covid-19 relief was coming to an end in the month of November, 2021.

About PMGKAY

- In March 2020, when the government announced the first countrywide lockdown, PMGKAY was part of Centre's initial Covid-19 relief package.
- Under the scheme 80 crore beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) are getting 5 kg wheat or rice every month absolutely free.
- This is not at all linked to the 5kg food grain available at a subsidised rate to the ration card holders.
- This scheme helped in food grains availability, when due to pandemic jobs were lost and livelihoods were destroyed.

Scale of the scheme

- Scheme was initially started for April to June, 2020. Then extended from July to November 2020.
- In this phase 320 lakh tonnes of grains were allotted to beneficiaries.
- During the second wave of the pandemic, scheme was rolled out for May and June 2021. It was again extended for July to November, 2021.
- 278 lakh tonnes was allotted for this period.

Damping hunger during fight against COVID-19

Status

- On 24th November 2021 centre decided to continue the scheme for four more months, i.e. till March 2022.
- Centre acknowledged that poor families still need food security support in the middle of a recovering economy.
- Centre also added, economy is getting back on track and the data is showing much better condition.

Debate

A.) For

- Supreme Court judgement, record level of unemployment and widespread hunger among vulnerable sections make a perfect case for not only extension of PMGKAY but also for universalized Public Distribution System (PDS). So that all the needy persons could get assured food supply.
- Pulses and cooking oil should also be added, considering the high prices in open market.

B.) Against

- Economy is reviving and the open market sale system (OMSS) is working good.
- Respective states can buy food grains from open market according to the need of migrant workers and vulnerable sections.

Food stock with FCI

- Despite higher outgo due to PMGKAY, currently food grain stock is at record 616 lakh tonnes with Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- The stock is expected to be 942 lakh tonnes by June 2022 after Rabi season procurement.



Why in news

- In India and globally rising prices have gained a lot of attention. On 10th November 2021, the United States Labour Department reported the retail inflation at 6.2 % in October
- Data released by National Statistical Office showed retail inflation in India has rose to 4.5 % for the October month

Inflation:- Rise in Price

- Inflation is the rate of increase in prices over a given period of time
- Inflation is a broad measure, such as the overall increase in cost of most goods and services of daily or common use, such as food, clothing, housing or living in the country etc.
- Inflation is indicative of the drop in the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency
- A High inflation destroys the purchasing power of the people.

Inflation measurement

In India, inflation is measured by two main indices:-

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):-** The difference in the prices of goods and services sold by businesses to smaller businesses for selling further is calculated by the WPI
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):-** The difference in the prices of commodities and services such as food, medical care, transport etc. is calculated by CPI

Inflation:- causes

- High demand and low production create a demand supply gap, which leads to rise in prices.
- Money loses its purchasing power due to excess circulation and this leads to inflation
- When people have more money, they tend to spend more and this leads to increased demand
- Rise in the production cost of goods also causes inflation as the cost of the final product rises.

Why is US inflation an area of interest?

- 6.2% is the largest year on year increase in the last three decades
- The Federal bank targets an inflation rate up to 2%
- Retail inflation in US has been rising sharply almost every month since May 2020
- It's a surprise for most economist and policymakers, all of whom were more focused on staving off a prolonged recession.

Reason of high inflation in US

- Due to rapid roll out of Covid-19 vaccination drive in US, economy posted a sharp recovery
- Further the US government pumped billions of dollars to provide relief to consumers and those who lost their jobs
- Due to these, demand have recovered but supply hasn't
- Even during normal times, supply chains would need some time to start functioning normally and cater the demand
- The mismatch between pace of economic recovery and supply chain recovery have led to the demand and supply gap

Condition of other economies

Most of major economies of the world are facing the sharp rise in inflation.

Condition in India

- In India, high inflation predates the pandemic
- Since late 2019, inflation has been above Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone of 2% to 6%
- Pandemic has put brakes on supply side although the demand size is yet below the pre-Covid levels.

Impact of high inflation rate of US on India

Impact on India

- Higher imported inflation
- Due to high inflation, global economies will abandon loose monetary policy
- Two big effects on India
 1. The cost of raising money outside will be higher
 2. RBI will be pushed to raise the interest rates leading to the rise in inflation and production cost going upwards

What's in the future for India

- More inflation as supply has not recovered and demand is increasing
- Core inflation rate is above 6%
- India's inflation will worsen with the global increase in prices.



Why in news

Recently heavy rains in Chennai and other Southern Indian states cities have caused massive urban floods. In India, frequency of urban floods has increased in recent years, affecting the whole India.

Definition

Floods can be defined as “the submergence of usually dry area where large amount of water that comes from sudden excessive rainfall, an overflowing river or lake, melting snow or and an exceptionally high tide”

Effects of UF

- **Primary** :- Casualties & Property loss
- **Secondary** :- Contamination of water, Loss of entire harvest, Spread of water-borne diseases
- **Tertiary** :- Economic hardship, Loss of tourism, Food shortage, Rebuilding cost, price increase.

Types of cities

- **Coastal cities**:- Flood in coastal cities are compounded by high tides depending on the time of the event.
- **Inland cities**:- Immediate water discharge and prevention of waterlogging is a challenge in inland cities.
- **Hill towns**:- Challenged with very high runoff, short flow duration and high scouring on account of slope, floods may also trigger mudflow and landslide.
- **Cities along rivers**:- Challenged with shifting water course in the middle and lower Ganga plains or unexpected high water discharge in-course.

Way forward

- Focus on increasing the resilience of communities and adaptive capacity of infrastructure
- Water sensitive urban design and planning techniques in the context of implementation are of utmost importance
- Vulnerability analysis and risk assessment should form part and parcel of city master plans.

Urban flood risk in India

- There has been an increasing trend of urban flood disasters in India.
- A special feature in India is that we have heavy rainfall during monsoons.
- There are other weather systems also that bring in a lot of rain.
- Storm surges can also affect coastal cities/towns
- Sudden release or failure to release water from dams can also have severe impact
- The urban heat Island effect has resulted in an increase in rainfall over urban areas
- Global climate change is resulting in changed weather patterns and increased episodes of high-intensity rainfall events occurring in shorter period of periods of time.
- The threat of sea level rise is also looming large, threatening all the coastal cities

Most vulnerable

- Vulnerability of the poor is profound and lingering in our cities
- Flood water circulate untreated solid waste and faecal matter around squatter settlements, which leads to outbreak of malaria, dengue, diarrhoea etc. for a much longer time than the season of rainfall.

Responsibility

- Our cities have been built with little to no regard to the natural topography and severely lacks holistic action.
- Provisions like rain water harvesting, sustainable urban drainage etc. in regulatory mechanism like Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or building by laws of almost every state, adoption at user end as well as enforcement agencies remains weak
- Encroachment on river beds, flow channels, silting of water bodies adds to the severity of floods.

City level actions

- Establishment of Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
EOC will be headed by District Commissioner/District Magistrate/Municipal Commissioner. EOC acts as the brain and nervous for coordination and management of all emergencies
- Function of EOC
 1. Coordination with line agencies.
 2. Policy making and plan preparation as per SOP
 3. Direction and monitoring of Operations Management
 4. Information gathering and record keeping
 5. Public information and citizen updation
 6. Resource management
 7. Reporting
- Composition of EOC
 1. Chairman :- District Commissioner/District Magistrate/Municipal

Urban floods

Commissioner
2. Member of line agencies in management of urban projects such as Municipal Corporation, Municipal Health and Sanitation Department, Urban Development Authority, Fire Brigade, Public Transport, Police Commissionerate, Traffic Police, Home Guards and Civil Defence, Indian Metrological Department (Regional Office), Public Works Department, Power Supply Department, Railways, Telecommunication, Food and Civil Supplies, Irrigation and Flood Control and others.



Why in News?

A Russian official broke the news about delivery of S-400 air defence system to India. Location being stated of the first unit is western border of India.

About S-400

- S-400 is considered one of the most advanced and potent air defence system in the world.
- S-400 Triumf has the capability to protect against almost all sorts of aerial attacks, including rockets, cruise and ballistic missiles, drones and fighter jets
- NATO has named it as SA-21 Growler
- S-400 acts as a shield over a particular area and it is a long range surface to air missile defence system
- It is an "anti-access/area denial" (A2/AD) asset
- It is designed to protect military, political and economic assets from aerial attacks
- Each of S-400 has two batteries, each has a command and control system
- S-400 comes with 4 types of missiles
 1. Short range upto 40 km
 2. Medium range up to 120 km
 3. Long range upto 250 km
 4. Very long range up to 400 km
- S-400 can simultaneously track up to 160 objects in 600 km range and target 72 objects in 400 km range.

Working

- S-400 detects an aerial threat approaching it's a defence zone. It calculates its trajectory and fires missile to counter it
- S-400 has long range surveillance radars that sends information to the command vehicle which orders the missile launch.

Deal's importance for India

- S-400 a 'game changer' is very important regarding threats from China, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- S-400 offset the IAF's dwindling fighter squadron strength
- Integration of S-400 into national air defence architecture will be easier as India has a large number of Russian air defence systems
- By buying S-400, India has maintained its 'strategic autonomy'.

Delivery status

- According to high ranking Russian official, Russia has started supplying S-400 to India and the first division will be delivered by the end of 2021
- India has placed order for five units in October 2018.
- The Indian government had told in Parliament that the final deliveries of all units are likely to be completed by April, 2023.

Customers of S-400

- Belarus, Algeria, Turkey and China have bought the air defence system from Russia.
- Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar have shown interest in the air defence system

A Multi-tier Air defence system:-purchase and implications

CAATSA used against

- **China:-** For the purchase of S-400 and Sukhoi-35 combat aircraft from Russian from Russian firm Rosoborn-export
- **Turkey:-** In 2020 for the purchase of S-400, Ankara has been sanctioned. Apart from it, sale of F-35 jets have also been cancelled.

India's stand

- India has not back down under the US pressure.
- In a press briefing the Ministry of External Affairs conceded that the issue was "under discussion" between India and the U.S. for some time. "It was raised, and we have discussed it and explained our perspective. And the discussions on this are on-going"

Why US is disconcerted

- US wants India to lessen its military hardware dependency on Russia.
- Under Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) USA can sanction countries for buying Russian defence equipment.
- Induction of S-400 creates a hindrance to the 'inter-operability' of the forces



Why in news

The World Bank Group based in Washington DC, stated on September 16, 2021 that the publication of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) ranking is being halted.

What is the EoDB Ranking

- The ranking outlines the level of regulation in 190 economics
- It compares the 12 parameters, needed to starting, sustaining and winding down a business
- Parameters are Starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Registering Property, Getting Credit, Protecting Minority Investors, Paying Taxes, Trading across borders, Enforcing Contracts and Resolving Insolvency
- The "Enforcing Contracts indicator" is essential to the success of the Doing Business report.
- Time, cost & quality of Judicial Process are the three variables which the World Bank has taken into account for ranking the countries.

Importance of the report

- Nations around the world monitor this index
- This index shows the ranking of nations from most business-friendly to worst
- This report is very competitive and dynamic
- The developing countries like India, China, South Africa, Indonesia, Brazil and Nigeria has put special focus on the index in seeking more foreign direct investment

The wrong doing

- Former World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and ex-CEO Kristalina Georgieva, instructed the Doing Business team to re-evaluate China's data to keep its rank at 78
- Internal audits had been activated in June 2020 with allegations of data manipulation
- Concerns were raised about China's undue influence at World Bank.

Why in such a bad shape

- In January 2018, Paul Romer, the World Bank's chief economist announced that the ranking of last four years will be corrected and recalculated.
- Chile was unfairly penalised during the administration of President Michelle Bachelet.
- After the findings of past reviews and audits, the management of World Bank has decided to discontinue the Doing Business report.

Reliability of the ranking

- Even before this controversy, it was openly known that there are several gaps
- The data takes into account just the cities like Delhi and Mumbai from India; Beijing and Shanghai from China.
- Once out of these cities, the 'Ease of doing business' would vary remarkably. These loop-holes were exploited in China's ranking.

Improving the methodology

An external panel of World Bank suggested

- More data collection from representative samples of 'actual' business owners
- Give importance to the government functions to provide essential public goods like transport, communication, skill workforce, law and order etc
- Improve the transparency and oversight of doing business
- Make the 'Contracting with government' indicator more relevant
- Restore and improve the 'Employing Workers' indicator but do not rank countries
- Eliminate the indicators 'Protecting Minority Shareholders' and 'Resolving Insolvency'
- Tax rates of countries should not be an indicator.

Publication of EoDB ranking; stopped

Government's Stand

- Centre has not officially commented on the matter.
- Some officials fear this will discredit India's overall ease of doing business endeavour
- Officials believe it will help exposing China's non-ethical practices
- India hopes, more business will shift their supply chains from China to India.

Importance of EoDB for India

- India's position jump from a low of 142 in 2014 to 63rd in 2019 an unparalleled feat
- India targeted to be in the top 50 club as soon as possible
- A wide range of reforms were initiated by government to improve the conditions of doing business across local, state and national levels
- Government marketed the ranking extensively before domestic and foreign audience



MCQs BASED ON HISTORY

1. Consider the following statements

1. B G Tilak founded the Home Rule League in April 1916, in Maharashtra.
2. N C Kelkar was not associated with Home Rule Movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) only 1
- (b) only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Who among the following was not associated with the activities of the Theosophical Society?

- (a) Madame H P Blavatsky
- (b) Mr A O Hume
- (c) Col H S Olcott
- (d) Mrs Annie Besant

3. Who among the following first used the word 'Swaraj' in its political sense and accepted Hindi as the national language of India?

- (a) Rammohan Roy
- (b) Swami Vivekananda
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi
- (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

4. Which one among the following thinkers argued that Maratha rule in General and Shivaji in Particular represented early nationalist consciousness in India?

- (a) Pandita Ramabai
- (b) MG Ranade
- (c) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

5. Statement 1: The social institutions of caste in India underwent major changes in the colonial period.

Statement 2: Caste, in contemporary society is more a product of ancient Indian tradition than of colonialism.

Codes:

- (a) Both the statements are true and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both the statements are true, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is true, But Statement 2 is false
- (d) Statement 1 is false, But Statement 2 is true

6. Statement 1: In India tribal movements of 19th century resulted out of the process of land displacements and the introduction of forest laws.

Statement 2: The Indian national movement resolved the problems faced by the tribals.

Codes:

- (a) Both the statements are true and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both the statements are true, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is true, But Statement 2 is false
- (d) Statement 1 is false, But Statement 2 is true

7. Statement 1: The economy of India in the 10th century came to a state of ruin under English East India Company. Statement 2: English East India Company's acquisition of Diwani right led to the miseries of the peasants and those associated with the traditional handicrafts industry of India.

Codes:

- (a) Both the statements are true and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both the statements are true, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is true, But Statement 2 is false
- (d) Statement 1 is false, But Statement 2 is true

8. Consider the following statement :

"India would be far more reliable as a base for operations. Moreover the prospect of a settlement will be greatly enhanced by the disappearance of Gandhi, who had for years torpedoed every attempt at a settlement."

The above statement was made by the British in the context of :

- (a) Kheda Satyagraha
- (b) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (c) Quit India Movement
- (d) Non-Cooperation Movement

9. The fortification of Calcutta by the British in 1756 was regarded by the Nawab of Bengal, Sirajuddaulah, as

- (a) growth of large-scale British trade
- (b) an attack upon his sovereignty
- (c) insecurity of the British in India
- (d) British control over Bengal

10. Several socio-political organisations were formed in the 19th and 20th centuries in India, Anjuman-e-Khawatin-e-Islam founded in the year 1914 was

- (a) All India Muslim Ladies Conference
- (b) A radical wing of the All Indian Muslim League
- (c) All India Muslim Student's Conference
- (d) All India Islamic Conference

11. In which one of the following sessions was the Indian National Congress split into moderates and extremists?

- (a) Nagpur
(b) Allahabad
(c) Surat
(d) Calcutta
12. Several nationalist leaders in India wrote commentaries on the Bhagavad Gita to argue the case for an ethical foundation to Indian nationalism, Who among the following is an exception to it?
(a) Sri Aurobindo
(b) Mahatma Gandhi
(c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(d) Ram Manohar Lohia
13. Which one among the following correctly describes Gandhiji's attitude towards the swarajist leaders?
(a) He was not opposed to their entry into council
(b) He had full trust in their bona fides and considered them most valued and respected leaders
(c) He was not in favour of maintaining warm personal relations with them
(d) He was neutral to government's offensive against the Swarajists and did not defend them
14. Consider the following statements about the European travellers to India:
1. Sir Thomas Roe, the representative of the East India Company, was granted the permission by Jahangir to open a factory at Surat.
2. Captain Hawkins was driven out from Agra by the Mughals at the instigation of the Portuguese.
3. Father Monserrate travelled with Akbar on his journey to Kashmir.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 and 3
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 1 and 3
15. The suppression of Indian language newspapers under the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was caused by the criticism of
(a) lavish lifestyle of the English officials
(b) ill-treatment given to indigo workers by their English masters
(c) inhuman approach of English officials towards the victims of the famine of 1876-77
(d) misuse of religious places of India by English officials
16. Which one among the following statements regarding Bal Gangadhar Tilak is not correct?
(a) He propounded the theory of the arctic home of the Aryans
(b) He founded the anti-cow-killing society
(c) He set up the home rule league at Poona
(d) He supported the age of consent bill
17. Which one among the following principles was not propagated by the theosophical society?
(a) Belief in karma and rebirth
(b) Belief in universal brotherhood and humanity
(c) Belief in vedantic philosophy
(d) Belief in the eradication of untouchability
18. Which one among the following statements is correct?
(a) The revolt of 1857 was not supported by Nizam of Hyderabad.
(b) Dinabandhu Mitra was the author of the book, Unhappy India.
(c) The Sindhias of Gwalior gave shelter to the Rani of Jhansi.
(d) Mangal Pandey led the sepoys March to Delhi.
19. Who among the following Governor-Generals formed the Triple Alliance against Tipu Sultan?
(a) Warren Hastings
(b) Lord Cornwallis
(c) Lord Wellesley
(d) Lord William Bentinck
20. The Cabinet Mission Plan for India envisaged a
(a) Federation
(b) Confederation
(c) Unitary form of Government
(d) Union of States
21. Which one among the following states was first annexed by Lord Dalhousie under the Doctrine of Lapse?
(a) Nagpur
(b) Jhansi
(c) Sambalpur
(d) Satara
22. Identify the correct sequence of the following events of India history (starting with the earliest)
1. The Doctrine of Lapse
2. The Subsidiary Alliance
3. The Treaty of Lahore
4. The Pitt's India Act
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 4, 2, 3, 1
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4
(c) 2, 1, 4, 3
(d) 3, 2, 1, 4

23. Match the following

List-I

- A. Iyothee Thass
B. Jyotiba Phule
C. Mahade G. Ranade
D. E V Ramaswami
Mahajana

List-II

- 1- Satyashodhak Samaj
2- Puna Sarwajanik Sabha
3- Self Respect Movement
4- Dravida Sabha

Codes:

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| (b) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| (c) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| (d) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |

24. Match the following

List-I

(Battle)

- A. The Third Carnatic
B. The Third Mysore
C. The First Maratha
D. The first Anglo

List-II

(Treaty)

- 1- Treaty of Salbai War
2- Treaty of Lahore War
3- Treaty of Paris War
4- Treaty of Sikh war
Sriangapatam

Codes:

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (c) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (d) | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |

25. The Name of Ram Prasad Bismil is associated with

- (a) Kanpur Conspiracy Case
(b) Alipore Conspiracy Case
(c) Kakori Conspiracy Case
(d) Meerut Conspiracy Case

26. Which one among the following was not a demand of the Prarthana Samaj?

- (a) Woman education
(b) Widow remarriage
(c) Raising the age of marriage for boys and girls
(d) Abolition of untouchability

27. Which of the following statements about Permanent Settlement are correct?

1. It conferred proprietary rights to peasants.
2. the Zamindars were recognised as the proprietors of land.
3. The government permanently fixed the land revenue demand.

4. The Zamindars acted as the middlemen between the peasants and the government.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 2, 3 and 4
(b) 3 and 4
(c) 1 and 4
(d) 1 and 3

28. The Viceregal Lodge at Shimla is a well-known ancient monument. Which of the following statements about the monuments are correct?

1. The Lodge was built by 17th Viceroy, Earl Dufferin.
2. The present shape of the building was given by Earl of Marquis of Lansdowne.
3. It is famous for holding three meetings before Independence of India including the Cabinet Mission.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

29. Statement 1: Annie Beasant worked together with the Congress and the Muslim League during the Home Rule Movement.

Statement 2: Annie Beasant felt that this was necessary to get the support of the masses for the Home Rule Movement.

Codes:

- (a) Both the statements are true and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
(b) Both the statements are true, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
(c) Statement 1 is true, But Statement 2 is false
(d) Statement 1 is false, But Statement 2 is true

30. The Constituent Assembly of India was chosen on the basis of the provincial elections of 1946. with the withdrawal of the Muslim League from the Constituent Assembly, it turned out that majority of the assembly members were also members of the Congress. Under that circumstance, how was the Constituent Assembly given a broader social basis?

- (a) By nominating independent members from various minority groups
(b) By nominating independent members from various caste and religious groups
(c) By nominating independent members of different castes, religious groups and women and also by taking in representatives of the princely states and asking for written submission from the public at large
(d) By taking in representative of the princely states and asking for written submission from the public at large.

31. The first effort at drafting a Dominion Status Constitution for India was made in response to the
- Minto-Morley Reforms
 - Montague-Chelmsford Reforms
 - Simon Commission
 - First Round Table Conference
32. What was the 'privy purse' in the context of the history of modern India?
- A purse given privately by one organization to another
 - A purse given by the government of India to dignitaries for service rendered
 - A grant given by the Government of India to the erstwhile Princes of India
 - Gift given by an erstwhile Prince of India to the Government of India
33. Which one among the following was not true about the Kerala king, Martanda Varma?
- He ruled over Travancore
 - He subdued the feudatories
 - He gave heavy bribes to the European officers to maintain peace
 - He organised a strong modern army
34. Which one among the following was a reason for which the French could not succeed in India in the 18th century?
- They sided with the weak Indian sides such as Chanda Sahib and Muzaffar Jang
 - Dupleix was called back at a crucial time
 - They conspired against the Indian powers
 - Their trading company was heavily dependent on the French Government
35. Who among the following was the first Governor General of India?
- Lord Amherst
 - Lord William Bentinck
 - Sir Charles Metcalfe
 - Robert Clive
36. Which one among the following is correct about the Doctrine of Lapse?
- It did not allow the Indian rulers to adopt any heir
 - It did not allow an adopted heir to rule a state after the death of the ruler
 - It made the annexation of Indian state compulsory after a death of a ruler
 - It made the annexation of India state compulsory if the adoption of heir had not been approved by the British authorities.
37. In 1856, Awadh would not have been annexed with the British empire if the Nawab of Awadh had
- allied with the British
 - not refused to introduce reforms as suggested by the British
 - fought against the British
 - a natural heir
38. Which of the statements given below about Swami Vivekananda are correct ?
- He believed that Vedanta was fully rational.
 - He criticised his countrymen for having lost touch with the outside world.
 - He condemned the caste system.
 - He considered the Veda to be infallible.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below –
- 1, 2 and 3
 - 2, 3 and 4
 - 1, 3 and 4
 - 1 and 2 only
39. Which of the statements given below about the Champaran Satyagraha is/are correct?
- It was related to Indigo Plantations.
 - It started because the European planters oppressed the Zamindars.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- Only 1
 - Only 2
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
40. Consider the following statements about the Ahmedabad Mill Strike of 1918 :
- It was related to a dispute between the workers and the European mill owners regarding hours of work.
 - Gandhiji advised the workers to go on strike
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Only 1
 - Only 2
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
41. Which one among the following statements appropriately defines the term 'drain theory' as propounded by Dadabhai Naoroji in his work 'Poverty and un-British Rule in India'?
- That a part of India's national wealth or total annual product was being exported to Britain for which India got no material returns
 - That the resources of India were being utilised in the interest of Britain
 - That the British industrialists were being given an opportunity to invest in India under the protection of

- the imperial power
- (d) That the British goods were being imported to India making the country poorer day by day
42. Which among the following was the most immediate factor for the spread of Swadeshi and boycott of foreign goods during the first decade of the last century?
- (a) Curzon's design to curtail the sphere of local self-government
- (b) Curzon's attempt to control the Universities
- (c) Curzon's partition of Bengal
- (d) Curzon's plan to curb the growing popularity of the Indian National Congress
43. Which of the following statements regarding Permanent Settlement is/are correct?
1. The Permanent Settlement was introduced in parts of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.
2. The Permanent Settlement created a new class of landlords with hereditary rights on land
3. The landlords created by the Permanent Settlement could never be removed under any circumstance.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below –
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3
44. Gandhiji led the Indian nationalist movement from the front and his leadership was motivated by a wider philosophy he nurtured throughout the course of the movement. Which one among the following was a continuous movement based on this philosophy, and not a specific movement?
- (a) Non-cooperation Movement
- (b) Swadeshi Movement
- (c) Quit India Movement
- (d) Civil Disobedience Movement
45. Which of the following statements about Fourth Anglo-Mysore War are correct?
1. The Madras Council suggested a policy of rigorous and intense attack on Mysore.
2. Lord Wellesley tried to revive the Triple Alliance.
3. Tipu sent emissaries to Arabia, Versailles, Mauritius and Kabul enlisting support against the English.
4. The War was of a very short duration though decisive.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below :
- (a) 2, 3 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 2 and 4
- (d) 1 and 3
46. In addition to Macaulay's Minutes on Education another landmark draft is also attributed to him. Identify the draft from the following:
- (a) Draft of Indian Penal Code
- (b) Draft of Indian Forest Policy
- (c) Draft of the Zamindari Abolition Act
- (d) Draft of the Maritime Trade Policy
47. Consider the following statements and identify with the help of the code given below the person who made the statement:
- 'It would be quite impossible for a few hundred British to administer against the active opposition of the whole of the politically minded of the population.'
- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru in April 1947 in an address to Congressmen at Lucknow
- (b) Clement Attlee in January 1947 in a private letter addressed to Ernest bevin
- (c) Lord Mountbatten in December 1946 in a note given to British Parliament
- (d) Viceroy Wavell in January 1946 in a letter to Secretary of State
48. Statement 1: Gandhiji failed to realise that the Khilafat was an extra-territorial issue.
- Statement 2: The cause of Khilafat was discredited by 1923, as Mustafa Kamal Pasha set-up a secular republican Government in Turkey.
- Codes:**
- (a) Both the statements are true and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both the statements are true, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is true, but Statement 2 is false
- (d) Statement 1 is false, but Statement 2 is true
49. Statement 1: In North-Western India, the Civil Disobedience Movement took a mass character under the leadership of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.
- Statement 2: The Nehru Report (1928) had argued that the 'next immediate step' for India must be dominion status.
- Codes:**
- (a) Both the statements are true and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both the statements are true, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is true, but Statement 2 is false
- (d) Statement 1 is false, but Statement 2 is true

50. Which one among the following was part of Gandhi-Irwin Agreement of 1931?
- Stern action against policemen guilty of brutal assault on Satyagrahis
 - Nehru to represent Congress at the Round Table Conference of 1931
 - Deletion of communal question from the agenda of the Conference
 - Release of political prisoners excepting those guilty of arson and violence

ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 35. (b) |
| 2. (b) | 36. (d) |
| 3. (d) | 37. (a) |
| 4. (d) | 38. (c) |
| 5. (b) | 39. (c) |
| 6. (c) | 40. (b) |
| 7. (b) | 41. (a) |
| 8. (c) | 42. (c) |
| 9. (b) | 43. (b) |
| 10. (a) | 44. (b) |
| 11. (c) | 45. (a) |
| 12. (c) | 46. (a) |
| 13. (a) | 47. (b) |
| 14. (b) | 48. (d) |
| 15. (c) | 49. (b) |
| 16. (d) | 50. (d) |
| 17. (d) | |
| 18. (a) | |
| 19. (b) | |
| 20. (d) | |
| 21. (d) | |
| 22. (a) | |
| 23. (c) | |
| 24. (c) | |
| 25. (c) | |
| 26. (d) | |
| 27. (a) | |
| 28. (c) | |
| 29. (a) | |
| 30. (c) | |
| 31. (b) | |
| 32. (c) | |
| 33. (c) | |
| 34. (d) | |

Important Days of December

DATES	DAYS
1 December	- Nagaland's Statehood Day - World AIDS Day - BSF Raising Day
2 December	- World Computer Literacy Day - National Pollution Prevention Day
3 December	International day of the disabled person
4 December	Indian Navy Day
5 December	World Soil Day
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 December	Human Rights Day
11 December	UNICEF Day
16 December	Vijay Diwas
18 December	International Migrants Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day
25 December	Good Governance Day

Current Based MCQs

1. Who wrote the recently published novel 'Lal Salaam'?

- (a) Smritilrani
- (b) HemaMalini
- (c) Mamata Banerjee
- (d) Vaikaya Naidu

Answer – (a)

2. Who has got the 'Veer Chakra' award recently?

- (a) Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal
- (b) Group Captain AbhinandanVarthaman
- (c) NaibSubedarSombir
- (d) Corps of Engineers Sapper PrakashJadhav

Answer – (b)

3. Which institution has received the Indira Gandhi Award for the year 2021?

- (a) Smile
- (b) ICT
- (c) Goonj
- (d) Pratham

Answer – (d)

4. Select the correct options with reference to SDG Urban Index 2021-22 by NITI Aayog.

- 1. A total of 56 urban areas were included in the index.
 - 2. Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) has got first place in this index.
 - 3. The last three urban areas are Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) respectively.
- (a) Only 1 is false
 - (b) Both 1 and 2 are false.
 - (c) 2 and 3 are false
 - (d) All three are true

Answer– (d)

5. On the occasion of 'World Fisheries Day', which state has been awarded the Best Marine State by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Goa
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer– (a)

6. Magdalena Andersson became the first female Prime Minister of which country?

- (a) Sweden
- (b) France
- (c) Italy
- (d) Norway

Answer– (a)

7. Select the correct option about the planetary defence system Dart Launch

- 1. This is the world's first planetary defence system Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)
- 2. NASA has not launched this mission

Which of the following is a statement?

- (a) Only 1 is true
- (b) Both 1 and 2 are true.
- (c) Both 1 and 2 are false
- (d) Only 2 are true.

Answer– (a)

8. Select the correct statement

- 1. The Mughal era SabjBurj is located in Ajmer, which was built in 1530.
 - 2. This SabjBurj is a building included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
 - 3. It is a masterpiece of Indo-Islamic architecture.
- (a) Only 1 is true.
 - (b) Both 1 and 2 are true.
 - (c) 2 and 3 are true.
 - (d) All three are true.

Answer– (c)

9. Select the correct statement from the following statements

- 1. Norovirus was formerly known as Norwalk virus. Another name for this is winter vomiting disease.
 - 2. This virus originated in America.
- (a) Only 1 is true
 - (b) Both 1 and 2 are true.
 - (c) Both 1 and 2 are false
 - (d) only 2 is true.

Answer– (b)

10. Select the correct statement from the following statements

- 1. The Government of India has approved a proposal to blend 10% ethanol with gasoline by 2025.
 - 2. Ethanol is a biofuel that is produced from agricultural products like wheat, potato, sugarcane, etc.
- (a) Only 1 is true.
 - (b) Both 1 and 2 are true.
 - (c) Both 1 and 2 are false.
 - (d) Only 2 are true.

Answer– (d)

Case Study-1

You are district magistrate of Kolkata. Recently an Indian pharmaceutical company has developed a vaccine against corona. It has passed all stages of testing with a success rate of 92%. This vaccine is cost effective and does not show any side effects. Government has permitted its use. Luckily your district has been chosen for vaccination in the very first round. Government issued instructions to vaccinate only elderly people (more than 60 years) in the first round.

But in the meantime some people have spread rumours regarding side effects of this vaccine. Fake videos have been posted in social media from foreign countries claiming that vaccine can damage vital human organs.

These rumours created panic among elderly people. So they refused from taking vaccine.

(a) What are the options available to you?

(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons.

In the given case study, I am District Magistrate of Kolkata. I have to convince elderly people for taking corona vaccine. Values like objectivity, impartiality, compassion and spirit of service are involved in the case.

(a) Pass on the opportunity of vaccination to young people of the district.

Merits : Young people are well educated. They use logic and reasoning so it's easy to convince them. Once they initiate the process, elderly people can be easily convinced in the second round of vaccination.

Demerits : Government may not approve my request to vaccinate young people against his guidelines. Some elderly people can get infected with corona and lose their life.

(b) Pass on opportunity to some other district :

Merits : Our fellow citizens of other district will get benefit.

Demerits : Elderly people can get infected with corona. It is loss of opportunity. It may have negative effects on the confidence of citizens of other district.

(c) Use force to vaccinate elderly people.

Merits : It will save them from corona.

Demerits : Using force against elderly people is completely unethical. It will only strengthen their will, to not vaccinate. They can also approach judiciary.

(d) I will request Chief Secretary to instruct, cyber cell to remove such fake videos from internet. Next I will ask pharmaceutical company to post the list of people with their name address and contact number, who took vaccine in second and third trial, on its website. I will contact some of them and invite them in our district. We will organise public

meetings (with social distance) in whole district with these people and ask them to share their experience and solve the doubt of people. We will shoot video of such meetings and post them in social media. I will appoint medical counselors in each ward and village who will visit each house and convince people and their family. Beside this I will collaborate with media to spread awareness among people. I will also establish a help-line to solve the doubts of public. These efforts will create a positive atmosphere. Finally I will personally take vaccine (with prior permission of authorities) in a public gathering (organised according to corona guidelines). It will boost courage of elderly people and they will take vaccine.

It will pacify all doubts of public and successfully complete vaccination drive. Elderly people will get required safety cover. I will choose this last option.

NOTES

Jagdish Chandra Bose: Anniversary special

India's great scientist Jagdish Chandra Bose was born on November 30, 1858, in the village of Mymensingh (present Bangladesh). India's famous physicist and plant physiologist Bose has written his experience and research in his books. Some of the major books are- Reactions of living and non-living (1902), Reaction of plants (1906), Motivational mechanics of plants (1926), etc.

Jagdish Chandra Bose was the first Indian scientist to study radio and microwaves. He proved with his knowledge and invention during the Swadeshi movement that India also has the capability of scientific research and invention. Bose was such a scientist who had brought a revolution in plant research by developing an instrument like the crescograph. They used wireless communication by radio waves before the scientist Marconi. Basu's contribution is significant in the functioning of microwave ovens including various communication media, such as radio, television, radar, remote sensing. Today the whole world considers Bose as the co-inventor of the radio along with Marconi for his pioneering work in wireless communication.

Bose found a way to produce very small waves, and also developed an advanced form of Heinrich Hertz's receiver. After some time, everyone was surprised to know that before Marconi's wireless receiver was invented, Jagdish Chandra Bose had discovered it. Bose had used wireless communication by radio waves in the year 1885, even before Marconi's discovery. Bose created such an instrument, which could generate micro-waves from 25 millimeters to 5 millimeters. The device was so small that it could be carried anywhere in a small box. He showed a completely new type of radio wave at that time to the world, which was from one centimeter to five millimeters.

Bose was the first to show that electromagnetic waves can reach a distant place with the help of air. These waves can also control an action from another place. His concept later became the theoretical basis for remote control systems.

Many microwave devices in use today like wave guides, polarizers, dielectric lenses, semiconductor detectors for electromagnetic radiation. All these devices were invented and used by Bose in the last decade of the nineteenth century. It was Bose who told the existence of electromagnetic radiation coming from the Sun, which was confirmed in 1944. Bose has been inducted into its 'Wireless Hall of Fame' by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for his work.

Bose has made unprecedented contributions in the field of plant science. Bose studied the effect of electrical signals on plant cells. His experiments were pointing to the fact that all plant cells have sense. Action potentials can be generated in plants due to cold, heat, cutting, touch and electrical stimulation as well as external moisture. He created sensitive instruments that could record even the most subtle

biological actions of plants at the physical, chemical, mechanical or electrical level. From the year 1901, Bose used Chui-mui (Touch me not) or Mimosa pudica and Shalparni or Desmodium gyrans for his experiments.

If you touch the leaves of Mimosa, they start bending towards each other. Bose used a pulsation recorder to compare the electrical pulse of the Desmodium gyrans with the recorded heart rate of the organism. Bose himself made a very sensitive device to measure the slow growth of plants. He named this instrument the Crescograph. This device had the ability to automatically record the growth of the plant by increasing it ten thousand times.

Basu showed that plants feel pain just like us. If plants are cut or poison is put in them, then they also suffer and they can even die. Another study area that attracted Basu was the uptake of water in plants from roots to stems and leaves. The water that plants absorb also contains many types of carbon and inorganic elements. The climbing of this water mixture in plants is called "ascent of sap". Jagdish Chandra Basu laid the foundation for the study of the effect of time on plant growth and other biological functions, a branch of science known as chronobiology.



POLITY TERMOLOGY

Executive Powers

- (a) All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name. [Article 77(1)]
- (b) He can make rules specifying the manner in which the orders and other instruments made and executed in his name shall be authenticated.
- (c) He can make rules for more convenient transaction of business of the Union government, and for allocation of the said business among the ministers.
- (d) He appoints the prime minister and the other ministers. They hold office during his pleasure.
- (e) He appoints the attorney general of India and determines his remuneration. The attorney general holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- (f) He appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India, the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners, the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission, the Governors of states, the chairman and members of Finance Commission, and so on.
- (g) He can seek any information relating to the administration of affairs of the Union, and proposals for legislation from the prime minister.
- (h) He can require the Prime Minister to submit, for consideration of the council of ministers, any matter on which a decision has been taken by a minister but, which has not been considered by the council.
- (i) He can appoint a commission to investigate into the conditions of SCs, STs and other backward classes.
- (k) He directly administers the union territories through administrators appointed by him.
- (l) He can declare any area as scheduled area

Financial Powers

Money bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with his prior recommendation (Article 110). He causes to be laid before the Parliament the annual financial statement (i.e. the Union Budget) (Article 112) No demand for a grant can be made except on his recommendation. He can make advances out of the contingency fund of India to meet any unforeseen expenditure. He constitutes a finance commission after every five years to recommend the distribution of revenues between the Center and the states (Article 280).

Diplomatic Powers

The international treaties and agreements are negotiated and concluded on behalf of the President. However, they are subject to the approval of the Parliament. He represents India in international forums and affairs and sends and receives diplomats like ambassadors, high commissioners, and so on.

Emergency Powers

In addition to the normal powers mentioned above, the Constitution confers extraordinary powers on the President to deal with the following three types of emergencies:

- (a) National Emergency (Article 352);
- (b) President's Rule (Article 356 & 365); and

- (c) Financial Emergency (Article 360)
- (f) He can nominate two members to the Lok Sabha from the Anglo-Indian Community.
- (g) He decides on questions as to disqualifications of members of the Parliament, in consultation with the Election Commission.
- (h) His prior recommendation or permission is needed to introduce certain types of bills in the Parliament. For example, a bill involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, or a bill for the alteration of boundaries of states or creation of a new state.
- (i) Under article 111, when a bill is sent to the President after it has been passed by the Parliament, he can:
 - (i) give his assent to the bill, or
 - (ii) withhold his assent to the bill, or
- (j) Under article 200, when a bill passed by a state legislature is reserved by the Governor for consideration of the President, the President can:
 - (i) give his assent to the bill, or
 - (ii) withhold his assent to the bill, or
 - (iii) direct the Governor to return the bill (if it is not a money bill) for reconsideration of the state legislature.
- (k) He can promulgate ordinances when either of the two houses of Parliament are not in session. He can also withdraw an ordinance at any time
- (l) He lays the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General, Union Public Service Commission, Finance Commission, and others, before the Parliament.
- (m) He can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. In the case of Puducherry also, the President can legislate by making regulations but only when the assembly is suspended or dissolved.

Judicial Powers

- (a) He appoints the Chief Justice and the judges of Supreme Court and High Courts (Article 124).
- (b) He can seek advice from the Supreme Court on any question of law or fact. However, the advice tendered by the Supreme Court is not binding on the President (Article 143).
- (c) Under article 72, he can grant pardon, reprieve, respite and remission of punishment, suspend, remit, commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence:
 - In all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a court martial or
 - In all cases where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union law and
 - In all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death.

Military Powers

He is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India. He can declare war or conclude peace, subject to the approval of the Parliament [Article 53 (2)].

Ordinance-Making Power of the President:

Article 123 of the Constitution empowers the President to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament.

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RANK 8



JAIPRAKASH
MAURYA
RANK 9



MAHESH KUMAR
RANK 14



SHIVANI GOYAL
RANK 15



SHWETA SINGHAL
RANK 17



SRIMAL SHUKLA
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AN INTRODUCTION



DHYEYA IAS®
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DhyeyaIAS, one and half decade 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. Dhyeya 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 Dhyeya 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 Dhyeya 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 Dhyeya 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, Dhyeya 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. Dhyeya 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. Dhyeya IAS has guided over 50,000 aspirants with more than 4000 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, Dhyeya IAS has continuously produced phenomenal results over the years. Year after Year Dhyeya 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 Dhyeya family.



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