

PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

January 2022 / Issue-2

POSHAN Abhiyaan: Time for
National Self Reflection

Crimes against Women: Rose in 2021

Bulli Bai App Conspiracy

Pulicat Lake: Struggling for Survival

Hate speech: Challenge for
Indian society



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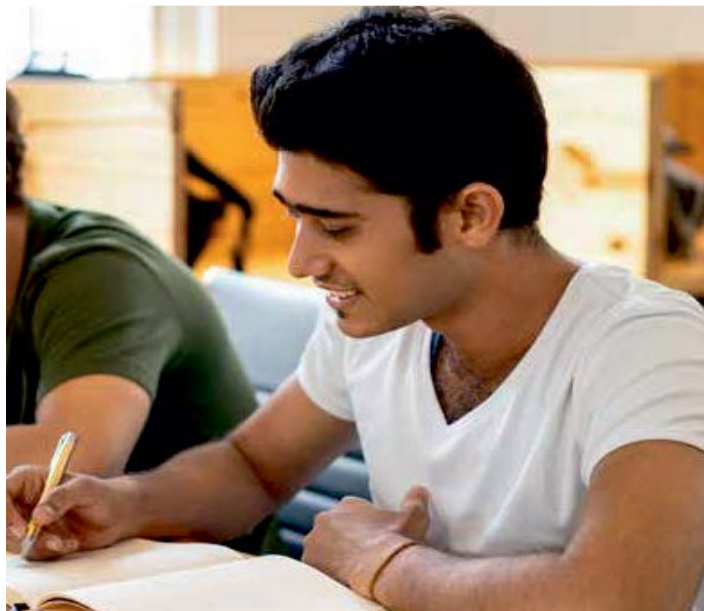


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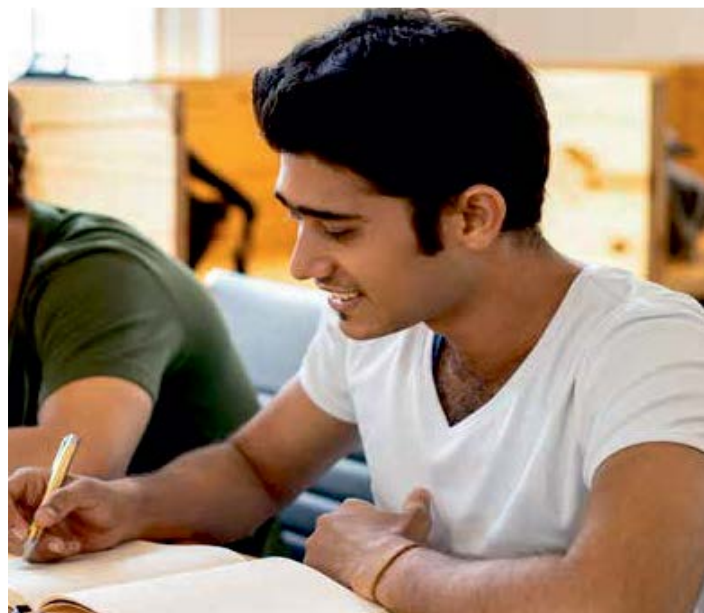


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PREFACE



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

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

Vinay Kumar Singh
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PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES



- **Why in News**
- **What is POSHAN Abhiyaan**
- **Where are we failing in NFHS- 5**
- **What interventions are needed to tackle these issues**
- **What will be major impact of the Scheme**

Why in News?

• The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), released in November, indicates slow improvement in India's malnutrition situation. The problem remains persistent, pervasive and grave, with every third child under five and a fifth of women undernourished, and overweight women increasing to a quarter. More than every second child, adolescent and woman is anaemic.

Only one in 10 children above 6 months receives an adequate diet in line with the recommended frequency of semi-solids fed 3-4 times a day at 6-8 months, made of items from at least four food groups.

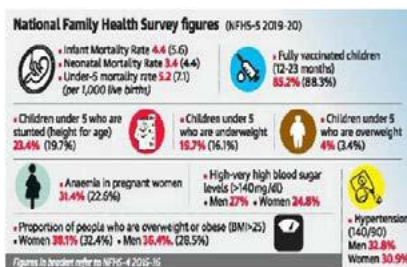
What is POSHAN Abhiyaan?

- POSHAN(Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan is the flagship program to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers in India. It is also called the National Nutrition Mission.
- The objective of POSHAN Abhiyaan is to reduce stunting across districts with the highest malnutrition burden by improving utilization of key anganwadi services and improving the quality of anganwadi services delivery.
- In addition, the POSHAN Abhiyaan explicitly recognizes the need for

convergence and coordination such that the benefits of multiple government schemes and programs reach women and children in the first 1000 days of a child's life.

NFHS-5

- The NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- NFHS 5 talks about the key findings of the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) and causes behind lack of improvement in various key sectors.



So, where are we failing in NFHS- 5?

- Negative trends are accompanied by other doable and essential nutrition interventions during the first 1,000 days of life (270 days of pregnancy and 730 days 0-24 months).
- NHFS states we have no maternal nutrition policy, but there has been an Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) policy since 2000. The promotion of IYCF practices, like ensuring

exclusive breastfeeding and 'effective' nursing for the first six months, followed by the introduction of appropriate semi-solids to complement breastfeeding, remains weak.

- NFHS-5 data suggests complementary feeding of semi-solids also needs attention. Only one in 10 children above 6 months receives an adequate diet in line with the recommended frequency of semi-solids fed 3-4 times a day at 6-8 months made of items from at least four food groups.
- The main reason for our poor showing is an information deficit. We cannot ignore that 20% of undernourished children are from communities with the highest wealth index.
- Additionally, families with overweight mothers often have undernourished children. Caregivers are not well informed about what, when and how often to feed a child over six months, and that breastfeeding must also be continued.
- Poor IYCF practices also contribute to obesity, micronutrient deficiencies and increased chances of adult-onset non communicable diseases.
- Often, parents unaware of the damage done by inappropriate feeding, take pride in spending ₹25-30 daily on feeding packaged snacks to their babies, instead of family-cooked pulses, curd, vegetables, ghee, eggs. The belief that 6-8-month-olds can't

swallow semi-solids often results in watery pulses being fed instead of khichdi.

- NFHS-5 findings confirm that we have failed to make the behavioural changes needed to improve nutrition care during the critical first 1,000 days of life—a basic strategy of the National Nutrition Mission.

What interventions are needed to tackle these issues?

- Frequent interpersonal counselling by health workers/medical teams at the right time is imperative. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is our lead programme for this, but is not adequately reaching caregivers/ mothers.
- In contrast, the public health system that is in charge of ANC, child delivery, PNC, home-based new-born and young child care and immunization services has the advantage of a minimum of 15 contact occasions with mothers, from the start of pregnancy until the child is 16 months old, and can influence nutrition practices.
- Nutrition care is divided into prevention and care between our health system and ICDS. Between the two, problems of prevention being resolved at the community level is a convenient assumption, but in actual practice, it's highly impractical and time-consuming. To make a real difference in nutrition care behaviour practices and service delivery, it is time for the government to explore an alternative nutrition delivery mechanism.
- Policymakers must examine whether the mandate to spearhead interventions should be given to the regular health system, rather than ICDS. Merging the human resources of ICDS with our primary healthcare system would strengthen maternal-child nutrition and healthcare



workforce and team work. This could cost-effectively lower child mortality, as 68% of India's under-5 mortality is associated with under nutrition.

- Current times require integrated and coordinated efforts from all health institutions, academia and other partners directly or indirectly associated with the health care services to make the basic as well as advanced health services accessible, affordable and acceptable to all.

What will be major impact of the Scheme?

The programme, through the stated targets, will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies. It will create synergy, ensure better monitoring, issue alerts for timely action, and encourage States/UTs to perform, guide and supervise the line ministries and States/UTs to achieve the targeted goals.¹⁹ To ensure effective convergence at state level, the Chief Secretary is required to chair the Convergence, Action Plan (CAP) meeting on quarterly basis. Similarly, DCs/DMs also need to take CAP meeting on quarterly basis. During the year 2020-21, 30 States/UTs submitted Convergence Action Plans (CAPs).

As a result of inter-ministerial convergence, POSHAN Maah 2020 witnessed unprecedented participation while following COVID-19 protocols.

NOTES

2

Crimes against Women: Rose in 2021

- Why in News
- What is crime against women
- Causes of crime against women
- What statistics speak about crimes against women
- What will be major impact of the Scheme
- Legal protection from crimes against women
- National initiatives to curb violence against women
- Government schemes for women empowerment
- Way Ahead

Why in news?

- 30% rise in complaints of crimes against women in 2021 as compared to 2020.

Analysis:

What is crime against women?

- United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

Causes of crime against women

- **Historically unequal power relations:** The political, economic and social processes that have evolved over many centuries have kept men in a position of power over women.
- **Control of women's sexuality:** Many societies use violence as a way to control a woman's sexuality, and likewise in many societies violence is used to punish women who exhibit sexual behaviour, preferences and attitudes that violate cultural norms.
- **Cultural ideology:** Culture defines gender roles and some customs, traditions and religions are used to

justify violence against women when women transgress these culturally assigned roles.

- **Doctrines of privacy:** The persistent belief in many societies that violence against women is a private issue seriously impedes attempts to eradicate this violence.
- **Patterns of conflict resolution:** Links have been identified between violence against women in the home and community in areas that are in conflict or that are militarised.
- **Government inaction:** Government negligence in preventing and ending violence against women establishes a tolerance of violence against women throughout the community.

What statistics speak about crimes against women?

- Nearly 31,000 complaints of crimes committed against women were received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) last year, the highest since 2014.
- The highest number of complaints related to the right to live with dignity and domestic violence were received from Uttar Pradesh that accounts for over half of the overall reported crimes.

The broad categories of crime:

- Outraging the modesty of women or molestation
- Rape and attempt to rape
- Police apathy against women
- Complaints of cybercrimes
- Domestic violence
- Issues in living with dignity

Crimes identified under Indian Penal Code:-

- Rape (Section 376 IPC)
- Kidnapping and Abduction for different purposes (Section 363-373 IPC)
- Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Deaths or their attempts (Section 302/304-B IPC)
- Torture, both mental and physical (Section 498-A IPC)
- Molestation (Section 354 IPC)
- Sexual Harassment (Section 509 IPC)
- Importation of Girls (up to 21 years of age) (Section 366 B IPC)

Legal protection from crimes against women:-

- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 was passed with the aim of giving insurance to the ladies at work environment.

- **Acid Attack:** Section 326B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 deals with utilization of corrosive substances and intentional tossing or endeavouring to toss corrosive separately.

- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** This Act protects women from any act/conduct/omission/commission that harms, injures or potential to harm is to be considered as domestic violence.

- **Dowry deaths:** Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has stringent provisions for punishment and prevention of dowry-related atrocities against women.

National initiatives to curb violence against women:-

- **National Commission for Women:** In January 1992, the Government set-up this statutory body with a specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women.

- **Reservation for Women in Local Self Government:** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Acts passed in 1992 by Parliament ensure one-third of the total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies whether in rural areas or urban areas.

- The launch of the National Mission for Empowerment of Women in March 2010 is an important development that will provide the much required fillip to a coordinated assessment of current government interventions and aligning future programmes.

Government schemes for women empowerment:

- **One Stop Centre Scheme:** One Stop Centres (OSC) are intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace.



- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:**

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is a campaign of the Government of India that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls in India.

- **UJJAWALA:** A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

- **SWADHAR Greh:** A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances

- **Mahila police Volunteers (MPV):** An MPV will serve as a public-police interface in order to fight crime against women.

- Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) aims to empower rural women with opportunities for skill development and employment.

Way ahead

- Only legislation and law enforcement agencies cannot prevent the incident of crime against women.

- There is need of social awakening and change in the attitude of masses, so that due respect and equal status is given to women.

- This awakening can be brought by education campaign among youth making them aware of existing social evils and the means to eradicate same.

- Mass media can play an active role here as in the present days it has reached every corner of the nation.

- Various NGOs can hold a responsible position here by assigning them with the task of highlighting socio-economic causes leading to such crimes and by disseminating information about their catastrophic effect on the womanhood and the society at large.

NOTES



3

Bulli Bai App Conspiracy

- **Why in News**
- **Types of Cybercrime Committed Against Women**
- **Initiatives and Laws to Prevent Cyber-Crimes Against Women**
- **Way Forward**

Why in News?

- The Indian Women's Press Corps termed the 'Bulli Bai' app "a well-planned conspiracy" to persecute the minority and promote gender-based violence.
- A year after "Sulli Deals", an 'auction' of vocal Muslim women on social media, triggered an uproar, another vile app, "Bulli Bai" has misused photographs and targeted women from the community.
- The Bulli Bai controversy surfaced as several Muslim women found themselves on 'auction' on an app. The app hosted by the GitHub platform had used their photographs, many of them doctored.
- The targets included women vocal on burning political and social issues, spanning age groups. Prominent journalists, activists and lawyers were among those listed for 'auction' in the disgusting app.

GitHub:

- GitHub is the world's largest open-source developer community platform where users upload their projects and code for others to view, edit, and tweak.
- The idea of GitHub is that: any developer can upload whatever

software code or app code or software idea they have on the platform, and have others collaborate with them to help improve it, find errors, and fix problems.

- The platform uses the software Git, which was created in 2005 by Linus Trovalds, the developer of the open-source operating system Linux, to track changes in a set of files and for coordination in software development.

Types of Cybercrime Committed Against Women:

- **Cyberstalking:** It is one of the most talked about cyber crimes in the modern world, it involves following movements of the person across the internet.
 - o Cyber stalkers target and harass their victims via websites, chat rooms, discussion forums, open publishing websites and email.
- **Harassment through emails:** it is very similar to harassment through letters, it includes blackmailing, threatening, bullying and even cheating via email.
 - o The availability of free email and website space as well as the anonymity provided by chat rooms and forums has contributed to the

increase of cyber stalking as form of harassment.

- **Communalization:** Recently growing discontent and hate speeches have led to increase in communal targeting specially against women.

- **Cyber bullying:** Cyber bullying is willful and repeated harm inflicted through use of computers by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

o India is third behind China and Singapore in cyber bullying globally, also the number of cases of suicide linked to cyber bullying have increased over the past decade

- **Morphing:** it involves editing the original picture by an unauthorized user, it has been observed that pictures of women are downloaded from websites by fake users and again re posted on different websites by creating fake profiles after editing
- **Email spoofing:** spoofed email is one which misinterprets its origin showing its origin to be different from its actual source
- **Cyber defamation:** cyber tort including libel and defamation is another common crime against women on internet
- **Trolling and gender bullying:** women are targeted on internet,

the troll posts are essentially related to provocative posting intended to produce a large volume of frivolous responses

Budapest Convention:

- The Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention, is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing co-operation among nations
- It was drawn up by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, with the active participation of the Council of Europe's observer states Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States.
- The following offences are defined by the Convention: illegal access, illegal interception, data interference, system interference, misuse of devices, computer-related forgery, computer-related fraud, offences related to child pornography, and offences related to copyright and neighboring rights.
- India has declined to adopt the Convention on the grounds that it did not participate in its drafting.

Initiatives and Laws to Prevent Cyber-Crimes Against Women:

- **Article 19:** Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression
 - o Article 19(1)(a) of constitution provides fundamental right to speech and expression, but the right is not absolute and is subject to reasonable restrictions mentioned under the Article 19(2)
- **Information Technology Act, 2000:** The IT Act, 2000 (amended in 2008) is the primary law for dealing with cybercrime and digital commerce in India.
- **Electronic obscene content**
 - o Section 67 of IT Act prevents pub-



lishing and transmitting obscene contents on the internet which disturbs public order and morality.

- o It is based on section 292 of IPC but the amount of punishment is higher in IT Act

- **Sending of offensive messages**

- o Section 66 A provides for the offence of sending offensive messages through communication devices or computer resources.
- o Section 66A makes it an offence when it is sent by means of a computer resource

- **Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code:** Outraging the Modesty This section with its various sub-sections addresses the issues of making sexual remarks, voyeurism and stalking etc

- **National Cyber Security Policy, 2013:** The policy provides the vision and strategic direction to protect the national cyberspace.

- **CERT-In (Cyber Emergency Response Team):** CERT-In has been operational since 2004. It is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.

- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C):** The Union Government has decided to set up I4C. It will be apex coordination center to deal with cybercrimes.

- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra:** Launched in early 2017, the Cyber Swachhta Kendra provides a platform for users to analyze and clean

their systems of various viruses, bots/ malware, Trojans, etc.

- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, launched the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative to spread awareness about cybercrime and building capacity for safety measures for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT staff across all government departments.

- **The Cyber Warrior Police Force:** In 2018, the government announced its plans to introduce CWPF. It is proposed to be raised on lines of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).

- **Cyber-Crime Prevention against Women & Children' Scheme:** Implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the scheme aims to prevent and reduce cyber-crimes against women and children.

Way Forward:

- **Policy and Governance:** It is important to bring a robust policy and effectively implement the same. Further, duties and responsibilities should be defined clearly for smooth functioning and better coordination among departments and stakeholders.

- **Awareness:** A periodic awareness campaign by the government and big private organizations should be conducted to aware people about cyber security threats.

- **Strengthening Public-Private Partnership:** It is important to

strengthen the public- private partnership on cyber security.

- Online Women Specific Crime Reporting Unit -Interlink with NCW should be made in such a manner that if a woman wants to make a complaint about cybercrime to NCW,

it should be sent to MHA Crime Reporting Unit with acknowledgement to NCW and a copy to the complainant. It will encourage quick disposal of the complaints that too with the assistance of the IT professionals

- **Monitoring:** Monitoring unit

should provide monthly reports on the complaints received through National Commission of Women.

- **Capacity Building:** It should include capacity building of protection officers appointed under Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

4

Pulicat Lake: Struggling for Survival

- Why in News
- About Pulicat Lake
- Ramsar Convention
- Importance of Pulicat Lake
- Emerging issues with over-exploitation of Pulicat Lake
- Key suggestions for rejuvenation of Pulicat Lake
- CASE STUDY OF Chilika Lake
- Way Forward

Why in News ?

- The Global Nature Fund, an organisation based in Germany, again reiterates to declare Pulicat Lake a “threatened lake” under Ramsar Convention.
- However, there is still no proposal from the government to get the lake added to the list in the Montreux Record.
- Owing to the ecological threats the lake is facing, many environmental activists also argued for the lake to be included in the Montreux Record.

About Pulicat Lake:-

- Pulicat Lake is a unique waterbody that is situated along the east coast of India and sprawls across Andhra Pradesh (84%) and Tamil Nadu.
- Its water spread area is 720 square kilometres during the monsoon. The lake is about 60 km in length, and its breadth varies from 200 metres to

17.5 km.

- Buckingham Canal traverses in a north to the south direction at the lake’s eastern edge, along Sriharikota Island.
- The problem of siltation and the advent of the railway along the coast is leading to the death of the lake.

RAMSAR CONVENTION:-

- In 1971, a significant United Nations Convention On Wetlands took place in Ramsar, Iran.
- The Ramsar Convention, as it is widely known, is an international environmental treaty with the mission of conservation and wise use of wetlands through local, regional and national action and international co-operation and to contribute towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.
- The convention plays an important role in deepening the world’s

consciousness of the importance of protecting wetlands

- The Montreux Record is a voluntary mechanism to highlight specific wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention, but which are facing immediate challenges.
- In particular, the Montreux Record is a register of listed Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.

Importance of Pulicat Lake:-

- The lake receives fresh water through the rivers and canals draining into it and marine water through the inlet mouth connected to the Bay of Bengal.
- The lake has a spatial and temporal salinity gradient that gives rise to a multitude of niches inhabited by a

large diversity of plant and animal species.

- About a lakh people living in 200 villages around Pulicat Lake depend directly on its highly productive lagoon ecosystem with its rich fishery resources for their livelihood.
- Pulicat Lake is also a biodiversity hotspot that shelters several endemic and endangered species included in the red list of threatened species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- It is an avian paradise for several migratory birds and, during the peak migratory season, hosts around 250 species of birds, 50 of which are intercontinental species.

Emerging issues with over-exploitation of Pulicat Lake:-

- Rampant destruction (and fragmentation) of the mangrove ecosystem, and conversion of wetland for commercial cultivation of shrimps
- Over-exploitation of hydro-biological resources
- Inappropriate extraction activities (with impacts on fauna)
- Deforestation and conversion of neighbouring forests
- Pollution by waste water and pesticides from adjacent agricultural lands.
- A wide area of Pulicat has been destroyed, and now there are several development projects planned that will have an impact on the lake: expansion of the Dugarajapatnam port and a proposed Adani port, among other projects.
- Further, emerging issues such as global warming, climate change and their impacts on coastal **zone ecosystems** further accelerate the destruction of fragile ecosystems.

Key suggestions for rejuvenation of Pulicat Lake:-

1. Establishment of a Development

Authority: State governments must establish a development authority for the lake along the lines of the Chilika Development Authority in Odisha. The authority shall ensure:

- o Community-based planning and management scheme (e.g. active participation of stakeholders and resource users)

- o An integrated approach (that involves the entire ecosystem and not only the protected area)

- o A zoning programme for land-use planning, clear conservation objectives, identification and mitigation of key impacts and, finally, a solid technical base for the project's implementation and monitoring.

2. **Proper Resource Allocation:** It has been recognised that the human and financial resources currently allocated are not sufficient

- o Successful conservation of lakes depends on the proper management of their watersheds, but there are conflicting interests in the use of their resources

3. Local governments should stop the lime shell mining that local people carry out at Pulicat Lake as it destroys **mudflat habitats**.

4. Local governments should also devise a way to protect these habitats such as designation of the tidal flats as important for **migratory birds**.

5. Government should proceed with

the process of getting the lake registered in the **Ramsar List**.

6. Besides the strategies for biodiversity conservation of Pulicat Lake, ecotourism development, community participation, integrated watershed management, hydrological monitoring and modelling activities need to be undertaken in collaboration with various national and international institutions.

7. Implement key Learnings from Chilika Lake

- o Restoring the lake by funding research and educational and conservation projects

- o Setting up an interpretation centre, a GIS cell and people's participatory, ecotourism and development programmes

- o Managing the fish resources (in consultation with the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute)

- o Carrying out dredging interventions

- o Monitoring water chemistry and quality and eradicating invasive species.

- o A team of biologists to prepare an adaptive ecological plan for the lake and to carry out regular monitoring of the lake ecosystem. The ecosystem approach is the only way to manage the resources sustainably.



CASE STUDY OF Chilika Lake

- The Chilika lagoon is a striking example of how the restoration of the ecological characteristics of a site results not only in improvement of the lagoon ecosystem but also benefits the community depending on the wetland
- The average annual income of each family increased by more than Rs.50,000 (around \$1,040).
- The restoration of the Chilika lagoon derives its uniqueness from the strong participation of local communities, linkage with various national and international institutions, and intensive monitoring and assessment systems.
- The case of the Chilika lagoon is a perfect example of how the listing of a site on the Montreux Record can be used to promote measures to correct the changes in the ecological character of a site and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population living in and around it.

Way Forward

1. Management of the catchment in a participatory manner as the plan for restoration of the lake must be based on a river basin approach
2. Protection of bird habitats and of bird species with the active involvement of the community
3. Economic incentives for the local population to stop poaching of birds
4. Measures to improve the socio-economic conditions, such as orientation training to facilitate community-based ecotourism
5. Provision of solar street lights for island villages
6. Development of a ferry service for isolated island villages
7. Development of landing facilities for fisherfolk
8. Networking of NGOs and community-based organisations
9. Carrying out education and environmental awareness activities.

Conclusion

- Therefore, it is important to involve all stakeholders in the process of restoration, conservation and management of lakes and coastal wetlands.
- There is an urgent need to promote regional linkages, develop strategic partnerships and follow good practices in the conservation

and management of lakes and coastal wetlands.

- It is also essential to establish new or strengthen ongoing regional and international cooperation linkages and strategic partnerships between governments, international agencies, universities, research institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local communities, the private sector and individuals.
- Pulicat Lake could be a significant subject to indicate the future course of wetland protection and, if successful, could serve as an international model for development and protection.

**NOTES**

5

Hate speech: Challenge for Indian society

- Context
- Introduction
- What is Hate speech
- Definitions of hate speech in India
- Hate speech and Indian law & order
- Causes of hate speech in India
- Effects of Hate Speech
- How can hate speech be reduced
- Conclusion

Context:-

Recently, hate speech was widely used in the Dharma Sansad of Haridwar. Hate speech is one of the big problems of India which is used to disturb social harmony and incite communalism.

Introduction:-

- In December 2021, a so-called Dharma Sansad was organized in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Many speakers gave their statements in this Dharm Sansad. The topic of most of the speakers was the Islamic crisis for Hindus and India. In the same Dharma Sansad, Swami Prabodh Anand Giri made a statement that Hindus have been killed on the Delhi border, during which it was also said that you (Hindus) should either be ready to die or to kill. Violent action was also called by Narsingh Anand in the same Dharma Sansad. Most of the speakers in this Parliament of Religions called for armed violence against the followers of Islam.
- All these statements are promoting communalism by increasing violence and destroying religious harmony. This type of hate speech keeps on coming in India which tries

to spoil social cohesion. In this situation it is necessary to control this type of hate speech.

What is Hate speech?

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, hate speech refers to a public statement that promotes hatred or incites violence against any person or group (based on religion, origin, gender, or sexual orientation). Definitions of hate speech vary in different countries.

Definitions of hate speech in India:-

- In the 267th report of the Law Commission, hate speech has been defined as any speech which seeks to promote hatred and violence against race, caste, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, etc.
- Hate speech has been defined by the Bureau of Police Research and Development in the manual given to investigating agencies in cases of cyber harassment, as such speech in which people or groups are accused of race, caste, gender, sex, disability, religion. Defamatory expression, threat, or attempt to defame him has been made against him based on.

Hate speech and Indian law & order :-

There is no unambiguous definition for hate speech in the Indian Penal Code. Although the Reform Committee on Criminal Laws has been constituted by the Union Ministry to define it, the recommendation of this committee has not come yet.

Article 19(2) of the Constitution:-

So it is clear that there is no separate legal explanation for hate speech but it has been kept as a category under Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India, subject to reasonable restrictions on freedom of expression. Along with this, some other laws prohibit hate speech, the details of those laws are as follows.

Section 153A and 153B of the Indian Penal Code:

It has been provided under this law that any word spoken, written, or expressed with a discriminatory spirit on any grounds of religion, origin, place of birth, language, caste, or community or any other such Incites violent feelings against or disturbs the condition of harmony, the guilty shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term



which may extend to three years (imprisonment) or with fine, or with both.

Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code:

This section imposes restrictions against hurting the religious sentiments of any community of the country. In case of contravention of this section, there is a provision of imprisonment of 3 years or fine or both.

Section 505(1) and 505(2) of the Indian Penal Code:

This section deals with statements that create or promote enmity, hatred, or enmity between different classes. It shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both, in the event of the origin, publication, or circulation of any expression on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community.

Section 95 of the Code of Criminal Procedure :

Empowers the State to issue an objection to any publication, newspaper, book, or visual publication, in respect of offenses under 124a, 153a and b, 292, 293 and 295a,

Section (8) of the Representation of the People Act:

According to this law, a public representative who uses hate speech

is banned from participating in the election.

Causes of hate speech in India:-

- Casteism and religion are big factors in the politics of India. Due to this political polarization, hate speech is often used to appease a particular community or caste.
- It is motivated by a sense of cultural superiority and in this, one community is undervalued over another.
- India is a diverse society where communal riots are frequent due to which sometimes one group maintains hostile feelings towards another group.
- A major reason for hate speech is that political justice has been established in India even before social and economic justice has been established. Due to this problem, electoral issues are decided based on caste and religion and it becomes the cause of hate speech over some time.
- One of the main reasons for hate speech is that the state in India is secular and the society is religious. In this situation, the governing class of the state, such as ministers, bureaucracy, etc., who come from the society, do not remain secular

Effects of Hate Speech:-

- Hate speech negates the theory of cultural relativism, which disturbs social cohesion.
- Communalism gets reinforced

through hate speech, which is likely to lead to mob lynchings or communal riots in the future.

- It threatens the essence of unity in diversity by denying the spirit of peaceful co-existence.
- Hate speech shows intolerance which is not fair for a democratic country.
- By the use of hate speech, the deprivation of the already deprived sections (Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Minority Classes, Women, Homosexual Community, Beggar Class, etc.) in the society increases and they get away from the mainstream.
- The effect of hate speech gives rise to anarchy in the society and increases the chances of a member of the deprived class being involved in criminal activities.

How can hate speech be reduced?

- To reduce the effect of hate speech, it is most necessary that social and economic justice should be established as soon as possible. Once established, it will be difficult to forget people on social and economic grounds.
- To reduce speech, hit speech must be defined and a separate section should be made for it by removing it from different sections of the law and more severe punishment should be provided for its violation.
- In the context of law, it can be done that by removing the provision of a fine, only imprisonment should be arranged.
- It should be the effort of the state that if the society is not able to accept secularism, then accept cultural relativism. According to the theory of cultural relativity, all religions are appropriate according to their country, time and circumstances, in this theory no religion is greater

or inferior than anyone. By following the principle peaceful co-existence will arise.

- It is necessary that the right to equality as enshrined in the Indian Constitution should be exercised in its essence. The actual application of the prohibition of discrimination

based on caste, sex and religion described in 15 and 16.

- It is also necessary from the point of view that education should be disseminated.

Conclusion:-

India is a secular state and unity in

diversity is its best feature. People should imbibe the principle of unity in diversity and should not be misled by those who give hate speech. People have to understand that social harmony is the guide to peace and progress.

6

The Election Law (Amendment) Bill 2021

- Context
- Introduction
- Main provisions of the Election (Amendment) Bill - 2021
- Disadvantages of these amendments
- Way ahead

- Conclusion

Context:-

Recently the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Parliament. This bill amends the certain provisions of Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to implement electoral reforms.

Introduction:-

Sovereignty in India is vested in the people. But the people delegate their sovereign powers to their representatives. The transfer of sovereign powers by the people takes place through the electoral process. The election is an important process in India that helps in keeping the democracy alive. Elections in India are mainly governed by the Representation of the People Act 1950 and the Representation of the People Act 1951. While the 1950 Act deals with the allocation of seats for elections

and the demarcation of constituencies, the qualifications, and electoral rolls of voters, the 1951 Act deals with offenses and disputes relating to the conduct of elections and elections.

India's many problems affect the fairness of elections in India so there are many reforms done by the governments from time to time so that the sanctity of elections can be maintained. The Election (Amendment) Bill- 2021 was brought in the Lok Sabha by the government in December 2021, currently, it has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. This amendment will play an important role in electoral reforms in India.

Main provisions of the Election (Amendment) Bill - 2021

Linking voter list with Aadhaar:-

- The most important provision of

the Election Amendment Bill 2021 is that voters will have to link their Aadhaar with the voter list. The 1950 Act provides that any person can apply for inclusion of his name in the electoral roll from any constituency. After this, the information given by the person will be verified and after being satisfied, the registering officer will include his name in the voter list.

- As per the recent amendment, the Election Registration Officer can ask for Aadhaar number from that person for verification. If a person does not give his Aadhaar number, then he will be given a place in the voter list only based on alternate documents. The list of these optional documents will be given by the central government.

Eligibility date for enrollment in voter list:

- According to the Representation

of the People Act 1950, the first day of the year in which the voter list is being prepared i.e. January 1 was used as the date of eligibility for nomination.

- This means that if a person does not turn 18 by January 1, then he will not be included in the voter list. In other words, a person who had completed 18 years after January 1 could apply for enrolment in the voter list only in the next year. The recent amendment provides for four eligibility dates: 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, and 1 October.

Demand for Premises for Electoral Purposes:

- The provision of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 allowed state governments to requisition premises to set up polling stations and keep ballot boxes after elections. Recent amendments include the purposes of keeping the voting machines election-related material for these purposes as well as the purposes of the security personnel and the polling personnel.

Gender Neutrality:-

- The Representation of the People Act 1950 gives the right to be included in the electoral roll to the people who are ordinarily residing in the constituency. It is generally believed that the wife of a person who is residing constituency is also considered to be a resident of the same area. As per the 1951 provision, there is a provision for persons of service qualification (members of the Armed Forces and Central Government employees appointed outside India) to vote by postal ballot or in their place by his wife.

- This amendment bill will use the word spouse in place of the word wife in both the rules, which aims to make the electoral provisions gender-neutral.

Benefits of amendment:-

- Many types of irregularities are prevalent in the elections of India. Sometimes fake votes are cast. These fake votes include the votes of the deceased, the votes of a person living outside, the votes cast by the men in the name of the women of the household, etc. Along with this, many times a person is enrolled in the voter list at two places, he goes to both the places and casts his vote. These problems can be eliminated by linking Aadhar Card with Order ID.

- Many election personnel and members of the armed forces have to be stationed at different places to conduct elections. Through this amendment, the arrangement of premises for the members of the armed forces and election personnel will not face any facilities to these members, so that they will conduct the election process smoothly with full due diligence and honesty.

- Extending the eligibility date will also bring many benefits which we will understand with an example. If a person turns 18 on 30 December 2021 and another person is turning 18 on 2 January 2022 and the voting is to be held in March June 2022. There will not be much difference in the decision-making ability of these two, but according to the old provisions, a person who has completed 18 years on 30 December 2021 can participate in the voting process but on 2 January 2022, a person who has completed 18 years will not participate in the voting process. The new system eliminates this inequality.

- The use of the word spouse or life partner in place of wife will not only bring about gender neutrality, but it will also give those service qualification women the right to vote through their spouse.



Disadvantages of these amendments:-

Privacy issue:-

- Aadhar card contains the biological information of the person. Given the lack of a robust cyber system with the government and the increasing trend of cyber attacks, there will be possibilities of breaching the principle of a secret ballot by hacking.

Interference of companies in elections:-

- A large amount of Aadhaar data of individuals is available with various companies. There can be a business in sharing this data with different political parties and it will also affect the elections.

Doubts about the success of the project:-

- The success of many projects in which the Aadhaar card is linked with other systems is also questionable. For example, there is a provision of direct benefit transfer in MNREGA, which is operated from Aadhaar card mobile number and bank account, even after this, there remains doubt about the transparency of MNREGA.

Inclusion error:-

- It will also create concerns for people with leprosy. If later on, arrangements are made for people to vote after verifying their fingerprints, then in this situation problems may arise with people suffering from leprosy. Such a problem happened with some patients of Jharkhand on linking Aadhar in PDS distribution.

Way ahead:-

- Fake vote is a minor link in the Indian electoral system. Along with this, there are many other problems like money power in elections, criminalization of politics, casteism in politics, lack of representation of women, communalism, apathy towards participating in elections, which need to be resolved. The present amendment is making many such provisions that are likely to lead to electoral reforms, but keeping in mind the above problems, many other steps need to be taken.
- Electoral reforms in India require that social, economic justice should be established. After the establish-

ment of social and economic justice, there will be a reduction in the casteist influence, communal effect, and use of money power in elections. You cannot expect a fair election until socio-economic justice is established and elections will be centered on caste, religion, and wealth.

- Along with this, there is a need to strengthen the provisions of Representation of the People Act to reduce criminalization in politics, as well as the punishment given in Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which deals with hate speech, is needed to be made more stringent.
- Manifesto given by political par-

ties in elections should be recognized as a contract.

Conclusion:-

However, reforms in elections cannot happen all of a sudden. Gradually these reforms have to be made a part of the system. The government and Election Commission of India are making efforts in these directions. Use of EVMs, use of VVPATs, provisions for disqualification from contesting elections, etc. play an important role in electoral reforms. The election is a process of transfer of sovereignty by the people, so it should be holy and should also look holy. It will strengthen democracy.

7**Civil war deepens in Ethiopia**

- Context
- Introduction
- About Ethiopia
- Ethiopian conflict: at a glance
- Effects of this conflict
- Impact on India

- Conclusion
- The road ahead

Context:-

At present, the civil war between the Tigre region in Ethiopia and the “federal government led by Abiy Ahmed” does not seem to be at rest. This civil war is becoming more serious with the intervention of global political powers.

Introduction:-

After being embroiled in a border dispute with Eritrea for a long time, Ethiopia is now engulfed in civil war. In this war, the federal government

led by Abiy Ahmed included the Ethiopian Defense Force, the Eritrean Defense Force, the Amhara Defense Forces, and on the other, the rebel group includes the Tigre People’s Liberation Front, the Oroma Liberation Army, and the TDF. The TPLF has claimed possession of the Amhara region and their forces are only 380 km away from the capital. Due to this situation, a state of emergency has been declared in Ethiopia. To remedy this situation, the Prime Minister has just called for compulsory military

service. Abiy Ahmed is also receiving aid from Turkey, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. The two sides are not agreeing on a deal, which is making this civil war more and more serious. More recently, after ending the two-decade-old border dispute with Eritrea, this conflict in Ethiopia has once again affected this African nation has created a crisis in the country.

About Ethiopia:-

- It is a landlocked country located in the Horn of Africa, officially known as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- It is the tenth-largest country in Africa in terms of area.
- Its capital is Addis Ababa.
- Ethiopia is bordered by Sudan to the southeast, Eritrea to the south, Djibouti and Somalia to the west, Kenya to the north, and South Sudan to the east.
- It is the world's most populous landlocked country.

Ethiopian conflict: At a glance:-

- At present there are more than 70 ethnic groups in Ethiopia. It consists of Oromo 34.5%, Amhara 26.91%, Somali 6.20%, Tigre 6.07%.
- In 1974, after ending the rule of Emperor Haile Silas, the single-party nation system was adopted, but from 1987 to 1991, in which time the power struggle started again, and the federal government system was brought.
- Eritrea, formerly part of Ethiopia, broke away from Ethiopia in 1991. From 1998 to 2000, there was a state of war. Tension on the border remained in Eritrea and Ethiopia until 2018. Abiy Ahmed was elected to the post of Prime Minister in 2018 and he signed a peace deal with Eritrea to end the border dispute. After the implementation of this peace agreement, Abiy Ahmed was awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.
- But then the current struggle started only after Ahmed became Prime Minister. Abi Ahmed, who comes from the Oromo community, was accused by the local leaders of the Tigre community that under the leadership of Abi Ahmed, the Tigre community is being harassed by military officers and bureaucrats.
- It should be noted that the native inhabitants of Tigray are considered

as fighting communities of Ethiopia and 60% of senior military posts are dominated by Tigray residents. Abi Ahmed was determined to bring this figure to 25%.

- Simultaneously, Abiy Ahmed was accused by various international agencies of imposing internet shutdowns to curtail press freedom in Ethiopia and of curtailing individual rights.
- As a result of the policies of Abi Ahmed, the discontent of the Tigre community increased and a situation of civil war arose there. An election was organized in the Tigre region against the federal government, but the federal government declared that election illegal, after this decision a situation of conflict arose between the Tigre Authority and the federal government.
- Tigre's troops fired missiles at Asmara, the capital of neighboring Eritrea, after which the federal government of Ethiopia declared an armed struggle against the Tigre People's Liberation Front.

Effects of this conflict:-**Impact on people of Ethiopia**

- In fact, Ethiopia has not yet achieved full democratic stability, the monarchy until 1974, followed by the power struggle, then the war with Eritrea, followed by the inner planetary war.
- This problem hinders Ethiopia's building as a nation by preventing social upliftment, economic reform, political development, and technological development of Ethiopia's residents.
- However, due to this bloody civil war, thousands of people died while more than 2 million people were left homeless. There is widespread starvation in the Tigre region due to the arbitrary policies of the federal government. About 400,000 people are facing famine-like situations. Essen-



-tial things like health and food are not available to the people. Along with this, there is also a situation of Yon invasion, human rights abuses, and refugee crisis in Ethiopia.

China in Ethiopian Civil War:-

- Until the start of the Tigre Civil War, the US considered Ethiopia as its located partner. From 2016 to 2020, the US provided 4.2 billion-dollar humanitarian aid to Ethiopia. But after the civil war, the situation seems to have changed.
- If the US stops giving aid, China may come to fill this void. At present, Abiy Ahmed is supplying arms through China. With the strengthening of China in Ethiopia, China will have access to the western Indian Ocean region as well as the Red Sea and important areas of Africa.
- China already has a military base in Djibouti as well as friendly relations with countries such as Kenya, Sudan, and South Sudan. These conditions will strengthen China in Africa.

Impact on other African countries:-

- Ethiopia is the region of the Horn of Africa where apart from Ethiopia there are countries like Eritrea, Djibouti, and Sudan. The Eritrean capital's missile strike by Ethiopia's Tigre community has also raised suspicion among other countries.
- Eritrean forces are supporting the federal government of Ethiopia

in this conflict. Along with this, countries like Turkey, Saudi Arabia are also providing arms to the federal government.

- The Ethiopian government has been asked by other countries in the region to end the conflict. Sudan is currently in crisis and Egypt will also be affected by this conflict as a significant part of the source of the Nile flows through Ethiopia. Thus the Ethiopian conflict will affect the entire region.

- Along with this, Ethiopia's civil war is giving countries like China, Turkey, United Arab Emirates a place in Africa which can become a crisis for Africa in the long run.

Impact on global organizations:-

- Global organizations are also affected by this conflict, the President of the World Health Organization has condemned the conflict in Ethiopia. The United Nations, African Union are also condemning the conflict happening here.

Impact on India:-

- When does India consider Africa to be an important part of its diplomacy at this time. Various types of welfare programs are being run by India in African countries. Indian people do educational work and industrial work in Ethiopia.

- In case of conflict, the population of India which is in Ethiopia will have to face some crisis. The government of India is committed to the security of its population living abroad, in this situation India's concerns will increase.

- India also needs to be concerned about China's access to Africa. Because this will put China in a strong position in the western Indian Ocean.

Global refugee crisis:-

- War also creates a refugee crisis.

At present, many countries of the world including Sudan are facing a refugee crisis. In India too, there have been conflicts many times over the refugees coming from Bangladesh. This conflict will somewhere intensify the refugee crisis.

- The conflict left more than 2 million people homeless in Ethiopia. The European world is also grappling with the Syrian crisis. Thus the Ethiopian crisis will exacerbate the global refugee crisis.

Increase in global unrest

- At this time where conflicts are rampant all over the world. Ethnic problems like the Rohingya problem in Myanmar, Tamil problem in Sri Lanka, racism in America are increasing.

- This conflict in Ethiopia may give these ethnic movements an option to choose the path of violence. Which can also give rise to global terrorism.

Conclusion:-

This war has adversely affected the political, economic, and social situation of Ethiopia. The government of Abiy Ahmed has to recognize that the tendencies of centralization in a multiracial federal system give rise to a crisis. Whereas the Tigre community should have used the democratic method in this matter. However, the tension between these two has affected the whole of Africa including Ethiopia. Which other world powers are taking advantage of.

The road ahead :-

- The basis of the federal system is the constitution. Therefore, this problem should also be resolved through the constitutional method.

- In fact, any form of war is an obstacle in the development of humanity, in such a situation, it is the responsibility of sovereign nations

and global organizations to stop these conflicts.

- It is of paramount importance that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia tries to ease the crisis of trust in his country. For this, he will have to proceed with the restoration of press freedom and talks with the rebel group.

- The rest of Ethiopia's community will have to play its part in de-escalating the impasse and tensions.

- United Nations, African Union will have to make efforts and establish peace and solve poverty and hunger through the long term action plan.

- However, along with this, other countries such as America, China, Turkey, will also have to work towards restoring peace.

- Although it is the problem of Ethiopia it reflects the different problems of this world. Therefore, understanding the need for peace, the sovereign nations of the world, global organizations, influential authorities, and influential people at the grassroots level have to take steps to move forward on the path of human development. In this approach, it is necessary to imbibe the principles of secularism, humanism, multiculturalism, and democracy.

NOTES

SHORT ISSUES

NATIONAL

1 NITI Aayog Health Index

The Government of India has taken new initiatives under the aegis of NITI Aayog with the aim of making the innovative thinking of youth and entrepreneurs to strengthen human resource development and knowledge-based economy in the country. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog are the first of its kind Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP) with an aim to empower innovators and entrepreneurs across the country.

This vernacular innovation program will enable innovators and entrepreneurs to have access to the innovation eco-system in 22 scheduled languages of the Government of India. In order to build the required capacity for VIPs, Atal Innovation Mission

will provide training to a Vernacular Task Force (VTF) after the identification of each of the 22 scheduled languages. Each task force consists of local language teachers, subject experts, technical writers and the leadership of the Regional Atal Incubation Center (AIC).

NITI Aayog has said that India can be the first country in the world to launch such an initiative where an innovation eco-system of 22 languages along with English is being created. By providing access to learning in one's language and culture, AIM looks forward to enriching local, regional, national and global innovation pipelines.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and United Nations Capital

Development Fund (UNCDF) have launched their first Agri-Tech Challenge Cohort for their ambitious innovative agri-tech programme which aims to tackle the challenges arising out of the Corona pandemic and to help small farmers of Asia and Africa. The partnership of AIM and NITI Aayog with UNCDF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Rabo Foundation to launch South-South Innovation Platform to enable the country-to-country exchange of innovations, knowledge and investments in July 2021. Through this platform, 'cross border' cooperation will be established in emerging markets of India, Indonesia, Malawi, Malaysia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia.

2 Coarse cereals will be promoted

NITI Aayog has signed a Declaration of Intent on 20 December 2021 with the United Nations World Food Program to meet the objectives of food security and to establish a balance in food resources. Under this partnership, the focus will be on bringing coarse cereals into the mainstream and on the occasion of International Millet Year in 2023, India will be given an opportunity to lead the world in the field of knowledge exchange. Recognizing the importance of coarse cereal crops (Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Maduva, Sawan, Kodon, Kutki, Kangni, Cheena etc.) the Government of India had celebrated 2018 as the year of cereals. The Govern-

ment of India had led a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2023 as International Millet Day.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has unanimously accepted India's proposal. Under this, 2023 has been declared as the 'International Year of Coarse Cereals'. More than 70 countries supported this proposal. Apart from India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Russia and Senegal also proposed to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millet.

The consumption of millets leads to

nutrition, food security and welfare of farmers. In the field of millets, this will open new possibilities of research for agricultural scientists and start-ups.



3

NITI Aayog Health Index**Why in News?**

Recently, the Health Index has been released by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the World Bank and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Key Points of the Index

- According to this report, Kerala has topped among the states with a score of 82.2 whereas Uttar Pradesh is at the lowest position with a score of 30.57.
- This health index is based on the health preparedness performance of the states.
- According to this report 47% of the states have performed better than the previous year.
- Uttar Pradesh ranked last in this index, but it became the most improved state by scoring 5.57 more than the previous year. (Last year Uttar Pradesh's score was 25)
- Kerala has topped in the index for 4 consecutive years.

Categories: Basis of Index:-

These health indices are mainly based on three categories:-

- 1- Health Outcome,
- 2- Governance and infrastructure,
- 3- Key Input and Process

Health outcome:-

It includes neonatal mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate and sex ratio at birth.

Governance and Infrastructure:-

Institutional deliveries, the capacity of appointees and infrastructure in hospitals are included under this category.

Key Inputs and Process:-

This category includes health care

providers and functional health facilities recommended by them, birth and death registration, the success rate in the diagnosis of tuberculosis.

Data of large states:-**Top three big states in the health index**

- 1st place- Kerala (Score-82.2)
- 2nd place - Tamil Nadu (Score -72.42)
- 3rd place- Telangana (Score-69.96)

Last three big states in the health index:-

- 19th- Uttar Pradesh (Score-30.57)
- 18th- Bihar (Score-31)
- 17th- Madhya Pradesh (Score -36.72)

Three big states which have improved the most compared to last year:-

1. Uttar Pradesh- Improvement of 5.57 marks
2. Assam- Improvement of 4.34 marks
3. Telangana- Improvement of 4.22 marks

Large states that performed negatively as compared to the previous year:-

- **Karnataka**- 9th place with a decline of 1.37 points
- **Haryana** - 11th place with a drop of 0.55 points
- **Rajasthan** - 16th place with a drop of 0.25 points
- **Chhattisgarh** - 10th place with a drop of 0.09 points
- **Himachal Pradesh** - 7th place with a drop of 0.06 points

Data related to small states in the index**Top three small states in the health****index:-**

- **First place**- Mizoram (score-75.77)
- **Second place**- Tripura (Score-70.16)
- **Third place**- Sikkim (Score-55.53)

Last three small states in the health index:-

- 8th- Nagaland (Score-27)
- 7th-Arunachal Pradesh (Score-33.91)
- 6th- Manipur (Score 34.67)

Three small states that have improved to last year:-

1. **Mizoram**- Score 18.45
2. **Meghalaya** - Score 17.7
3. **Nagaland** - Score 3.43

Smaller states performing negative than last year:-

- **Goa** – Decline of 12.68 points
- **Manipur** - Decline of 5.73 points
- **Arunachal Pradesh** - Decline of 1.54 points
- **Sikkim** - Decline of 0.72 points

Data with respect to Union Territories:-**Top three UTs in the index**

- **First place**- Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu (Score-66.19)
- **Second place**- Chandigarh (Score -62.53)
- **Third place**- Lakshadweep (Score-51.88)

Last three UTs in the index:-

- 7th- Andaman and Nicobar (Score -44.74)
- 6th- Jammu and Kashmir (Score-47)
- 5th- Delhi (Score-49.85)

Three UTs which have made the most improvement as compared to last year:-

1. **Delhi** - Improvement of 9.68 marks

2. **Jammu and Kashmir**- Improvement of 9.55 marks
3. **Lakshadweep** - Improvement of 7.72 marks

UTs performing negative as compared to the previous year

- **Chandigarh** - a drop of 10.85 points

- Dadra Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu - 3.5, 3 points drop

4 Indian Army Moving Towards Modern Technology

Reference-

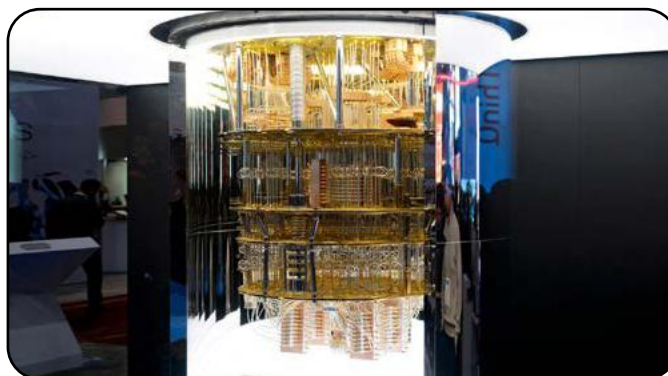
Recently, a quantum computing laboratory and a centre for artificial intelligence have been established by the Indian Army. It shows that the Indian army moving towards modern technology.

Main Points-

- These centres have been established by the army at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh.
- Indian Army has set up Quantum Computer Laboratory in collaboration with the National Security Council Secretariat.
- Along with this, the Indian Army has also established a Center for Artificial Intelligence in collaboration with academicians and industrialists.
- These laboratories will be helpful in the prevention of cyber crimes and cyber warfare.
- The main objective of these institutes is to cooperate in the development of the latest technologies.

Quantum Computing:-

- The word quantum refers to the study of atoms and particles. The development of quantum computing will help in understanding the fundamental features of the physical world including the interaction of light and matter. The invention of lasers and semiconductors and their applications have been made possible by the use of these principles.
- Quantum computing will help in secure communication, research, disaster management and health and energy security through the discovery of new molecules.

**Artificial Intelligence**

- Artificial intelligence refers to developing understanding in machines.
- Experts believe that artificial intelligence will play a vital role in the fourth industrial revolution.
- With the use of artificial intelligence, India can progress in the fields of agriculture, digital governance, education, technology, army, health etc.
- India has huge potential for the development of artificial intelligence due to its extensive database.
- Use of artificial intelligence will also be helpful in India's goal of reaching 5 trillion economy.
- Although artificial intelligence is associated with some challenges such as privacy violations, technological and digital backwardness, increase in unemployment and inequality, etc.

Conclusion:-

In the future, technologies such as quantum technology, the Internet of things, artificial intelligence, robotics will have an important contribution and role. In this situation, continuous efforts are being made by the

Government of India to upgrade the technology. India's army is an essential part to protect the sovereignty of India, in this situation technical up-gradation of the army according to the global conditions is extremely necessary. Therefore, the establishment of these institutions is a commendable step.

NOTES

China's new border law and India-China border relations

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China has standardized 15 places in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh with the new name. This has been done by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China after the Chinese Parliament passed the new border law. In this way, the new border law of China can further increase the increasing tension between India and China.

Introduction:-

For the first time in 2017, Chinese authorities issued "official" names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh. The move was in retaliation after the Dalai Lama visited the state at that time. The new list currently released is more detailed. It covers 11 districts of Arunachal Pradesh from Tawang in the west to Anjou in the east. The names of eight cities, four mountains, two rivers and one mountain pass have been "standardised" by China in the new list. This work has been done by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China after the Chinese Parliament passed the new border law.

China will use these new names in its official Chinese documents and maps. Arunachal is shown as "South Tibet" in these maps. India has responded that China does not make any difference in giving the new name because Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. The mapping of these places came before China's new land boundary law, which came into force on January 1, 2022, has been objected by India. its official Chinese documents and

What is China's new law?

- A new border law has been brought by China which is applicable from 1 January 2022. According to this law, the army will be committed to the defence of the areas claimed by China. China's move in the context of the rise of global powers in the Indo-Pacific region and the unresolved border dispute with Bhutan and India can give rise to tensions again.
- The law named "Land Border Law" has 62 articles and 7 chapters that are related to border security, border determination, border management and trade from immigration.
- The new names of places in Arunachal Pradesh have been changed in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of this Act.
- This law empowers China's military and civilian officials to take appropriate steps necessary to protect national sovereignty.
- Unauthorized claims have been made by China on many areas of India and Bhutan. India has said that this new law of China will give legal aid to illegal activities being done by China's military. This may lead to a situation of bilateral tension on border management.
- For 2 years, there is a situation of continuous dispute on the India and China border. In this situation, this law can further increase the tension of China's relations with India.

Conclusion:-

There are both tensions and opportunities in India-China relations. At present, due to Chi-

na's internal politics and Corona effect, companies are migrating from China and these may be established in India and Vietnam.

India should take advantage of the situation by avoiding tension at such a time, but if the Indian sovereignty will be encroached by China on the basis of its law, then India should be ready to respond appropriately.

NOTES

2

‘India Out’ campaign in Maldives

The government in the Maldives and several key political figures in the Indian Ocean Region country have hit back against former President Abdulla Yameen’s “India out” campaign, allegedly promoted by China. Former Maldives President and the father figure of Maldives politics, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has said that no campaign should be launched against any neighbouring/friendly nation. Maumoon (half-brother of Yameen) asserted that one should not campaign against any neighbouring country and that it was not a policy that would be accepted internationally.

Background

- The ‘India Out’ campaign has mostly cropped on social media and was launched in 2018 by the then President of Maldives, Abdullah Yameen who asked India to take two of its helicopters and a Dornier aircraft from there. The helicopter and the aircraft were kept by India for rescue operations in the Maldives. The Maldives had said that if India had given these gifts, then the pilots should be from the Maldives and not from India. The issue escalated to the point where people started protesting in the streets.
- Ever since Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was elected to office in 2018, the campaign became vigorous. More so because the leader of the current ruling party Mohamed Nasheed urged India in 2018 to intervene militarily to dislodge Yameen and restore peace and democracy.
- Despite repeated calls for intervention, India firmly avoided military action against the Yameen regime. New Delhi thoughtfully coordinated

its diplomatic response with other stakeholders, and put enormous pressure on Yameen to hold the presidential elections in a fair and transparent manner.

- The campaign also caught up against the opposition to the Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) harbour development deal with India in February 2021, which is being seen as a way of allowing Indian military presence on native soil.
- More recently, the campaign gained momentum with release of former President Abdulla Yameen from house arrest after the verdict of Supreme Court on 30th November 2021

Why this campaign is gaining ground again?

- The next presidential election is scheduled in 2023, and Mr. Yameen is trying to make a political comeback, tapping on both the anti-incumbency, and the anti-India sentiments among sections loyal to him.

About the campaign:

- The organizers of the campaign claim to have access to several classified agreements signed by India and the Maldives which are allegedly harmful to the Maldives including the agreement on the hydrographic survey, and the agreement on setting up of Coast Guard dockyard at Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) funded by India.
- It is argued that the Solih administration is “selling off Maldives” by entering into these agreements with India in the field of defence and security, and infrastructure development.
- The agreement between India and the Maldives on the hydro-

graphic survey was criticised arguing that the agreement allows India to access underwater information and sell the information to others. Both India and the Maldivian government have responded against these allegations. The Maldives government has refused to share details of agreements signed with India citing security reasons.

**NOTES**

ENVIRONMENT

1

Rare walking fish found in the Tasman Sea

Recently a very rare pink handfish has been seen in Australia off the coast of Tasmania which is a rare walking fish. It has been seen off the coast of Australia after 22 years. It was being searched for many years and efforts were also being made to conserve it, as a result of which this success has been achieved.

The speciality of this pink handfish is that it has protruding fins on both sides of its body which look like small hands. With the help of these hand-like organs, this fish moves. Hence its name is Walking Fish. It has been seen during a survey at Tasman Frac-

ture Marine Park.

This has been confirmed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, which is Australia's national science agency.

It was last seen in Australia in the year 1999. According to the CSIRO, there was a time when walking fish were found in large numbers in the coastal waters of North East Tasmania and South Tasmania. In the year 2012, this species was declared critically endangered in Australia. Later it was only seen in Derwent and Diantcastreaux Estuary.

The Pink Hand is a species of Aus-

tralian native. Recent research has also confirmed that handfish, hitherto considered shallow-water species, can be found in deeper parts of the ocean (up to 150 m deep ocean area) and in more open ocean waters. The pink handfish is a member of the anglerfish family. It is one of 14 types of handfish that are found off the southwest coast of Tasmania. Recently, Canadian researchers have also discovered an extinct swordfish which was found 130 million years ago in the ocean waters of Colombia.

2

Rarest species found in Indogi Lake of Myanmar

Indogi Lake is located in Myanmar. Two of the world's rarest species have recently been found in this lake located in Kachin State of Myanmar. It is a species of pipefish. Both these species are endemic species of this lake. These species are native to the region and this is their natural habitat.

This lake is the third largest fresh water lake in Southeast Asia. It is home to 106 bird species including globally threatened and rare water birds. Inle Lake, located in Shan Province, is also a well-known freshwater lake in Myanmar. It is the highest and second largest lake in Myanmar. The Inle Lake area is also Myanmar's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It was recognized by UNESCO in 2015. On the other hand, Indogi Lake has been given the status of ASEAN Heritage Park. It is also a Ramsar site which

is a wetland of international importance.

Important facts about Pipefish:

The pipe fish is similar to the two species of the fish group, the Sea Horse and the Sea Dragon. Male pipefish have a cavity in their body. During mating with a male pipefish, the female pipefish leaves her eggs in this body cavity where these eggs develop. The gestation period is 12 to 14 days. It is clear from the research that the male pipefish can keep 5 to 40 babies in the transparent cavity.

NOTES

1 Livestock affected by Brucellosis

Livestock is of great importance in India, India is an agricultural and animal-oriented country. In the last two decades, many infectious diseases have been affecting the livestock of India. One such disease Brucellosis is currently the subject of discussion in West Bengal. Livestock is considered to be the most important subject as it is related to food security, milk production and organic agriculture in India. The rising cases of Brucellosis in West Bengal amidst the dangers of the Omicron variant has raised concerns. This disease is increasing rapidly in animals in this state. Globally, last year hundreds of people were found to be suffering from brucellosis infection in Lanzhou city of Gansu province, located in the north-western region of China.

What is Brucellosis disease?

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease. It infects animals like cows, goats, sheep, pigs and dogs. It is also known as wave fever, Mediterranean fever and Malta fever or fever. It is a zoonotic disease i.e. animal borne disease. Such diseases which are caused by animals are called zoonotic diseases. It affects the bones, skin and liver, as well as the central nervous system and the gastrointestinal tract. It is caused by a bacterium called Brucella. This disease in humans usually occurs when they come in direct contact with infected animals. Humans also get this disease due to eating meat or contaminated products of infected animals. It also spread through pasteurized milk and cheese from infected animals.

According to WHO, person-to-person infection is very rare in this. Humans can become infected by eating or drinking infected animal products or by inhaling bacteria present in the air. The World Health Organization says that it can take from a week to two months for the symptoms of the disease to appear. Its symptoms are flu, fever, sweating, fatigue, loss of appetite, headache, weight loss and muscle pain etc. Many symptoms can last for a longer duration and some never go away such as frequent fever, joint pain, swelling in heart and liver, fatigue, depression etc.

India's Steps-

National Animal Disease Control Program:-

National Animal Disease Control Program (NADCP) is a flagship program launched for five years (from 2019-20 to 2023-24) with an outlay of 13,343.00 crore for the control of Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis in September 2019 by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Under this program 100% population of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig for FMD and 100% vaccination of bovine female calves of 4-8 months of age for Brucellosis are included.

The overall objective of the National Animal Disease Control Program (NADCP) for FMD and Brucellosis is to control FMD by 2025 through vaccination. This will result in an increase in domestic production and ultimately increase in exports of milk and livestock products. Intensive Brucellosis Control Program in Animals is envisaged to control

Brucellosis resulting in effective management of the disease in both animals and humans. National Animal Disease Control Program (NADCP) for FMD and Brucellosis is a Central Sector Scheme where 100% funds will be provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs.

NOTES

2

Indigenous missile 'Pralay' successfully test-fired

Why in News?

Recently Dr. A.P. J. Pralay missile was successfully test fired off the coast of 'Abdul Kalam Island' (Odisha).

Key points regarding 'Pralaya' missile

- Pralay missile has been manufactured on the basis of indigenously developed technology by Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- It is a conventional surface-to-surface semi ballistic missile.
- This missile is also capable of changing the route.
- Solid propellant has been used

in this missile. It is equipped with advanced navigation system.

- The range of Pralay missile is 150 to 500 km.
- A feature of the Pralay missile is that it can also be launched from a moving launcher.

About DRDO-

- DRDO or Defense Development Research Organization is the primary research organization of India's military sector.
- It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Defense, Government of India.
- DRDO was established in 1958 by

merging the Technical Development Establishment and Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defense Science Organization.

- The motto of DRDO is "Balsya Moolam Vigyanam".
- At present, DRDO has a network of more than 50 laboratories, which are related to research in aeronautical, armament electronics engineering, systems instrument, missile, computing, special materials and naval etc.

ECONOMY

1

Economic prospects of the Northeast

Why in News?

Recently, in a speech in Manipur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that there is immense potential in north east India to be the leader of Indian economy.

Introduction

The north-eastern state is a sensitive region of India. Despite the availability of natural resources here, economic possibilities have not been explored well. Due to the lack of economic prospects, the problems of separatism and naxalism also persist here. The region of Northeast India has not yet been fully developed after independence, so there is a need to increase development in

these areas.

Prospects of economic development in the Northeast and the efforts made by the government

- For economic development in the Northeast, it is most important that the connectivity of the Northeast regions with the main roads of India should be established. The government is also making efforts in this direction. The Government is continuously increasing the connectivity with countries like Bangladesh, Nepal Bhutan etc through projects like BBIN to establish connectivity with different states of the Northeast.
- Natural resources are abundant in the Northeast region of India. More than 60% of our country's bam-

boo and more than 35% of natural water are found in this region. Cottage industries can be given importance. Recently, bamboo was removed from the category of the tree and placed in the category of grass by the government, which has made the trade of bamboo easier. More such efforts will be helpful in making the natural resources of the Northeast an economic resource.

- Biodiversity and many national parks exist here which can increase tourism in this area. Therefore, by promoting tourism-based industries, the economic development here can be accelerated. Eco-tourism and cultural tourism can also be helpful in economic development in the region.

According to the 2017 report, about 77 lakh Indian tourists and 1.5 lakh foreign tourists went to the North-east. If the socio-economic condition of the Northeast is improved, then this number can more than double. Efforts are also being made by the government in this direction. Recently, the scheme being run by the government proposes to build a Northeast circuit, which will be helpful in increasing tourism in the Northeast.

- Along with these it is also necessary that the tribes found in the north-eastern states should be connected with the mainstream of the society. For this, many efforts are being made by the government like Eklavya Vidyalaya.
- English language is spoken more in many states of Northeast like

Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. It can be used to increase the service centre, which will be helpful in increasing the economic condition of the Northeast.

- In the Action Agenda Document of NITI Aayog, several recommendations have been given in the context of increasing the economic prospects in the Northeast, on which the government should act.
- In the absence of political stability and social justice, there can be no economic development. Therefore, before increasing the possibilities of economic development here, it is necessary that the government should end the problems like separatism and Naxalism along with the establishment of social justice and reforms in the tribal areas.
- Extensive efforts are being

made by the government in many areas including education, human resource, industry and agriculture, which will be helpful in increasing the economic condition here.

Conclusion

Northeast India is the most prosperous part of the country from the natural point of view. But due to various circumstances, it has not been able to develop that much from an economic point of view. Due to problems like governance deficit and separatism, proper economic development of the people has not happened here, but the possibilities are wide here. These possibilities will have to be used properly so that the Northeast region can move on the path of development at par with other states of India.

2

SEBI issued new guidelines for IPO

Why in News?

Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made new changes in the context of Initial Public Offer (IPO).

Currently, the trend of raising capital through IPOs has seen a boom in the stock markets all over the world. In India alone, over Rs. 71 trillion has been gained through IPOs this year. In this situation, these new guidelines have been issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India with the aim of reducing the possibility of risk and increasing transparency.

Guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India

The following are the new guidelines regarding IPO-

- As per the latest SEBI guidelines, the price band floor of an IPO shall be at least 105% of the price.
- Only 35% of the funds raised from IPO by any company will be used for

acquisition and general corporate purposes i.e. any company, without providing any information, funds more than 35% of the funds raised from IPO in the acquisition of any other business will not be able to use.

- Investors who have a 20% or less stake in a company will not be able to sell more than 50 percent of the total stake by the offer of sale.
- The lock-in period for anchor investors has been increased to 90 days. Till now it was up to 30 days. The lock-in period prevents anchor investors from abruptly selling shares, thereby preventing stock price fluctuations for a limited period after the company is listed on the primary markets.
- SEBI has said that monitoring of IPO funds will continue till 100% of IPO funds are utilised. Before this, it was up to 95%. Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) registered with SEBI will

be allowed to act as monitoring agencies in place of scheduled commercial banks and public financial institutions.

- It has been decided by SEBI to place the audit of new technology companies before the committee every three months. Earlier the audit was done annually.
- In addition, two-thirds of the share available to NICs will be reserved for investors above Rs 10 lakh. In the case of the NII category, the allotment of securities will be on 'draw of lot' which is currently applicable for the Retail Individual Investors (RII) category.
- The latest guidelines issued by SEBI will be effective from 1st April 2022.

Conclusion

The purpose of bringing the guidelines by SEBI is to bring transparency in the market. Retail investors will

NEWS OF NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL IMPORTANCE



1. Indian Army Launches ASIGMA Messaging App

Indian Army has launched a messaging application named Army Secure Indigenous Messaging Application (ASIGMA). It has been developed completely internally by a team of officers from the Army's Signal Corps. This messaging application will replace the Army Wide Area Network messaging application. Army Wide Area Network (Awan) messaging application is in service for last 15 years. The Ministry of Defence in its official statement said that the Indian Army has adopted automation on a large scale, especially after the spread of Covid-19. The army is taking adequate steps towards paperless work. Army Secure Indigenous Messaging Application will give further impetus to these efforts and will be integrated with other applications

already installed by the Army on its captive PAN Army network.

2. WADA restored the accreditation of NDTL

The National Doping Testing Laboratory (NDTL) has got back the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) accreditation. The recognition of NDTL was revoked in August 2019 after an assessment done by WADA in September 2018. The suspension of NDTL barred it from carrying out any anti-doping activities, including all analysis of urine and blood samples. This process made the anti-doping program very expensive for the country as there were significant costs involved in sending samples abroad. On re-accreditation of NDTL from WADA, the anti-doping testing and activities of NDTL will resume with immediate effect. At the same time, the government is keen to establish and accredit more dope testing laboratories in the country. India currently ranks third in WADA's list of dope violators. The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) is one of the 32 WADA accredited laboratories in the world. It is the only laboratory in the country which is responsible for dope testing.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was formed in 1999 and its headquarters is located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.



3. Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021 Released

Recently Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021 has been released. According to this index, India ranks third in the world in terms of unicorns after America and China. A private start-up company whose enterprise value is more than \$1 billion is called a unicorn startup. India was ranked fourth in the 2020 index. India has secured the third position this year, surpassing Britain. It has been told in the index that this year the number of unicorns in India has increased to 54, which is more than double compared to last year. The index claims that out of 122 unicorns in e-commerce globally, 15 are in India. Byjus, a company related to online education, is first in the list of Unicorns

of India. Its value is estimated at \$ 21 billion. Mobile ed-tech platform InMobi is valued at \$12 billion and Oyo Rooms at \$9.5 billion. Bengaluru is the city that provides the most suitable environment for unicorns in India.

Hurun's
Global
Unicorn
Index 2021





4. Good Governance Index 2021 Released

On the occasion of Good Governance Day (25 December 2021), the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has released the Good Governance Index. The index focuses on 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance'. The Good Governance Index is based on 10 governance areas and 58 governance indicators. The Good Governance Index 2020-21 classifies the states and union territories into four categories. (i) Group A (ii) Group B (iii) North-East and Hill States and (iv) Union Territories.

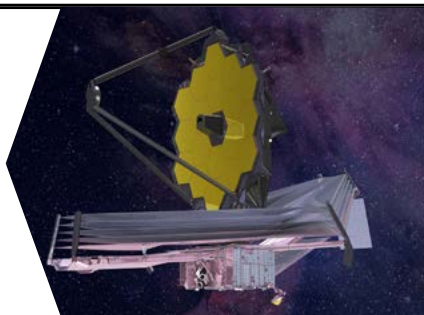
In the Good Governance Index 2021, 20 states have improved their overall GGI scores. Uttar Pradesh has shown an increase of 8.9% as compared to the performance of GGI 2019. Gujarat has topped the overall ranking of Group A category whereas Madhya Pradesh is at the top position in Group B category. Delhi tops the overall ranking of union territories.

Some other important facts related to Good Governance Index 2021:

- Rajasthan has topped the Group B category in Judiciary and Public Safety, Environment and Citizen Centric Governance.
- In the category of North-East and Hill states, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir have shown an overall growth of 10.4% and 3.7% respectively.
- Jammu and Kashmir has registered an improvement of 3.7 percent in GGI indicators.

5. World's Most Powerful Space Telescope Fully Deployed in Space

NASA has launched the world's largest and most powerful space telescope "James Webb" from French Guiana on a European Ariane rocket. This space telescope will start scanning the cosmos after traveling 1.6 million kilometers. The James Webb Space Telescope will detect the first galaxy formed in the early universe. The James Webb Space Telescope has been developed with the help of NASA, European and Canadian space agencies. The primary mirror of JWST is plated in gold and measures about 21.32 feet in width. This mirror is made by joining 18 hexagon pieces made of beryllium. Each piece is plated with 48.2 grams of gold. Due to which it acts like a reflector. The JWST will be located near the second Lagrange point (L2). It will orbit the Sun from a distance of about 15,00,000 km. The James Webb Space Telescope will replace NASA's Hubble Telescope.



6. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021 announced

Recently, the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhash Sarkar has announced the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021 for the institutions of the innovation, start-up and entrepreneurship development in the country. IIT-Madras has got the first rank under the Central University and Institutions of National Importance category under ARIIA. The top 10 centrally funded HEIs in the country as per ARIIA 2021 are:- IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, IISc Bangalore, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kharagpur, NIT Calicut and MNIT Prayagraj. According to

ARIIA 2021, Punjab University has got the first position in the category of technical universities run by the state governments. After this, Delhi Technical University and Netaji Subhash University of Technology have got the second and third place respectively. At the same time, College of Engineering, Pune has been ranked first in the category of government and aided technical colleges. Seven institutes from Maharashtra have ranked in the 'Top 10' under various categories.



7. India to chair UNSC's Anti-Terrorism Committee

India chaired the Anti-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to be held in January 2022. TS Trimurti, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, chaired the committee on behalf of India. The Security Council established the Anti-Terrorism Committee (CTC) through resolution 1373, adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US.

Resolution 1373 urged countries to implement measures aimed at enhancing their legal and institutional capacity to combat terrorist activities both domestically and around the world. The Anti-Terrorism Committee also oversees steps taken to cooperate with other governments in the investigation,

detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in terrorist acts. India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-member Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

- It is one of the six major organs of the United Nations.
- Its main function is to ensure international peace and security.
- It was established on 24 October 1945.
- The headquarters of the United Nations Security Council is located in New York.
- Its Five permanent members:- America, Russia, China, Britain, France.
- At present there are 10 non-permanent members.

8. World economy to cross \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022

According to British consultancy Saber, the world economy will exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022. In this report by BCS, China would become the world's top economy by 2030. BCS has anticipated in its annual report "World Economic League" that India will surpass France in 2022 and then Britain in 2023 and become the sixth largest economy in the world. According to the report, Germany will surpass Japan in economy by 2033. On the other hand, Russia may become one of the top 10 economies by 2036, while Indonesia can be the 9th largest economy in the world by 2034. The important issue in this report is "how world economies deal with inflation".



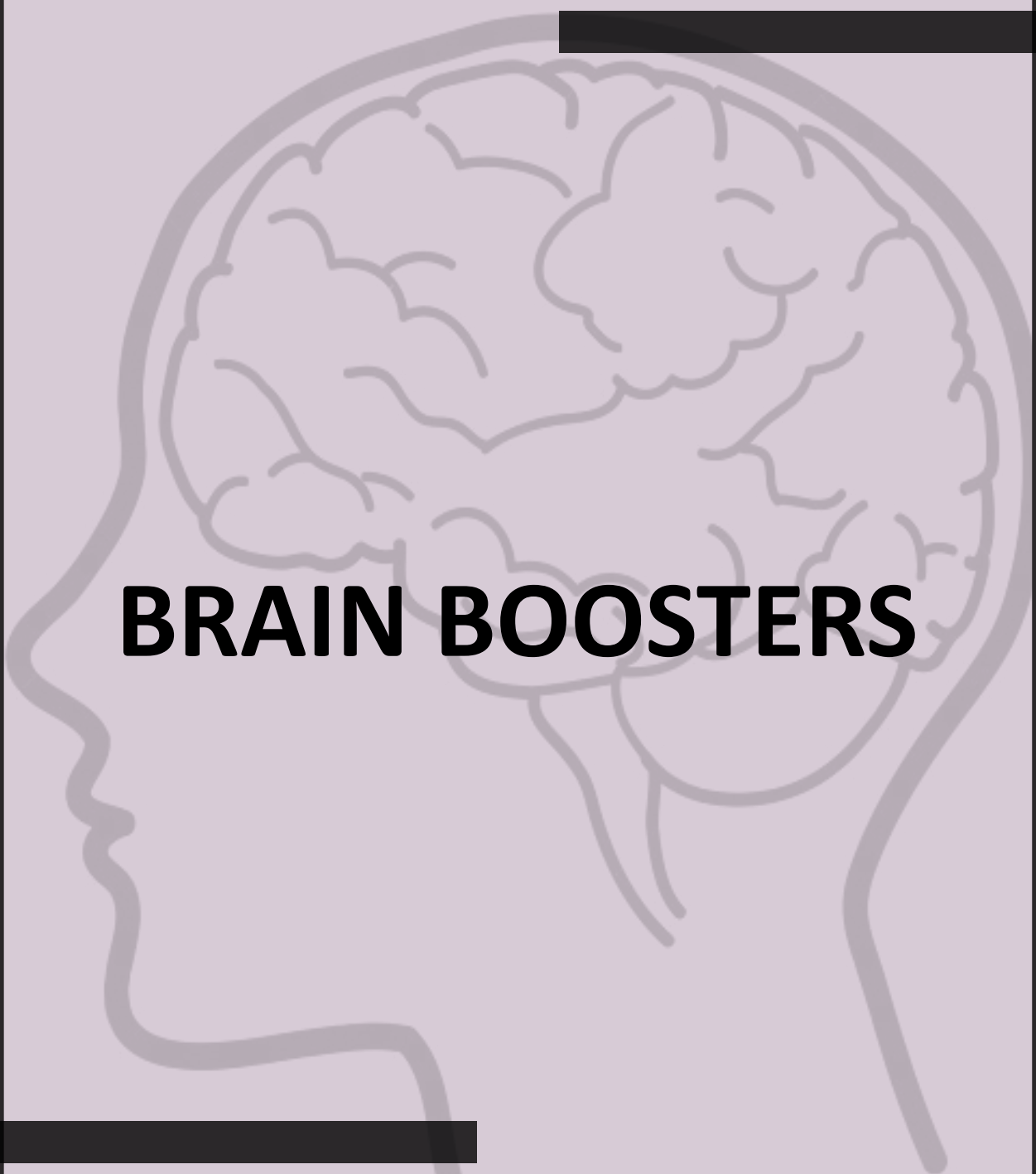
9. Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award for Greenman Viral Desai

Viral Desai, popularly known as Greenman, has been honored with the Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award at an event held in Dubai. Viral Desai is the only Indian to receive this honour. Apart from Viral, 28 personalities from 11 other countries have also been honored with the Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award. Earlier, Viral Desai has been honored with Bharat Gaurav Samman by Sanskriti Yuva Sansthan on 23 December. Viral Desai's biggest achievement is that he converted Udhna railway station in Surat into a green railway station by his tireless efforts. Viral

Desai has talked about adopting this model in other places.

Current Affairs at a Glance

- Divya Hegde was given the United Nations Leadership Commitment Award for Gender Equality.
- Bangladesh won the SAIF Under-19 Women's Football Championship in Dhaka after defeating India.
- Maharashtra Legislative Assembly passed the Power of Criminal Law (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill 2020.
- UP government launched 'Free Smartphone Scheme' on 25th December. Under this scheme, the government will distribute mobiles and tablets to the final year students of graduation and above.
- British-Italian Pritzker architecture Prize-winning architect Richard Rogers passed away in London.
- Anahata Singh of India defeated Jayda Marei of Egypt and won the Junior US Open squash tournament.
- Center constituted a committee to investigate the withdrawal of AFSPA in Nagaland. The chairman of this committee will be V.K. Joshi.
- Defense Minister inaugurated the BrahMos missile manufacturing unit of Lucknow.
- Himachal Pradesh won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time by defeating Tamil Nadu in the final match held in Jaipur.
- India's first indigenously built missile corvette, INS Khukri, has been decommissioned after 32 years of service.
- Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, who contributed to the end of apartheid in South Africa, passed away. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his work.
- Pankaj Advani won the National Billiards title for the 11th time.
- The Government of Gujarat started the 'Nadi Utsav' on the banks of river Tapi in Surat to honour the rivers.
- The sex ratio at birth has increased in 2020-21 by 19 points to 937 at the national level which was 918 in 2014-15.
- Telangana topped the implementation of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM). While Tamil Nadu and Gujarat came second and third. The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was launched by the central government in 2016. Its main objective is to develop urban infrastructure in rural areas. Rurban Mission has developed a cluster of several smart villages.
- Meendum Manja pai scheme was launched by the Tamil Nadu government to encourage the use of cloth bags.
- Egypt became the fourth new member admitted to new development bank. Earlier Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Uruguay joined the NDB in September 2021.



BRAIN BOOSTERS

1. Why in News

The government on 28 December, 2021, notified the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021.

2. Direct Selling

In Direct Selling, goods or services are directly sold to consumers through direct sellers who act as individual representatives of the direct selling entities, instead of a retail premises.

3. The Ambit

These Rules shall apply to

- all goods and services bought or sold through direct selling,
- all models of direct selling,
- all direct selling entities offering goods and services to consumers in India,
- all forms of unfair trade practices across all models of direct selling
- a direct selling entity which is not established in India, but offers goods or services to consumers in India.

4. The Time-limit

Existing direct selling entities need to comply of these rules within 90 days from the date of publication of these rules in the Official Gazette.

5. Size of Indian Direct Selling industry

- The Indian direct selling industry stood at around ₹1,67,762 million in 2019-20, growing about 28% from ₹1,30,800 million in 2018-19.
- The two big categories were 'wellness & nutraceuticals' (57%), & 'cosmetics and personal care' (22%).
- According to Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA), the number of active direct sellers (DS) is around 7.4 million in 2019-20, almost equally represented by male and female DS.

6. Direct selling entity (DSE) and DS are prohibited from:

- Promoting a Pyramid Scheme or enroll any person to such scheme or participate in such arrangement in any manner whatsoever in the garb of doing direct selling business.
- Participate in money circulation scheme in the garb of doing direct selling business.

7. Monitoring

For ensuring compliance of these rules by DSE and DS, every State Government to set up a mechanism to monitor or supervise the activities of DSE and DS.

8. Obligation upon DSEs

- Have a minimum of one physical location as its registered office within India.
- Have a prior written contract with its DS in order to authorize them to sell or offer to sell its goods or services, and the terms of such agreement shall be just, fair and equitable.
- Ensure that all its DS have verified identities and physical addresses and issue identity cards and documents only to such DS.
- Create adequate safeguards to ensure that goods and services offered by its DS conform to applicable laws.
- Be liable for the grievances arising out of the sale of goods or services by its DS.
- Every DSE to provide the following information on its website in a clear and accessible manner
 - I. Registered name, address, contact details, including e-mail address, fax, land line and mobile numbers of its customer care and grievance redressal officers of the DSE;
 - II. A ticket number for each complaint lodged through which the complainant can track the status of the complaint.
 - III. Information relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, grievance redressal mechanism and such other information which may be required by the consumers to make informed decisions.

Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021

9. DS shall not

- Visit a consumer's premises without identity card and prior appointment or approval.
- Provide any literature to a prospect, which has not been approved by the direct selling entity.
- Require a prospect to purchase any literature or sales demonstration equipment.
- In pursuance of a sale, make any claim that is not consistent with claims authorized by the DSE.

10. Industry's Reaction

The Rules they said provide legitimacy to the industry, protect consumers from pyramid and money circulation schemes and also help attract more foreign direct investment (FDI).

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization has allowed the use of anti-Covid-19 drug 'Molnupiravir' (tablet) and anti-Covid-19 vaccines 'Covavax' and 'Corbevax' for emergency use with certain conditions.

1. Molnupiravir: Oral Antiviral Drug

- Drug :- Molnupiravir
- Developers :- US based firms Ridgeback Biotherapeutics and Merck.
- Mandate :- It has been cleared for the treatment of adult patients with Covid-19 "who have a high risk of progression of the disease".
- Working :- It works by introducing errors into the virus's genetic code, which prevents replication.
- Dose:- Molnupiravir comes in 200 mg pills; the recommendation in India is for 800 mg twice daily for 5 days.
- Manufacturers :- 13 Indian drug makers Dr Reddy's, Natco, MSN, Hetero, Optimus, Aurobindo Pharma, Mylan, Cipla, Sun Pharma, Torrent, BDR Stride and Pune based Emcure.
- Efficacy:-
 - UK:- Cleared molnupiravir on December 4, as it has been found "safe and effective".
 - US:- Cleared on December 23, did not authorise it for use for longer than five consecutive days, or in patients younger than 18.
 - India :- Recommended for treatment of adult Covid patients with oxygen level over 93%, and who have a high risk of progression of the disease

"Neutralization titers increased 4.3-fold overall compared to the peak response seen after the primary vaccination series," it said.

2. Corbevax :- Protein Sub-unit Vaccine

- Vaccine :- Corbevax,
- Developers :- The antigenic parts of the virus have been developed by Texas Children's Hospital Centre for Vaccine Development and in-licensed from BCM (Baylor College of Medicine) Ventures
- Mandate :- Vaccine to be used under emergency use authorisation
- Working :- Corbevax is a protein sub-unit vaccine, which means that instead of the whole virus,

it uses fragments of it to trigger an immune response. In this case, the subunit vaccine contains a harmless S protein. Once the immune system recognises the protein, it produced antibodies to fight a real infection when it happens.

- Manufacturer :- Biological E Limited, Hyderabad. Biological E plans to begin production at 75 million doses per month, and anticipates reaching 100+ million doses per month from February.
- EFFICACY:-

I. Biological E has completed Phase III trials on more than 3,000 subjects at 33 study sites across India.

II. It said, neutralising antibody titres against Delta strain indicates a vaccine effectiveness of more than 80% for the prevention of symptomatic infections based on published studies.

III. In the Phase 3 active comparator clinical trials conducted with an end point of immunogenic superiority, Corbevax demonstrated superior immune response in comparison with Covishield vaccine when assessed for Neutralizing Antibody (nAb) Geometric Mean Titers (CMT) against the Ancestral-Wuhan strain and the globally dominant Delta variant.

A new Pill & Two Vaccines against Covid-19

- Manufacturer :- Serum Institute of India (SII)
- Efficacy :-
 - SII has said the vaccine has been evaluated in two Phase 3 trials
 - In the UK an efficacy of 96.4% against the original virus strain, 86.3% against Alpha and overall efficacy of 89.7%.
 - The PREVENT-19 trial in the US and Mexico has demonstrated 100% protection against moderate and severe disease and overall efficacy of 90.4%.
 - On December 2, 2021 Novavax announced that patients who got a third (6-month booster) dose of this vaccine produced "robust anti-Spike IgG responses" following a booster dose at Day 189.

3. Covavax:- Recombinant Nanoparticle Vaccine

- Vaccine:- Covavax
- Developers :- Novavax, USA
- Mandate :- On December 20, the WHO has issued Emergency Use Listing to the vaccine.
- Working :- Covavax is a protein sub-unit vaccine, but uses recombinant nanoparticle technology. Harmless copies of the spike protein are grown in insect cells. The protein is then extracted and assembled into virus-like nanoparticles. Novavax has used an immune-boosting compound (adjuvant).



1. Article 1, Name and territory of the Union

- 1) India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.
- 2) The States and the territories thereof shall be as specified in the First Schedule.
- 3) The territory of India shall comprise—
 - a) the territories of the States;
 - b) the Union territories specified in the First Schedule; and
 - c) such other territories as may be acquired.

2. Meaning of Territory of India

In the N. Masthan Sahib Case, 1962, SC observed, the term “territory of India” has been used in several articles of the constitution and in every article where this phraseology is employed it means the territory of India for the time being as falls within article 1(3) but the phrase cannot mean different territories in different articles.

3. Article 2, Admission or establishment of new States

Parliament may by law admit into the Union, or establish, new States on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

4. Article 3, Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States

- Parliament may by law—
- (a) form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State;
 - (b) increase the area of any State
 - (c) diminish the area of any
 - (d) alter the boundaries of any State
 - (e) alter the name of any State

5. Validity of Article 3

Under P. V. Krishnaiah Case, 1964, SC observed, Article 3 of the Constitution has been designed in such a way that enables the Parliament essentially to maintain the concept of federalism. Therefore, one of the basic structures, namely, federal character of the Constitution is reserved by article 3 of the Constitution. It does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

6. EXCHANGE OF TERRITORIES WITH BANGLADESH

- i. Under the 100th Constitutional Amendment Act (2015) India acquired certain territories of Bangladesh & transferred certain territories to Bangladesh in pursuance of the agreement and its protocol entered into between the Governments of India and Bangladesh.
- ii. Under this deal, India transferred 111 enclaves to Bangladesh, while Bangladesh transferred 51 enclaves to India. In addition, the deal also involved the transfer of adverse possessions and the demarcation of a 6.1 km undemarcated border stretch.

7. State Reorganisations

i. Dhar Commission

In June 1948, the Government of India appointed the Linguistic Provinces Commission under the chairmanship of S.K. Dhar to examine the feasibility of reorganisation of states on linguistic basis. It recommended the reorganisation of states on the basis of administrative convenience rather than linguistic factor.

ii. JVP Committee

Due to resentment created by the recommendation of Dhar Commission, JVP Committee was constituted in December, 1948. It consisted of J L Nehru, Vallabh Patel and P. Sitaramayya. It rejected language as the basis for reorganisation of states.

iii. Fazl Ali Commission

After the creation of Andhra Pradesh, the demand for creation of more states on linguistic basis gained momentum. Under the chairmanship of Fazl Ali a commission was formed.



THE UNION AND ITS TERRITORY

- a) Preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of the country.
- b) Linguistic and cultural homogeneity.
- c) Financial, economic and administrative considerations.
- d) Planning and promotion of the welfare of the people in each state as well as of the nation as a whole.

1. Why in News

Chilika Lake, the largest brackish water lake and wintering ground of the birds in the Indian subcontinent, saw a million of birds, including uncommon Mongolian gull, visiting the waterbody this year.

2. Chilika Lake

- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lake and a shallow lagoon with estuarine character spread across the districts of Puri, Khurda and Ganjam in the state of Odisha in eastern India.
- The lagoon can be broadly divided into four ecological sectors based on salinity and depth, namely the southern zone, the central zone, the northern zone and the outer channel.
- A number of islands are present in the lagoon, prominent among which are Krushnaprasad, Nalaban, Kalijai, Somolo and Birds Islands.

3. Feature of Chilika lake

- Chilika is Asia's largest and world's second largest lagoon.
- It has been designated as a Ramsar Site and a possible UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Chilika Lake was declared as the first Ramsar Convention wetland of international importance in India in 1981.
- It is home to a number of vulnerable plant and animal species and is the major wintering site for migratory birds in the Indian subcontinent.
- Major attraction at Chilika is Irrawaddy dolphins which are often spotted off Satpada Island.

but also benefits the community dependent on the wetland.

- The average annual income of each family increased by more than Rs.50,000.
- This year's greater flamingo count was highest in last one decade.

4. Water Bird Status Survey-2022

- The census was undertaken jointly by the Odisha State Wildlife Organization, the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) and the Bombay Natural History Society.
- A total of 3,58,889 birds (97 species) were counted in Nalabana Bird Sanctuary inside Chilika – a decrease by 65,899 from the previous year.
- The decrease is attributed to high water level and presence of water in cultivated fields in adjoining areas. Water birds love to flock on large mudflats.

- There was marginal decrease in the number of species such as the northern shoveler, tufted duck and red crested pochard.
- An increase in population of northern pintail, common coot and common pochard was noticed.
- The increase in numbers of flamingo at Nalabana mudflat indicates that, the restoration at Nalabana is effective. It is largely due to appropriate management of mudflats.
- The local resident species such as purple swamp-hen, purple heron, Indian moorhen, and jacanas were found in higher numbers.

5. Guest of Chilika

Chilika lake hosts birds migrating from the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea, remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steppes of Mongolia, Central and South East Asia, Ladakh and the Himalayas.

6. Ecological problems in the Chilika lagoon

- Siltation due to littoral drift and sediments from the inland river systems.
- Shrinkage of water surface area.
- Choking of the inlet channel as well as shifting of the mouth connecting to the sea.
- Decrease in salinity and fishery resources.
- Proliferation of fresh water invasive species, an overall loss of biodiversity, with decline in productivity adversely affects the livelihood of the community depended on it

7. Measures for restoring the Chilika Lake

- Abolition of shrimp culture and demolition of shrimp 'gheris' which disrupt the tidal flushing, reduced the level of salinity, squeeze grazing ground for juveniles and accelerate the process silting of marginal areas of the Lake.

Water Bird Status Survey-2022 & Chilika Lake

- Restrictions on mechanized boats in Chilika as they pollute the water.
- Ban on 'zero net' as it destroys seedlings of various fish, shrimp and crab, thus reducing the stock.
- Ban on fishing by trawlers in the Bay of Bengal near Chilika since they obstruct the entry of fish and shrimp from sea to Lake.
- Removal of floating aquatic weeds particularly in the western and northern sources of Chilika as they increase siltation and obstruct movement of boats.

8. Benefits after restoration efforts

- Chilika lagoon restoration shows that the restoration of the ecological characteristics of a site results not only in improvement of the lagoon ecosystem



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1. Why in news?

The Government on January 6 approved the second phase of the Green Energy Corridor with an outlay of ₹12,031 crore to facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of about 20 GW of renewable energy projects in seven states.

2. About Green Energy Corridor

- The Green Energy Corridor Project aims at synchronizing electricity produced from renewable sources, such as solar and wind, with conventional power stations in the grid.
- Green Energy Corridor is an intra-/ inter-state transmission system which is being implemented by eight renewable rich states in India—Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- Intra-State Transmission System is being implemented by respective State Transmission Utilities (STU) and Inter-State Transmission System is being implemented by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL).
- The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of about 20 GW of renewable energy (RE) in seven states.

3. Green Energy Corridor Phase 1

- The Government of India initiated the Green Energy Corridor project in 2013.
- It is under implementation in renewable resource rich states for the likely renewable power capacity addition during 12th Five Year Plan period.
- The first phase of green energy corridors is under implementation in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and will help supply around 20 GW of renewable energy by 2022.

4. Green Energy Corridor Phase 2

- The second phase of the green energy corridor project will involve adding approximately 10,750 circuit km of transmission lines and 27,500 mega volt-amperes (MVA) transformation capacity of substations.
- The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.

5. Need for a Green Energy Corridor in India

- The project aims at integrating large-scale renewable generation capacity addition with the main grid.
- India aims at 500GW of non-fossil fuel energy generation and meeting 50% of its energy requirements from renewable sources by 2030. So there is a need to integrate these energies.
- The country needs to prepare itself for greater penetration of renewable energy.
- Grid stability and security are the main concerns for India.
- The Ministry of Power has proposed to set up Renewable Energy Management Centers (REMCs) to help integrate renewables into the grid.
- These centres will be responsible for forecasting and scheduling renewable energy generation at state and regional levels, and coordinating with state load dispatch centers (SLDCs).

6. Benefits of a Green Energy Corridor

- The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.
- It will also contribute to long-term energy security of the country and promote ecologically sustainable growth by reducing the carbon footprint.
- Besides, it will generate large direct and indirect employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled personnel in power and other related sectors.
- It helps in India's pledge to increase the share of non-fossil fuel based electricity to 40% by 2030.
- The project is expected to help India meet the climate commitments it made at the COP-26 summit in Glasgow.
- This corridor will contribute to the long term energy security of the country.
- The corridor is expected to help ensure that the huge influx of electricity into the national grid from intermittent energy sources such as solar and wind doesn't threaten the grid.

Green Energy Corridor: Phase 2

7. Way forward

- The project is important for strengthening and creating a reliable transmission infrastructure, evacuation of power from renewable energy projects and renewable rich states, and increasing the share of renewable energy generation.
- The renewable energy generation is increasing at a fast pace in India. The country's cumulative installed capacity reached 20 GW for solar and 32.75 GW for wind.
- The pace should continue improving in the future. Therefore, it is high-time that the country prepares itself to absorb and transmit these huge renewable energy capacities

1. Why in news?

European Union blacklisted five Indian organic certification agencies and raised concerns about the certification process.

2. What are Organic products?

- Organic products are grown under a system of agriculture without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with an environmentally and socially responsible approach.
- This is a method of farming that works at grass root level, preserving the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, good plant nutrition, and sound soil management, produces nutritious food rich in vitality which has resistance to diseases.
- India is bestowed with lot of potential to produce all varieties of organic products due to its various agro climatic conditions.
- In several parts of the country, the inherited tradition of organic farming is an added advantage.
- This holds promise for the organic producers to tap the market which is growing steadily in the domestic and export sector.
- As per the available statistics, India ranks 8th in terms of World's Organic Agricultural land and 1st in terms of total number of producers as per 2020 data.

3. Certification of Organic Product in India

- India Organic is a certification mark for organically farmed food products manufactured in India. The certification mark certifies that an organic food product conforms to the National Standards for Organic Products established in 2000.
- These standards ensure that the product or the raw materials used in the product are:
 - grown through organic farming
 - without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or induced hormones

4. Growth in India's organic product export

- Export of organic products from India grew 51% to \$1.04 billion in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20.
- According to a report by US Department of Agriculture (USDA), India's organic products market - food and beverages, health and wellness, beauty and personal care and textiles - are estimated to grow to \$10.1 billion by 2026, against \$1.04 billion in 2020-21.

5. Challenges to Export of India Organic product

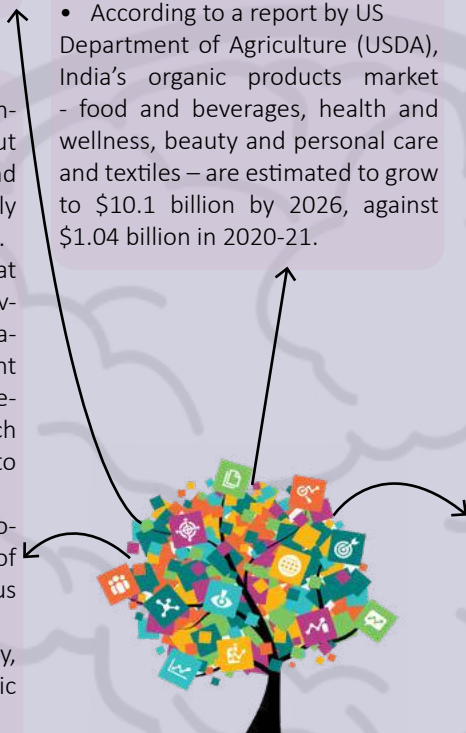
- The biggest challenge in organic products marketing is assured product integrity.
- Challenges related to India's organic control system and increased incidences of fraud continue to impact the credibility of India's organic sector.
- The problem with regard to organic certification is that loopholes in the system are used by unscrupulous elements.
- Maintaining sustainability in the global economy and balancing organic principles with commercial imperatives.
- Pursuing international harmonization of standards and certification.
- The guidelines for organic production, processing, transportation and certification etc are beyond the understanding of ordinary Indian farmer.
- Pesticide issues: European Union blacklisted 5 Indian organic certification agencies and raised concerns about the country's process because some shipments cleared by them failed to meet the norms for ethylene oxide (ETO) presence.
- Developing locally applicable agronomic solutions to production constraints, such as weeds, animal health and soil fertility.

Issues with export of Organic Product

- The certification is issued by testing centres accredited by the Agriculture And Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the National Program for Organic Production of the Government of India.
- The APEDA, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India is implementing the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).
- The programme involves the accreditation of Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming and marketing etc.
- The NPOP standards for production and accreditation system have been recognized by European Commission for unprocessed plant products.
- With these recognitions, Indian organic products duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India are accepted by the importing countries.

6. Way Forward

- In the long-term, creation of a Natural and Organic Agriculture Promotion Board to perform focused and large scale activities should be the road map to boost organic product.
- The certification process should be made leak proof.
- As many as 44 per cent (or 2.32 million) of the world's certified organic farmers are from India, the highest in the world. Still, India's total certified organic area is about 2.3 million hectares, as against world's total area of 72.3 million hectares.
- There is a need to build an effective policy environment to build foreign trust in India's organic product.



MCQs Based on Current Affairs

Q.1. Consider the following statements about 'POSHAN' Abhiyaan.

1. It is a financial incentive scheme for the prevention of anaemia in young girls and women.
2. It was started as public movement, which means, people's movement to draw the country's attention towards malnutrition among women and children.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) none of these

Answer: (b)

Q.2. Which of the following is not a criterion for inclusion as a wetland under the Ramsar Convention?

- (a) It supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies.
- (b) It regularly supports 2000 or more waterfowl.
- (c) It represents 1% of the population of a species or subspecies of a wetland species.
- (d) It supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.

Answer: (b)

Q.3. Budapest Convention is related to which of the following?

- (a) Missile Technology Control
- (b) Space atomization
- (c) Women's Rights
- (d) Cyber Crime

Answer: (d)

Q.4. With reference to government schemes for women empowerment, consider the following:

1. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)- It is an apex microfinance organization that provides microloans to poor women on concessional terms for various livelihood and income-generating activities.
2. Working Women Hostel (WWH)- It ensures the safety and security of working women.
3. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)- Under this scheme, girls have been made financially empowered by opening bank accounts.
4. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana- Its

objective is to provide maternity benefits to pregnant and lactating mothers.

Which of the above matching is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Q.5. Where is the headquarters of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) located?

- (a) New York, USA
- (b) Vienna, Austria
- (c) Montreal, Canada
- (d) Paris, France

Answer (c)

Q.6. How many unicorns are there in India according to Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021?

- (a) 54
- (b) 55
- (c) 64
- (d) 65

Answer (a)

Q.7. Which state ranks first in the Group A category of the Good Governance Index 2021?

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

Answer (b)

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MCQs Based on Environment and Ecology

1. Consider the following:
 1. Botanical gardens
 2. Biosphere reserves
 3. Wildlife safari parks
 4. Wildlife sanctuaries
 5. Sacred groves
 6. Gene banks
 Which of the above are examples of in-situ conservation?
 - (a) 2,3 and 4 only
 - (b) 2,4 and 5 Only
 - (c) 1,3,5 and 6 only
 - (d) 3,4,5 and 6 only

2. Which of the following are green house gases and included under Kyoto Protocol:
 1. Carbon-dioxide (CO₂),
 2. Water vapour
 3. Sulfur Dioxide
 4. perfluorocarbons (PFCs),
 5. Ozone
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1,2,3 and 5 only
 - (b) 1,2 and 5 only
 - (c) 1 and 4 Only
 - (d) 1,2,3,4 and 5

3. Which the following Conventions is/are not correctly matched with their themes:
 1. Rotterdam Convention- Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides
 2. Stockholm Convention- The Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
 3. Basel Convention – Persistent Organic Pollutants
 4. Nagoya Protocol- Biological Diversity
 Select the answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 2 and 3
 - (c) 3 and 4
 - (d) 1 and 4

4. With reference to 'Keystone species', consider the following statements:
 1. The keystone species is independent species which is not connected to other species in the foodweb
 2. Keystone species have higher levels of biomass in the trophic pyramid
 3. The loss of a keystone species can cause the expansion of other species
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 1,2 and 3
 - (d) None

5. Recently group of 'Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC)' was in news. Consider the following statements in this regard:
 1. The Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) is a group of countries that harbour the majority of the Earth's species
 2. All these countries are located in tropical or subtropical regions
 3. India is the one of the member countries of this group
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) Only 3
 - (d) 1,2 and 3

6. Assertion (A): The food chains in the ocean water are much more complex than that of the terrestrial biomes
 Reason(R): There is effective barrier in the oceans and seas which restricts fauna and flora to certain fixed localities.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) A and R both are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - (b) A and R both are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
 - (c) A is true but R is false.
 - (d) A is false but R is true

7. Consider the following statements:
 1. The organic evolution not only creates new species but also eliminates some old ones
 2. Extinction implies complete disappearance of a species from the earth
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) 1 and 2 Both
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Consider the following statements:
1. Endangered species are those species whose population is small and the location is confined to limited areas
2. Rare species are those species whose population has declined significantly or whose habitat is on the verge of complete elimination
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) 1 and 2 Both
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Consider the following 'Critically Endangered Animal Species' of India:
1. Jerdon's Courser
2. Pygmy Hog
3. Namdapha Flying Squirrel
4. Hawksbill Turtle
Which of the given species is/are not 'mammals'?
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) 1 and 4
(d) 1,2 and 3
10. Which of the following states became the first state in the country to declare all election booths as No Smoking Areas in Lok Sabha elections 2014?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Jammu and Kashmir
(d) Gujarat
11. With reference to Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020, consider the following statements:
1. The WWF and India has collaborated together, to start a joint programme 'Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020'
2. The plan was made in January 2014 with an aim of increasing the population of rhinos in Assam to 3000 by 2020
3. Under the programme, the horns of rhinos will be trimmed before translocating them
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) Only 1
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1,2 and 3
12. Match the following:
Important Days Related Dates
A. World Tuberculosis Day 1. 3rd March
B. World Wildlife Day 2. 15th March
C. World Water Day 3. 22 March
D. World Consumer Rights Day 4. 24 March
Code:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	2	1	4	3
(b)	4	3	2	1
(c)	4	1	3	2
(d)	1	2	4	3
13. Consider the following statements regarding 'Vyasi Project':
1. Vyasi Project is hydro electric project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand
2. This is a run of the river scheme
3. BHEL has secured contract for setting up this Project in Uttarakhand
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1,2 and 3
14. India has nominated Rani-ki-Vav and the Great Himalayan National Park as candidates for UNESCO's World Heritage Site status. These are located respectively in:
(a) Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh
(b) Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat
(c) Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh
(d) Gujarat and Uttarakhand
15. Consider the following statements:
1. There are more than 16 tiger reserves in India for 'Project Tiger'.
2. National 'Wildlife Protection Act' was passed in 1972.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
16. Consider the following statements:
1. Endemic species is a species restricted to a given area.
2. Sal and teak is the dominant species in the temperate deciduous forests.
3. India's only ape, Hoolock Gibbon is found Hazaribagh national park.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
17. Consider the following animals:
1. Cheetah
2. Snow Leopard
3. Wolf
4. Hippopotamus
Which of the animals mentioned above has/have become extinct from India?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
18. Consider the following statements:
1. The quality of organic pollutant in water can be determined Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).
2. If BOD of a river water is found very high, it means water is very less polluted.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
19. What is 'biomagnification'?
(a) blowing up of environmental issues by man
(b) growth of organisms due to food consumption
(c) reduction of dissolved O₂ caused by microbial activity
(d) increase in the concentration of non-degradable pollutants as they pass through food chain
20. Consider the following statements:
1. The excess discharge of fertilizers into water bodies results in eutrophication
2. Eutrophication causes reduction in dissolved O₂.
3. Complete eutrophication of a lake renders its nutrient poor and unproductive.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
21. Consider the following food products:
1. Black pepper
2. Cardamom
3. Ginger
4. Potato
5. Corn
Which of the food product mentioned above have primary home in India?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 4 and 5 only
22. Consider the following statements:
1. Bharatpur national park is famous for its migratory birds.
2. Keibul Lamjao national park (Manipur) is famous for Brown antlered deer, which is one of the rarest mammal found in India.
3. The Sanctuary which has maximum number of rare animals in Manas national park.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
23. One of the most important functions of botanical gardens is that
(a) They provide a beautiful area for recreation.
(b) One can observe tropical plants there
(c) They allow ex situ conservation of germ plasm
(d) They provide the natural habitat for wildlife
24. Consider the following statements:
1. Plants adapted to grow in shade are mesophytes.
2. Plants which lack root cap and stomata is hydrophytes.
3. Xerophytes possess sunken stomata, deep roots and thick cuticle

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following animals:

- 1. Zebra
- 2. Black buck
- 3. Kangaroo rat
- 4. Horned toad
- 5. Camel

Which of the animals mentioned above is/are not adopted to desert condition?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 3, 4 and 5 only

26. Consider the following gases and arrange them in decreasing order according to their percentage by volume in the atmosphere with the help of code given below:

- 1. Nitrogen
- 2. Oxygen
- 3. Argon
- 4. Carbon dioxide
- 5. Neon

Code:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (b) 2, 1, 4, 3, 5
- (c) 1, 2, 4, 5, 3
- (d) 1, 2, 4, 3, 5

27. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Carbon dioxide is transparent to the incoming solar radiation but opaque to the outgoing terrestrial radiation.
- 2. Ozone acts as a filter and absorbs the ultra-violet rays radiating from the sun.
- 3. Water vapour acts like a blanket allowing the earth neither to become too cold nor too hot.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. Consider the following pairs:

- 1. Tropical : Average temperature of the coldest month is 18°C or higher

2. Dry climates: Potential evaporation exceeds precipitation

3. Warm Temperate : The average temperature of the coldest month of the (mid-latitude) climates years is higher than minus 3°C but below 18°C

4. Cold snow forest Climates : the average temperature of the coldest month is minus 3°C or below

5. High Land : Average temperature for all months is below 10°C

6. Cold Climates : Cold due to elevation

Which of the statements given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

29. A 'biome' can be defined as:

- (a) The total assemblage of plant and animal species interacting within specific conditions.
- (b) The technique of growing plants in controlled environment.
- (c) The relationship between organism and their environment.
- (d) The effects of plants and animals on environment.

30. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Endangered species include those species which are in danger of extinction.
- 2. IUCN deals with the endangered species.
- 3. Data related to endangered species are published under three categories, named red list, yellow list and green list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 18. (a) |
| 2. (c) | 19. (d) |
| 3. (b) | 20. (a) |
| 4. (d) | 21. (a) |
| 5. (d) | 22. (d) |
| 6. (c) | 23. (c) |
| 7. (c) | 24. (b) |
| 8. (d) | 25. (b) |
| 9. (c) | 26. (a) |
| 10. (c) | 27. (d) |
| 11. (d) | 28. (a) |
| 12. (c) | 29. (a) |
| 13. (d) | 30. (a) |
| 14. (a) | |
| 15. (c) | |
| 16. (b) | |
| 17. (a) | |

NOTES

Rest part of page no. 37

Q.8. The name “James Webb”, which was in a discussion recently, is related to which of the following?

- (a) The world’s largest and most powerful space telescope.
- (b) The US Ambassador to chair the Anti-Terrorism Committee.
- (c) British citizen to receive the Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award.
- (d) A satellite launched by the European Space Agency.

Answer (a)

Q.9. A committee has been constituted to probe the withdrawal of AFSPA in Nagaland. Who is the chairman of this committee?

- (a) Viral Desai
- (b) Sunil Chandra
- (c) V.K. Joshi
- (d) Amit Shah

Answer (c)

Q.10. Which state has won the recently held Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Assam
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer (d)

Case Study

You have been recently appointed C.E.O. of Gujrat Maritime Board. You notice that labours are living their life in very pitiable conditions. They are migrant workers who come from states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Most of them are engaged in dismantling ships. They work without proper training and safeguards. These labours have not access to even potable water. They often come in contact with hazardous chemicals (like asbestos) and develop different diseases like skin cancer, lung cancer, tuberculosis etc. Some time they fall from ships and break their limbs. Various units which are engaged in dismantling ships, pay huge tax to government (like 15% custom duty and 16% excise duty) but labours not get much required support from Government. When you discuss these problems with your seniors, they advise you to ignore all of these things, but your conscience not allow you to overlook their basic needs.

- (a) What are the options available to you?
(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons.

Answer (a)

In the given case study I am CEO of Gujrat Maritime Board, where I have to solve different problems of labour. Values like responsibility, accountability spirit of service, compassion and justice are involved in this case.

Options:

- (a) Ignore problems of labours.

Merits : It will save my time and energy from making extra efforts.

Demerits : Labours will keep on suffering I will feel guilt conscience.

- (b) Ask labours to take proper training before going job and arrange safeguards for them.

Merits : It will ensure better health and reduce casualty among labours.

Demerits : It will put extra burden on labours income. They may not be able to afford it.

- (c) Take transfer from Maritime Board.

Merits : I may be free from guilt conscience.

Demerits : It is an act of cowardice and not solve labour's problems.

- (d) With the help of an NGO I will conduct a

survey among labours, talk with their representatives and make a detail report of their problems. I will support it with relevant labour laws, decisions of Supreme Court and attach my recommendations for necessary reforms. I will send one copy each to Secretary and Cabinet Minister of my department.

Answer (b)

Government reforms may take times, so I will select a popular NGO with enough experience in labour welfare. I will ask him to make arrangements to provide necessary training and knowledge to all workers, working in different units at Mary Time Board. Next I will contact CEO's of different freight / passenger ship companies and other major companies working in our country. I will inform them about our initiative and convince them to donate this NGO from their CSR funds. With this money we will provide training to all labours and install enough water coolers to solve problem of potable water.

After that we will arrange meetings with heads of different units and convince them to provide necessary safeguards to their workers as it will improve productivity of labours and these units will earn more profits.

Next we will educate and motivate eligible labours, to enrol themselves under Ayushman Bharat Yozana. It will provide them necessary health cover.

Eminent Personality :Henry Vivian Derozio



Henri Vivian Derozio was born on April 18, 1809, in Kolkata who was one of the pioneers of the religious-political renaissance movement in India, especially in Bengal. He was a strong pillar of free-thinking of the nationalist sentiments.

Derozio was such a person who is also known as the first national poet of modern India. He began teaching as a faculty in 1826 at the Hindu College at the age of 17 but he was accused of corrupting, misleading and making youth anti-British in Bengal. Derozio criticized the social stereotypes, customs and traditions through his logical thinking till his death.

He was Born in 1809. Henry William Derozio was an Anglo-Indian. His father was of Portuguese descent and mother was an English woman. He taught the youth of Bengal to think freely and to question all the ruling establishments. He made debate and discussion a movement among the youth of Bengal. The youth of Bengal became quite rational on the issues of literature, history and philosophy. In this way, he played an important role in bringing about an intellectual revolution in Bengal. Derozio strongly advocated women's rights and worked among the Bengali youth to make women empowerment a strong issue.

In 1828, Raja Rammohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj and strongly opposed idol worship. His free thinking was very similar to the free thinking of Derozio. At the same time he was appointed to the Hindu College. His great contribution is that he provided the spark to the youth to fight for the values of liberty, equality and fraternity during the renaissance movement in Bengal. He was greatly influenced by the Great Revolution of France.

The Young Bengal Movement in West Bengal was started by him and his followers were called Derozians. The main objective of the Young Bengal Movement, founded by him in 1828, was freedom of the press, protection of farmers from the atrocities committed by the landlords and getting Indian people under high pay scales in government jobs.

He established 'Academic Association' and 'Society for the Acquisition of General Knowledge' for social reform. Apart from this, Derozio also formed 'Anglo-Indian Hindu Association', 'Banghit Sabha' and 'Debating Club'.

He also edited the newspaper 'East India'. His main disciples were Krishnamohan Banerjee, Ram Gopal Ghosh, Maheshchandra Ghosh. Derozio, along with his followers, disciples, had made an unprecedented contribution in creating the environment of a cultural social revolution in Bengal. He died on 26 December 1831.

NOTES

POLITY TERMINOLOGY

Evolution of Indian Constitution- I

Indian constitution is the lengthiest written constitution in the world. The development of the Indian constitution has its roots in the British rule.

In the year 1600, East India Company from Britain came to India for trading. In the year 1765, the company became a territorial power by obtaining the “diwani” rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

The ‘Sepoy Mutiny’ of 1858 gave the crown perfect opportunity to assume direct responsibility for the governance of India.

The development is divided into 2 phases:-

1. The Company Rule (1773-1858)
2. The crown Rule (1858-1947)

1. Regulating Act of 1773:

- First step taken by British Parliament to control & regulate the affairs of East India Company in Indian subcontinent.
- Governor of Bengal was designated as the Governor-General of Bengal.
- Executive Council (four members) was created for providing assistance to Governor General.
- Presidency of Bengal become superior to those of Bombay and Madras.
- Supreme Court at Calcutta established in 1774, comprising Chief Justice and three other judges.

2. Pitt’s India Act of 1784:

- Company’s commercial and political functions separated.
- A “Board of Control” consisting of six members was appointed for handling political affairs.
- “Court of Directors” were allowed to manage commercial affairs.

3. Charter Act of 1813:

- Monopoly of East India Company abolished.
- Christian missionaries were allowed to work in India.

4. Charter Act of 1833:

- Governor General of Bengal became Governor General of India.
- Beginning of Central legislature for India. Act took

away legislative powers of Bombay and Madras provinces.

- East India Company became a purely administrative body. Companies’ activities as commercial body ended.

5. Charter Act of 1853:

- Legislative and executive functions of the Governor General’s Council separated.
- 6 members in Indian (Central) legislative council. 4 were appointed by provincial governments.

NOTES

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AN INTRODUCTION



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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.

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