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- Marine Heatwave & Increasing Frequency of Cyclones in India.
- The Global Food Crisis: Reasons & Solutions.
- Instability in Neighbouring Countries & It's Impact on India.
- Agnipath- Making the Armed Forces, Lean & Mean.
- Impact of Two Time Zones on India.
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ALL INDIA UPSC MAIN TEST SERIES 2022

26th June 2022

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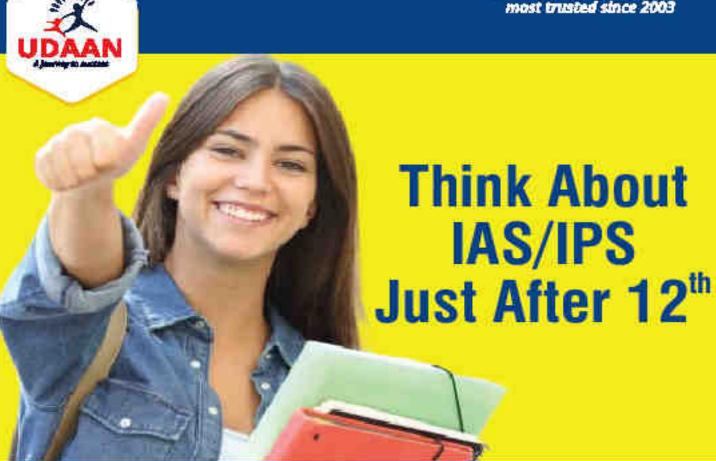
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Director's Message





Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh

The guiding philosophy of the institute, throughout, has been creation of knowledge base. Dhyeya IAS inculcates human values and professional ethics in the students, which help them make decisions that are good not only for them, but also for the society, for the nation, and for the world as a whole. To fulfil its mission in new and powerful ways, each student is motivated to strive towards achieving excellence in every endeavor. It is done by making continuous improvements in curricula and pedagogical tools.

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Yours very truly,

Vinay Kumar Singh CEO and Founder

Mr. Q H Khan

Dhyeya IAS is an institution that aims at the complete development of the students. Our faculty are highly experienced and qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multidisciplinary institution which ensures that the students have ready access to a wide range of academic material.

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Yours very truly,

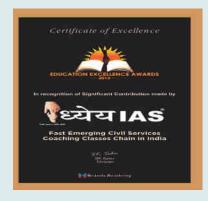
Q H Khan

Managing Director





PREFACE







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

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

Vinay Kumar Singh Editor DhyeyalAS



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PERFECT 7
FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DHYEYA TV
Current affairs Programmes hosted
by Mr. Qurban Ali
Ex. Editor RSTV) & by Dhyeya Team
Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya TV

7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

Challenges of the World Economy from the lens of IMF

Why in News?

April World Economic Outlook has projected Global growth to slow down from an estimated 6.1 per cent in 2021 to 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 2023. Beyond 2023, global growth is forecast to decline to about 3.3 per cent over the medium term.

Factors Affecting Near-term Global Growth

- War in Ukraine -The invasion and resulting sanctions on Russia will significantly affect the global economy. The effects of conflict and sanctions are hitting Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus directly. But international spillovers via global commodity prices, trade and financial linkages, labour supply, and humanitarian impacts will spread the effects widely—notably in Europe.
- Monetary tightening and financial market volatility- Even before the war, inflation had risen significantly, and many central banks tightened monetary policy. This contributed to a rapid increase in nominal interest rates across advanced economy sovereign borrowers. In recent months, policy rates are generally rising further, as done by the US and India. Expectations of tighter policy and worries about the war have contributed to financial market volatility and risk repricing. In particular, the war and related sanctions have tightened global financial conditions, lowered risk appetite, and induced flight-to-quality flows. In Russia, the sanctions and the impairment of

domestic financial intermediation have led to significant increases in its sovereign and credit default swap spreads.

- **Fiscal withdrawal-** Policy space in many countries was eroded by necessary higher COVID-related spending and lower tax revenue in 2020–21. Faced with rising borrowing costs, governments are increasingly challenged by the imperative to rebuild buffers. Fiscal support is set to generally decline in 2022 and 2023—particularly in advanced economies—as emergency measures to cushion the impact of the pandemic are wound down.
- China's slowdown- Slowing growth in China's economy has wider ramifications for Asia and commodity exporters. The combination of more transmissible variants and a zero-COVID strategy entails the prospect of more frequent lockdowns, with attendant effects on private consumption in China. Moreover, the tight stance toward highly leveraged property developers means that real estate investment remains subdued.
- Pandemic and vaccine access-Worker shortages and mobility restrictions compounded supply disruptions and bottlenecks early in 2022, has constrained activities and added to inflation Restrictions have begun to ease as the peak of the Omicron wave passes, and global weekly COVID deaths decline.

Growth in Asia

The growth in Asia, much like for the rest of the world, is being shaped by

the shock of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Asia has only a relatively small direct trade and financial exposure to Russia and Ukraine. Still, the reach of its economies will be impacted by higher commodity prices and slower growth in European trading partners.

Inflation in Asia, which was relatively low during the pandemic, has started rising following the spike in food and fuel prices. The shock from the war comes at a time when recovery from the pandemic is still incomplete and global financial conditions are tightening. New COVID waves are adding to headwinds in some countries, most notably China. Lower growth in China is affecting many Asian trading partners that are tightly integrated. Monetary tightening in advanced economies is leading to higher interest rates in Asia as well. placing a further drag on growth. These headwinds will exacerbate the medium-term scarring effects of the pandemic that many emerging and developing economies in the region are expected to suffer, amplified by their higher debt burdens.

These headwinds come at a time when policy space to respond is limited. Policymakers face a difficult tradeoff. They must balance the need to support an incomplete recovery while also responding to rising inflation amid tightening global financial conditions and high debt levels.

According to April World Economic Outlook, Asian GDP is expected to grow by 4.9 per cent in 2022, less



than the January update. Inflation in Asia is also starting to pick up after being much lower than in other regions last year. Inflation is now expected to increase to 3.4 per cent in 2022. Therefore, the region faces a stagflationary outlook, with growth being lower than previously expected and inflation being higher.

- For China, April World Economic Outlook has revised the 2022 Growth Forecast to 4.4 per cent compared to 4.8 per cent in the January Update. The revision reflects a sizable negative impact from the war in Ukraine and localised COVID outbreaks and lockdown. The positive impact of policy stimulus partly offsets these adverse effects.
- In India, the tough policy tradeoffs are evident from the fallout from the Ukraine war, especially the higher oil prices are expected to increase current account deficits and push up inflation. While growth is still likely to be strong at 8.2 per cent according to April World Economic Outlook, it is 0.8 percentage points lower than in the January Update.
- Growth in Japan has been revised down to 2.4 per cent in April World Economic Outlook, a downgrade of 0.9 percentage points. Like China, this reflects a combination of the impact of the war, spillovers from Europe, and a bigger than anticipated hit from the Omicron wave. Despite a recent uptick, inflation remains subdued, allowing the Bank of Japan to be more accommodative than the Fed and the European Central Bank.
- In Korea, growth is expected to slow from a robust 4 per cent in 2021 to 2.5 per cent in 2022, according to the April World Economic Outlook, a downgrade of 0.5 percentage points from January Update. Meanwhile, the increase in energy and food prices, global supply chain disruptions, and domestic demand pressures

have pushed inflation above target.

- For ASEAN countries, the downgrade of 0.2 percentage points in the April World Economic Outlook is smaller than others. It reflects the favourable terms of trade for some commodity exporters in the region. However, the war is adding to inflation pressures and tighter financial conditions.
- In Sri Lanka, the rise in food and fuel prices and the hit to tourism has exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities and debt sustainability pressures, leading to social unrest and policy instability.



Growth in the United States and Canada

Economic links between Russia and the United States, and Canada are limited. Other factors also significantly impact the growth of the two economies.

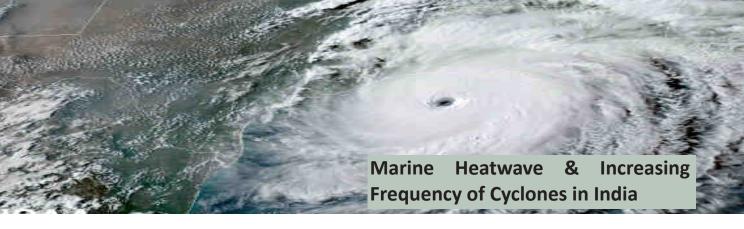
- The forecast for the United States was already downgraded in World Economic Outlook January Update, primarily reflecting the non-passage of the Build Back Better fiscal policy package and continued supply chain disruptions. The additional 0.3 percentage point forecast markdown for 2022 in the April report reflects a faster withdrawal of monetary support than in the previous projection.
- The forecast for Canada is marked down by 0.2 percentage points in April World Economic Outlook, reflecting the withdrawal of policy sup-

port and weaker external demand from the United States.

Conclusion

In addition to being a humanitarian crisis, the war in Ukraine is also taking a significant toll on global growth. From Ukraine and Russia, the Economic impact is rapidly moving outward to other regions, including India.

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Context

According to a study by researchers of the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology marine heatwaves are on a rise in the Indian Ocean, leaving an impact on the Indian monsoon rainfall and cyclones.

Introduction

The frequency and intensity of cyclones developing over the Arabian Sea has increased in the last two decades, while fewer such storms have been seen over the Bay of Bengal. According to one report, Marine heat waves (MHW), which are periods of increased temperatures over seas and oceans, in the Indian Ocean region have increased significantly in the past few decades. In the recent decades, a warming Arabian Sea has been churning out cyclones of 'severe' categories.

What is Cyclone and Marine Heatwave?

- A cyclone is a large air mass that rotates around a strong center of low atmospheric pressure, counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. Cyclones are characterized by inward-spiraling winds that rotate about a zone of low pressure.
- A marine heatwave is a period of unusually high ocean temperatures and is defined by its duration and intensity. One of the most common ways that scientists measure the ocean's temperature is through

sea surface temperature. Deviations from average sea surface temperature are referred to as temperature anomalies.

Causes of Heat Waves

- As the study published in the journal JGR Oceans showed that the heat wave phenomenon is impacting the Indian monsoon and cyclones.
- Marine heatwaves can be caused by a whole range of factors, and not all factors are important for each event. The most common drivers of marine heatwaves include ocean currents which can build up areas of warm water and air-sea heat flux, or warming through the ocean surface from the atmosphere. Winds can enhance or suppress the warming in a marine heatwave, and climate modes like El Niño can change the likelihood of events occurring in certain regions.
- Such heat waves are caused by an increase in the heat content of oceans, especially in the upper layers. Worldwide, they are one of the major results of human-induced global warming. During an MHW, the average temperatures of the ocean surface (up to a depth of 300 feet) goes 5-7 degrees Celsius above normal.
- Around 90 per cent of the warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions is absorbed by the oceans. The year 2021 broke all previous records for ocean heat, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States.

The increase in marine heat waves was due to rapid warming in the Indian Ocean and strong El Nino events, the study led by Roxy Mathew Koll from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, found.

Increasing Frequency of cyclone

- A 52% increase was noticed in the frequency of cyclones over the Arabian Sea between 2001 and 2019, and an 8% decrease over the Bay of Bengal, compared to the 19-year period between 1982 and 2002, according to a new study by scientists of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) under the Union ministry of earth sciences.
- Normally four to five cyclones form over the north Indian Ocean region (includes both Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) in a year, with the majority about three-four of them --developing over the Bay of Bengal.
- But this is fast changing. For instance, 2019 witnessed eight cyclones in the north Indian Ocean, out of which five formed in the Arabian Sea. The total figure was seven for 2018, including three over the Arabian Sea.

Impact of Marine Heat Waves on Cyclones in Indian Ocean

• In the Indian Ocean, the worst-affected were its western part and northern Bay of Bengal, according to the study. The number of Marine Heat Wave (MHWs) in the west Indian ocean increased by around 1.5 events per decade between 1982

PERFECT 7



and 2018. The occurrences went up by around 0.5 events per decade in north Bay of Bengal in the same period.

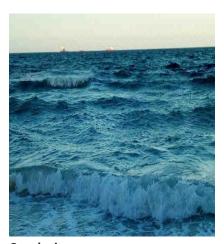
- The marine heat waves in the Indian Ocean are also majorly impacting the southwest monsoon the main rain-bearing system over the Indian subcontinent.
- Higher water temperatures associated with Marine Heat Wave can cause extreme weather events such as tropical storms and hurricanes, and disrupt the water cycle; making floods, droughts and wildfires on land more likely.
- As per the recent report, the marine heatwave is the reason behind super cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal in May 2020.
- An underwater survey showed that 85 per cent of the corals in Gulf of Mannar near the Tamil Nadu coast got bleached after marine heatwaves in May 2020.
- Put together, the analyses show that the intensity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea has increased by 20% to 40% over these years. Sea surface temperatures that caused cyclones here are now 1.2-1.5° C higher than they were four decades ago.
- This means the ocean is rapidly warming. This tends to enhance heat flux the transfer of energy from the ocean to the atmosphere. Typically, heat and moisture released by warm waters in the ocean fuel tropical cyclones. So rapid warming favours the "rapid intensification of cyclones".
- In the recent decades, a warming Arabian Sea has been churning out cyclones of 'severe' categories. Livelihoods based on fishing and fisheries industries also remain under persistent threat due to the warming oceans.

Effect of Cyclone

• Tropical cyclones are intense

circular storms that originate over the warm tropical oceans with more than 119 kilometres per hour speed and heavy rains.

- Hence Tropical cyclones poses threat to life and property even in the formative stages of their development. Different hazards that can individually cause significant impacts on life and property include storm surge, flooding, extreme winds, tornadoes and lighting.
- After the cyclone has passed, devastation often continues. Fallen trees can block roads and delay rescues, with medical supplies, or slow the repairs to electrical lines, telephone towers or water pipes, which could put other lives at risk for days or months. Stagnant water can cause the spread of disease, and transportation or communication infrastructure may have been destroyed, hampering clean-up and rescue efforts.

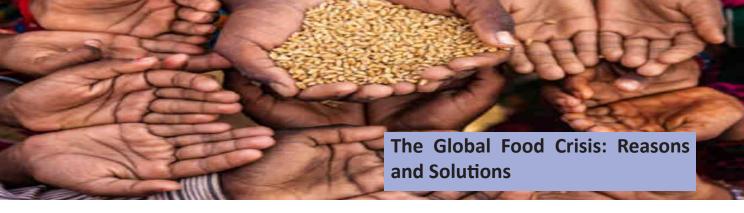


Conclusion

Marine heatwaves clearly have the potential to devastate marine ecosystems and cause economic losses in fisheries, aquaculture, and ecotourism industries. Global warming intensified the heatwaves.

Climate model projections suggest further warming of the Indian Ocean in the future, which will very likely intensify the marine heatwaves and their impact on the monsoon rainfall. Since the frequency, intensity, and area covered by the marine heatwaves are increasing, we need to enhance our ocean observational arrays to monitor these events accurately and update our weather models to skillfully predict the challenges presented by a warming world.

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Context

Recently World Trade Organization chief warned that without intervention a food crisis kicked off by the Russia-Ukraine war could last for years.

Introduction

The post-pandemic judemand for food, extreme weather conditions, supply chain bottlenecks and export restrictions have negatively affected the food market. The invasion has added to the widespread inflation in food prices throughout the world, pushing the Food and Agriculture Organization's Food Price Index to an all-time high—the highest it has been since the index began in 1990. WTO director general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said that global food crisis will hit the whole world and African countries could be hit especially hard by wheat and fertilizer shortages.

Reasons of Global Food Crisis

- The UN agencies' report outlines the major drivers of the recent rise in hunger and food insecurity conflict, Climate variability and extremes , Economic slowdowns and downturns (exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic).
- 2022 saw a rapid increase in food prices and shortages of food supplies around the world.
- The compounding crises in different parts of the world were caused by compounding geopolitical, economic, and natural causes, such as extreme heat, flooding and drought caused by climate change.

- While post-pandemic global demand, extreme weather, tightening food stocks, high energy prices, supply chain bottlenecks and export restrictions and taxes have been straining the food market for two years, the recent convergence of all these factors following Russia invasion is unprecedented and has sent food inflation rates spiking around the world.
- According to WTO chief wheat prices had risen 59% compared with last year, sunflower oil was up 30%, while maize was 23% higher.
- The war has disrupted global agricultural exports from Russia and Ukraine, two accounted for 24% of global wheat exports by trade value, 57% of sunflower seed oil exports and 14% of corn from 2016 to 2020.
- The war in Ukraine has left the world not only short of important grains but also fertilizers. Combined, Russia and Belarus had provided about 40% of the world's exports of potash, Russia also exported 11% of the world's urea, and 48% of the ammonium nitrate. Russia and Ukraine together export 28% of fertilizers made from nitrogen and phosphorous, as well as potassium. The fertilizer crisis is in some respects could inhibit food production and can ignite the global food crisis.

Global Impact of Food Crisis

• The 2022 Global Report on Food Crises estimates that about 180 million people in 41 countries and territories will be in a food crisis this year.

- According to the UN, the East African country has an estimated 13 million people facing severe hunger resulting from persistent drought.
- Ukraine exports large amounts of grain to countries all over the world, Asia and Africa are its primary buyers. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), up to 25 African nations, including many least developed countries, import more than one-third of their wheat from the two warring countries. Meanwhile, for 15 of them, it is more than 50%. Furthermore, Ukraine supplies 50% of the grain for the World Food Programme (WFP), which feeds 125 million of the world's poorest people.
- About 20 countries have imposed food restrictions and taxes on food since February 2022 causing the food shortage globally.
- Some countries' agriculture has also suffered due to climate change such as South American countries Argentina, a major producer of soya bean, corn and meat, had bad harvests due to a heatwave earlier this year. India's wheat production also declined due to heat waves.
- India's food production could drop 16% and the number of those at risk for hunger could increase 23% by 2030 due to climate change, says a report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on climate change and food systems.

Status of India in Food sufficiency

• India has made enormous progress in food production since the



Green Revolution with an inspiring journey towards self-sufficiency in food production.

- In 2020, India produced over 300 million tonnes of cereals and had built up a food stock of 100 million tonnes.
- In 2021, India exported a record 20 million tonnes of rice and wheat.
- Stocks of wheat in the central pool as of April 30, 2022 were 30.3 million tonnes, much lower than the 52.5 million tonnes of last year, but comfortably higher than buffer stock norms

Solutions

- To solve the global food and hunger problems World must work to maintain the open flows of trade on which every nation depends for their food supplies. Trade barriers and export restrictions are damaging to all sides, and particularly in times of crisis. The G7's call on all nations to "keep their food and agricultural markets open" sets the right direction and must be held firm: the G20 must follow suit.
- World need to increase production appropriately in other regions of the world, sustainabily and without delay to substitute war laden Russia and Ukraine in food production and export. In the E.U. and the U.S., there is an opportunity to reallocate land currently used to grow crops for biofuels (for energy) to the production of crops for food. Currently, one third of U.S.-grown corn and 3-4 million tons of E.U.-grown wheat go into producing ethanol for fuel, while a large proportion of American soyabeans and European rapeseed are used for biodiesel.
- Countries should work together in good faith to share data and explore when and in what circumstances to release food from national stockpiles and granaries. National

stockpiles have an often vital role to play in food and nutrition security; they can also be used judiciously at times such as these to reduce food prices and to alleviate humanitarian crises.

- The UN agencies' report, published before the invasion of Ukraine, recommends six ways to transform food systems to address these challenges and "ensure access to affordable healthy diets for all, sustainably and inclusively".
- Capable countries must give the poorest communities around the world the safety nets they need to get through this crisis, including in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. This includes debt relief: cash transfer programmes; increased support to small farmers, including through access to credit schemes, markets and nutritious food; investment in rural infrastructure; and a major package of support to the most vulnerable nations to assist them with adaptation and resilience to climate change.
- In an effort to resume Ukrainian grain exports, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was in "constant touch" with Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, the United States, and the European Union.



Conclusion

As rising food price and war between Russia and Ukraine and also climate change contributing the food crisis. Many countries announced the export restriction measure which are worsening the situation. This is the time that every country must take initiatives to provide humanitarian assistance to food insecure nations and also boost there productivity. Countries like U.S must focus over food grain than bio fuel. Ukrainian government has proposed the Group of Seven (G7) countries create an influential organization of grain exporting countries to tackle the global market challenges as Ukraine is one of the major supplier of food grain globally.

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Instability in neighbouring countries and its impact on India



Context

Amid the ongoing turmoil of the global stage, whether it is the refugee crisis, economic problem, COVID-19 pandemic, Ukraine-Russia war, competition between East-West, violation of rules-based world order or other political instability, it becomes natural for developing countries to have issues regarding different aspects of public life in the country. This is not only seen in the neighbouring countries of India but is happenig in many other countries as well.

Pakistan

Pakistan has been resorting to proxy war since 1947, due to which there were many wars with India. But by 1990, the effect of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism started becoming visible in states including Jammu and Kashmir. After 1990, the serial blasts in India, Parliament attack, Mumbai attack. Pathankot. Uri and Pulwama etc. has been linked to Pakistan. There has never been any development work for the 23Cr. people of Pakistan. This is the reason that Pakistan is is staring at financial bankruptcy. This economical and political instability has affected the entire region. The ouster of Imran Khan from power in April has created a civil warlike situation. This has boosted the morale of the terrorists on their soil.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is known as the graveyard of empires. After 1979, the Communist forces of the Soviet Union wanted to control Afghanistan in order to keep American presence away from their borders, but the result was opposite and the emergence of a radical organization like the Taliban. USA widthrew its forces from Afghanistan after 20 years of "war against terrorism" after eatting a humble pie. Now, maximum area of Afghanistan including its capital Kabul is under the control of Taliban regime while several sections are also against the Taliban; Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) is also active in Afghanistan.

Myanmar

A similar example of political instability is seen in Myanmar where the struggle for power has been between government (that is elected by the people) and Junta (military government). Rohingyas forced to flee from Rakhine state, have taken refuge in India and Bangladesh. Due to this, many types of restrictions have been imposed on Myanmar. Many citizens have been forced to seek shelter in neighbouring countries due to food crisis.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has been a centre of attraction due to its geopolitical position in the Indian Ocean. Political turmoil. in which mistrust between Tamil and Sinhalese groups has destabilized the country for many years. The Rajapaksha family's anti people policies have bankrupted Sri Lanka. China grabbed the situation with both hands and made Sri Lanka join the belt and road initiative. China exploited Sri Lanka in the name of aid. grants and loans. Today Sri Lanka is facing many challenges like bankruptcy in which Sri Lanka is seeking loan to pay interest. In the last two months, people came on the streets to protest against the government and finally Mahindra Rajapaksa had step down. In this miserable situation, India has not only given a line of credit of US \$ 3.2 billion, but has also supplied food items in sufficient quantity to help Srilankan poeple.

Nepal

It is one of those countries whose relations with India have been very cordial and familiar. India has always supported for the betterment of the Nepalese people. Since 1949, it has adopted 7 constitutions, however yet no prime minister has completed the entire term. When the earthquake struck in 2015, India was one of the first countries to supply various types of relief materials. During Communist Party's rule in Nepal, especially KP Sharma Oli kept his attention more towards China so that dependence on India could be reduced. The situation of Nepal is also becoming problematic due to the attractive loan offered by China in the name of infrastructural development. Chinese ambassador many times interfered in Nepal's internal politics, which harmed the Indian interests, now with the change of



guard situation in Nepal has become favourable for India

The Maldives

The Maldives, located in the Indian Ocean, has had good relations with India. But relations got disturbed during the presidency of Abdulla Yameen. He started supporting anti-India elements. The Maldives also joined China's ambitious project Belt and Road initiative. After 2018 presidential election, new government was formed under Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and then relations with India have improved again. Nevertheless, it is felt that the radical elements have organised anti-India rallies from time to time in the Maldives which has forced India's maritime border to be on alert mode.

Bangladesh and Bhutan; showing enough maturity

Bangladesh and Bhutan have set a better example by emphasizing economic development and independent policy. Although there were challenges there too but they worked to uplift living standards of their people on a large scale. Bangladesh tried to weaken Islamic fundamentalism under Sheikh Hasina's regime on one hand and on the other hand put development at the paramount, as a result of which Bangladesh is challenging India in the field of manufacturing of cotton textiles, fishing, agricultural products etc. Bhutan that is a landlocked country has also implemented better plans for the development and needs of its people. Bhutan has made a good synergy between environmental protection and humans. Today both Bhutan and Bangladesh ranked better than India in the Human Development Index. Despite note having enough resources, the maturity shown by these countries while making policies is an

example for other countries. These countries have noticed China's predatory policies very closely.

Impacts on India

If there will be instability in the neighbouring countries, then it is natural to affect India. For example, if there is an unstable government in Pakistan and Afghanistan then army or other non-state actors will be active. In result of this serious security concerns may be created at the north-west border of India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Due to which India will have to increase the defence budget. At the same time, if there is instability in Nepal and Myanmar, then the refugee problem and possible threat to border security with China around more than 3400 km will increase. These countries seperate the two Asian power houses.

If the political stir in Sri Lanka and Maldives increase, then it can pose a threat before India in many ways. For example, the challenge of protecting the coastal border of India. Most of the trade is done through sea, in which the incident of piracy will also increase. If there is no stable government in these countries and these countries do not cooperate with the Indian navy, then maritime trade will get hampered and china's influence in the Indian Ocean will increase rapidly. In last, it will not only affect India's developmental approach but also create internal insecurity and the interference of other external powers. India will be forced to allocate more funds for defence which will lead to the less funds being available for development projects. . Therefore, India should try its best to establish people centric governments in the neighbouring countries.



Way Forward

India is one of the five countries in the world with an economy of more than three trillion US dollars. India's economic growth is the fastest among the world's top 20 countries with strong economies. In such a situation, it becomes necessary that India should help its neighbouring countries as much as possible. India should work keeping in mind the 'Neighbourhood First' and Gujral Doctrine. Do its best for the strength of their democratic institutions and stability of governments. Share the best practices related to governance. If everything goes in the well planned direction, definitely more investment will come in this region, more development will take place and living standard will also improve.

NOTES



Why in News

Recently the Government has announced the Agnipath Scheme for recruitment in the Armed Forces. There have been protests against this scheme in some parts of India.

Agnipath Scheme- Details

- This scheme entails a recruitment process for individuals below the rank of officer to deploy fitter, younger troops on the front lines, many of whom will be on four-year contracts.
- All three services will be enrolled through a centralised online system, with specific rallies and campus interviews conducted by recognised technical colleges such as Industrial Training Institutes and the National Skills Qualifications Framework, among others. Enrollment will be on an 'All India All Class' basis, with eligible ages ranging from 17.5 to 21. Agniveers will meet the medical requirements for enlistment in the armed forces as they apply to their particular categories/trades. Agniveers' educational qualifications will continue to be a criterion for enrolment in many categories, such as the educational requirement for becoming a General Duty (GD) soldier is Class 10.
- Individuals enrolled under this Scheme will be paid an Agniveer package of Rs. 30,000/- per month with a fixed yearly increment. In addition, Risk and Hardship, Dress, and Travel allowances will be paid.
- The first Agnipath entry rally recruitment will start from September Oct 2022.

• After four years of service, 25% of the Agniveers will be retained in the regular cadre based on merit, willingness, and medical fitness. They will then serve for a full term of another 15 years. While the other 75% of Agniveers will be demobilised, with an exit or "Seva Nidhi" package of Rs 11-12 lakh, partly funded by their monthly contributions, as well as skill certificates and bank loans for help in their second careers.

Arguments in Favor

- This scheme will make the Armed Forces much younger. The current average age profile for armed forces in India is 32 years. It will come down to 27-28 years by implementing this scheme.
- This scheme will also reduce the defence pension bill, which is a considerable burden on the fiscal position of the government, especially after the implementation of a **One-Rank-One Pension** plan. According to the estimated calculation, the saving for the government through this model of recruitment from just one person will be around 11.5 crores. India's Defence budget for 2022-23 is Rs 5.25 lakh crore, of which Rs 1.2 lakh is for the pension component only.
- This scheme will create a modern army with future-ready soldiers who can be trained in the new technology, which is an essential part of warfare these days.
- The younger troops can be deployed on the frontline. This will add value in terms of swift response and agility.

- This scheme will provide a unique opportunity for the youths of India to serve the country and contribute to nation-building.
- There will be an increased employment opportunity for the recruits after four years as they will be trained in various skills during their tenure in the Armed Forces. They will also carry the military ethos of hard work, devotion, and dutifulness to their following jobs or professions.
- This scheme will also provide a "Seva Nidhi" fund after four years of around 11 to 12 lakh, which will make youths independent of financial woes so that they can pursue their career path independently.
- After four years, Agniveers will return to a civil society where they can contribute immensely to the nation-building process and promote patriotism in the population.
- This scheme will also allow the government to make more capital expenditures for modernising the armed forces as it will reduce the pension component of the defence budget. In the present times, technology can be more destructive than numerical strength.

Arguments Against

• There are concerns in some military circles that a combat soldier cannot be trained in 4 years, and the scheme compromises national security. In the 4-year recruitment training, authorised leaves and Temporary duties would eat up to 90 weeks. Thus the idea of reduced training spell trivialises the skill set for which



the armed forces train their cadre so diligently. The inadequate training will also be harmful to soldier's life.

- Retrenching youths from the armed forces after four years will also create security problems as this lot will be trained in military skills. If they remain unemployed, they can fall prey to a crime syndicate, radical political outfits, etc.
- Most of these recruits will not get permanent jobs or pension and health benefits even after retirement: thus inherent social contract between soldiers and the nation that the nation will take care of its soldiers even after their retirement or loss of life is in jeopardy.
- The 'All India All class' recruitment to the service may erode a soldier's loyalty to his regiment.
- In the future, most of the military will be composed of these Agniveers. This situation may create operational problems due to the noncontinuity of these Agniveers.
- The skill set provided during armed forces training is mainly related to combat skills; thus, their usefulness in future jobs is suspected.
- This scheme had been brought about without broader public discussion among all the stakeholders, especially the youths applying for jobs in the army. This has led to protests in some parts of the country.

International Trends

Major armed forces worldwide are moving towards leaner and meaner forces.

In China, President Xi Jinping is continuously trying to reorganise its army. He aims to reduce the size of the military to less than 1 million, which is, at present, 2.3 million strong. China also seeks to increase the size of its navy and air force. It also wants to make its forces more high-tech.

- In the UK, the size of the armed forces has been shrinking continuously over the last decade. It also invests significantly in newer fields such as the National Cyber Force, Autonomous Weapons System, and space.
- Russia has also rejected the theory of classic hard power and troop size. These days, Russian soldiers fight out of brigades, not large divisions.
- The US is also trying to balance its military budget by cutting the number of troops. These reductions will be much higher in the army than in the navy and air force. By investing in cutting-edge technology, the US is also ensuring that the destructive power of its armed forces is not compromised.



Wav Forward

While the government is moving on with its Agnipath scheme, it should address some related concerns. The training modules should be designed in novel ways to impart higher learning in a short time. The culture of caste, religion, and region-based regiments should be replaced by regimental unity based on a common goal. The skill certification provided should be of use in future jobs and responsibilities. Government should also bring private players into the loop to give opportunities to the retrenched youth. These measures will make the Agnipath scheme more attractive to the youths and will strengthen the lethality of the Indian armed forces.

NOTES

Time Zone

Impact of Two Time Zones on India

USA spans 4,800 km from East to West and is divided into six time zones. In contrast, India stretches over 3,000 km from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh but has only one time zone. While there is a debate in the US about whether they should switch from six time zones to two, India, on the other hand, has been talking about moving from one time zone to two for a long. China also has one time zone.

Indian Standard Time (IST)

Indian Standard Time is calculated based on 82.5 °E longitude which is just west of the town of Mirzapur, near Allahabad (now Prayagraj) in the State of Uttar Pradesh, which is five and a half hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), now called the Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) and this standard time zone is followed across India, even though the East to West expanse of the country approx.3000 km.

Keeper of the time in India is the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, which records time using five caesium atomic clocks.

The time difference between the western-most part and the eastern-most point of India is approximately two hours, the effect of which is that the sun rises and sets much earlier in the North-East than it does in the rest of the country.

The five states in India through which the standard Meridian passes are:

- Uttar Pradesh;
- Madhya Pradesh;

- Chhattisgarh;
- Odisha; and
- Andhra Pradesh.

Single Time: Pros and Cons

Pros:

The proponents of a single time zone contend that India is not as large as China, which maintains a single time zone (the country spreads across five time zones).

Implementing two time zones in India will cause havoc, not just in long-distance railway timetables but also in the way business is conducted. A single shared experience, no matter where you are in India, unites the country.

Anyone who is traveling in the country does not need to worry and change the time.

All the events happening throughout the country are reported in unchanged times.

• Cons:

Unity is a powerful concept, but it is also slightly flawed because it does not take advantage of the light.

In a bid to keep up with mainland India's unified time, the Northeast is culpable of staying up longer than usual and sleeping less, which impacts productivity levels in the long run.

In the Northeast

- The sun rises by 4 in the morning, and people have to wait until 10 am — India's standard business hours to get to work.
- By the time they are done with work at 6 pm, people in the North-

east are greeted with pitch-black skies. They are left with very little time to socialise and thus have a poor healthy work-life balance factors that can drag down productivity.

Facts

- The geographic "zero line" runs through Greenwich, London.
- It identifies GMT, now known as Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), which is maintained by the Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France.
- The Greenwich Mean Time was established by the Royal Observatory in 1675 with the purpose of assisting navigators at sea.

Two-Time Zones: Pros and Cons Pros

Effective planning:

India has long debated the feasibility of two time zones. Tea gardens in Assam have long set their clocks one hour ahead of the IST, creating their informal time zone. There are also economic benefits to having two time zones; people will be able to work and plan more effectively.

Saving Electricity:

According to a study by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, two time zones will help India save 2.7 billion units of electricity a year. This is because most offices and schools in the eastern part of the country stay open well past sunset. Conserving electricity is critical for the Indian economy, which is suffering from a



crippling power deficit. The International Energy Agency estimates that nearly 24 million Indians do not have access to electricity. According to CSIR-NPL, India might save ₹1,000 crores per vear if it can conserve electricity by implementing two time zones.

International Business:

The impact of time zones on international business has been a little-known but significant issue. Historically, economic patterns, and partners have had an impact on the time zones of nations. According to research, countries with more than one time zone, such as the US, the UK, Australia, and Canada, have gained economically from commerce across time zones. They were able to concentrate on their strengths and shortcomings, resulting in the best outcomes.

Positive Health:

Work and sleep schedules of countries with more than one time zone operate in separate time zones. Changing the time zone allowed employees to develop healthier eating, sleeping, and working habits, which had positive outcomes.

Use of technology to reduce confusion:

Given the widespread adoption of mobile phones-which can automatically adjust for a time change-the barriers to the introduction of such a change have lessened over the years.

Cons

Possibility of train accidents:

The government rejected a similar idea in 2002, noting its complexity. Due to the necessity of resetting the clock at every time zone boundary-crossing, some experts believed that there was a possibility of train accidents.

Political issue:

Since the political authority controls

time zones, the majority of the advantages or disadvantages perceived by residents regarding their countries' time zones were more political or social than economic.

Confusions:

Two time zones will create a lot of confusion and would need extra efforts to educate people and will also cause the loss of resources & economy of the State. People traveling across the border of two time zones have to change the time every time they cross the border, and it will be confusing.

Feeling of alienation for Northeast:

With different time zone from the rest of the country, North Eastern States may feel alienated.

Recent Efforts:

Last year, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)proposed to call the two time zones IST-I (UTC + 5.30 h) and IST-II (UTC + 6.30 h). The proposed line of demarcation is at 89°52'E, the narrow border between Assam and West Bengal.

- States west of the line would continue to follow IST (to be called IST-I).
- States east of the line Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar Islands —would follow IST-II.

Alternatives Proposed:

Daylight Saving Time:

There is also the practice in several countries, of "Daylight Saving Time" (DST), wherein the time in summer is advanced (or the clocks put forward) by one hour and retracted during winter. This enables people to enjoy sunlight longer in summer and avoid the inconveniences of late sunrises and early sunsets during winter.

Advancing IST:

Advancing IST by half an hour by reckoning it to be six hours ahead of GMT, once and permanently. This proposal of advancing IST by half an hour avoids the problems apprehended in the other two proposals (of time zones and DST) but provides maximum energy saving during evening hours when the utilities fail to supply continuous power.



Conclusion:

India's decision to adopt a single time zone after Independence was a conscious one. A significant portion of our population was illiterate at that time and two time zones would have led to a lot of complications. But with the impressive strides made in improving literacy rates, this is no longer the case.

The North-East States have been vocal about two time zones and if the Bill is passed in Parliament, it will undoubtedly boost India's economy in the long run.

India uses a single time zone because it serves its strategic and political purposes, but it's time to change seeing its economic needs.

By taking advantage of the opportunities and converting the time zone differences. India can see some economic benefits.



Context:

Press Note 3, aimed at curbing predatory takeovers by foreign entities, needs to be reviewed in the current economic situation.

As companies across the globe battled the uncertainty that the pandemic brought on in 2020, several economies began to raise concerns about opportunistic takeovers of entities stressed by pandemic in their country.

These countries imposed restrictions on foreign investments which could be 'predatory' in nature and to ensure that assets in sensitive sectors do not end up in foreign hands, jeopardising national security.

Against this backdrop, India introduced Press Note 3 (PN3) in 2020, which required all foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals from an entity based in a country that shares a land border with India were brought under the government approval route.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Any investment from an individual or firm that is located in a foreign country into a country is called Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country.

This means they aren't just bringing money with them, but also knowledge, skills and technology.

Generally, FDI takes place when an investor establishes foreign business operations or acquires foreign business assets, including establishing

ownership or controlling interest in a foreign company.

It is different from foreign portfolio investment where the foreign entity merely buys equity shares of a com-

FDI generally takes place in an economy which has the prospect of growth and also a skilled workforce.

FDI is a major driver of economic growth and an important source of non-debt finance for the economic development of India. A robust and easily accessible FDI regime, thus, should be ensured.

About Press Note 3, 2020

Press Note 3 (2020 series) was brought during the initial days of the pandemic in April 2020 - and as an immediate reaction to the concerns of Indian companies being vulnerable to opportunistic takeovers during the pandemic.

Press-note 3 requires that all investments from entities, which are based in a land-bordering country, or when the beneficial owner of the investment is based in a land-bordering country, will have to be made under the 'approval route' and will require security-clearance.

The challenging part for the implementation of press-note 3 was that it did not define the threshold for identifying the beneficial owner.

The Press Note changes the FDI Policy in two fundamental respects:

• First, it expands the list of countries whose investors are no longer eligible to invest in India under the automatic route.

Second, an investment in India – that would otherwise fall under the automatic route - now falls under the government route if it is from an entity whose "beneficial owner" is from such Bordering Country. These changes have far-reaching implications on the overall FDI regime.

Current Issues on Press Note 3:

However, there has been a series of important developments since the issuance of PN3, resulting in a need to update and rationalise it. During this period, the government also introduced several bold reform measures like

- opening up of travel and tourism
- scrapping the controversial retrospective tax imposed in 2012 on transfer of Indian assets
- ending vexatious litigations with 17 companies including Cairn and Vodafone
- infusing a new life into the earlier moribund telecom sector.

The present healthy trends may potentially ward off any attempts of 'opportunistic takeovers' as feared earlier.

On the global front, there have been radical changes in the geopolitical situation after the Russia-Ukraine war, which has severely impacted the global economy and created potentially huge inflationary pressures, forcing countries to review their pol-

In this situation, there is a need to review PN3 to boost legitimate investments, particularly from sources like 'pooled funds'. These are investment



vehicles that pool money from multiple investors and are managed by fund managers who independently and professionally drive the investment strategy for delivering returns for their investors.

Areas need reforms:

There are some additional areas for simplifying PN3 which could also be considered:

Exemption of low hanging fruits: Effectively, investments from restricted entities constituting less than 10 per cent (or even 5 per cent) of the economic interests of an Indian company, in non-strategic sectors, regardless of investment route, could be exempted from the prior approval requirement.

The rationale would be that such minority shareholding of 'restricted entities' may not be able to influence control/direction of the entities.

Clarification on scope and ambit of 'beneficial ownership':

As the ambit and extent of "beneficial ownership" has not been elaborated under PN3, considerable discussion has taken place on acceptable threshold of 'beneficial ownership'.

Cue from several other regulations

There could be a mechanism involving relaxation for investors where the ultimate beneficial ownership or control is less than 25 per cent.

This could also include companies listed on overseas stock exchanges wherein restricted shareholders hold less than 25 per cent of listed stock.

Further investments into Indian companies where restricted entities are existing shareholders:

It is well known that a number of start-up sectors (e-commerce, technology, social media, etc) in India have substantial amounts of Chinese investments.

Considering the curbs placed on fresh investments under PN3, incoming and existing investors looking to participate in fund-raising rounds by such start-ups might hesitate.

- As the intention behind PN3 has been to prevent opportunistic takeovers, screening future rounds of funding or acquisitions by restricted entities in companies already owned and controlled by such restricted entities may be relaxed since the question of an opportunistic takeover may not arise.
- Need for greater transparency and expediency in the approval process: Another challenge in the context of PN3 has been the time taken for security clearance of the proposals. According to recent reports, since 2020 nearly 347 proposals have been received under PN3, of which, only 66 have been granted approval so far.

Some Facts

- India attracted total foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow of \$83.57 billion in the financial year 2021-22, up by 1.95 per cent on-year, according to data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- India has attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of US\$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21 and it is 10% higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20 (US\$ 74.39 billion).
- Singapore is the top investing country with 27 per cent of the equity inflows.
- This is followed by the US with inflows at 21 per cent and Mauritius that continued to remain one of the top sources of FDI for India at 16 per cent inflows in FY22...
- Karnataka is the top recipient State for yet another year with 38 per cent share of the total FDI equity inflows, followed by Maharashtra at

26 per cent and Delhi at 14 per cent.

- Majority of equity inflow of Karnataka has been reported in the sectors — computer software and hardware, with a share of 35 per cent of the total FDI equity inflow. For the automobile industry it was 20 per cent and 12 per cent in case of education during FY22.
- FDI equity inflow in manufacturing sectors has increased by 76 per cent in FY2021-22 (\$21.34 billion) compared to previous FY2020-21 (\$12.09 billion).



Way forward:

While the security risk posed by Chinese entities persists, there an urgent need for Indian entities to raise funds, particularly in the current geopolitical situation and more so in strategic sectors.

The Indian economy has exhibited great resilience and upswing during and after the Covid pandemic, as evidenced by reassuring FDI inflows and growth of a record number of unicorns, which has just crossed 100 during the period. Now when the economy is accelerating, there is a need to ensure greater facilitation, transparency and time-bound decision-making.

SHORT ISSUES

NATIONAL

Inter-State Council

Why In News?

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has recently written a letter to the PM Narendra Modi suggesting that at least three meetings of the Inter-State Council should be held every year to "strengthen the spirit of cooperative federalism".

About Inter-State Council

It is a mechanism that was constituted "to support Centre-State and Inter-State coordination and cooperation in India". The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution, which states that the President may constitute such a body if a need is felt for it.

Sarkaria Commission: In 1988, the Sarkaria Commission suggested the Council should exist as a permanent body, and in 1990 it came into existence through a Presidential Order. Since its constitution in 1990, the body has met only 11 times, although its procedure states it should meet at least three times every year.

Composition:

The present composition of the Council is as follows:

- The Prime Minister is the chairman of the Council.
- Members include the Chief Ministers of all states and UTs with legisla-

tive assemblies.

- Administrators of other UTs.
- Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Centre's Council of Ministers, nominated by the Prime Minister, are also its members.

Functions:

- The main functions of the Council are inquiring into and advising on disputes between states.
- · Investigating and discussing subjects in which two states or states and the Union have a common interest.
- Making recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action.
- The Council is basically meant to serve as a forum for discussions among various governments.

Challenges:

- Recommendatory body: It is just a recommendatory body to investigate and discuss subjects of common interest between union and states or among states.
- Lack of regular meetings: There is a lack of regular meetings, the Council has met only once in the last six years — and there has been no meeting since July 2016.
- · Lacks technical and management experts: It lacks technical and management experts along with the au-

tonomy that is required for effective functioning.

About the last meeting of the Inter-State Council

In 2016, the meeting included consideration of the Punchhi Commission's recommendations on Centre-State Relations that were published in 2010. The meeting saw a detailed discussion on the recommendations. States asked for maintaining the federal structure amid growing "centralisation", Imposition of Article 356 of the Constitution, which deals with the imposition of President's Rule in states, was a matter of concern. Internal Security with a focus on intelligence sharing and synchronization for fighting Terrorism and Insurgency and Police Reforms and Police Modernization were also discussed. Bihar Chief Minister had demanded that the post of Governor should be abolished.

Way Forward:

Suitable amendments must be made to Article 263 so as to give more power and authority to the council rather than merely being an advisory body. ISC must be made a permanent body which was one of the important recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

Bharat Gaurav Scheme

Recently the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation's (IRCTC) Bharat Gauray tourist train embarked on the 18-day Shri Ramayana Yatra from New Delhi. IRCTC, a Mini Ratna Category-I Central PSU under the





Ministry of Railways has inaugurated its first Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train. The train will cover approximately 8,000 kilometres between India and Nepal. It will run on the Ramayana circuit identified under Swadesh Darshan and visit places where Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, and Lord Laxman set foot during their 14-year exile.

About Bharat Gauray Trains

- In November 2021 the Indian Railways allowed private players to run theme-based Bharat Gaurav trains to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and historical places to the people of India, and from abroad.
- The scheme will leverage the strengths of professionals in the tourism sector to run theme-based trains.
- This scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals in the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourism potential of India.
- This Bharat Gaurav scheme will now help in roping in more tour operators with professional experience and will give a boost to the tourism sector in the country.
- At present, IRCTC is already running several tourist circuit trains on

Railways. With the introduction of this policy, all tourist circuit trains shall be operated as per the guidelines issued under this policy.

Significance of the scheme

- Private players to run special train: It allows private players with domain knowledge in the tourism sector to run these special trains.
- Incremental revenue: Railway will get incremental revenue from a new stream of business.
- · Pave way for more privatisation: This could pave way for more privatisation moves in running of both cargo and passenger trains.

About a Tourist Circuit

- Tourist Circuit is defined as a route on which at least three major tourist destinations which are not in the same town, village or city and not separated by a long-distance as well.
- Tourist circuits should have well-defined entry and exit points. So, a tourist who enters should get motivated to visit most of the places identified in the circuit.
- Theme-based Tourist Circuits are circuits around specific themes such as religion, culture, ethnicity, niche, etc. A theme-based circuit can be

confined to a state or can also be a regional circuit covering more than one state or Union territory.

Other Schemes

• Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

Swadesh Darshan, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched in 2014 -15 for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country.

PRASHAD Scheme:

The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD) was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.

• Buddhist Conclave:

Buddhist Conclave is organised every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination and major markets around the globe.

Dekho Apna Desh' Initiative:

It is an initiative to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country and explore the wonders of India thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure in tourism spots in the country.

INTER-NATIONAL

International Yoga Day

Why in News?

8th Yoga Day was celebrated all over the world on 21st June 2022.

Background

International Yoga Day is celebrated

every year on 21st June. For the first time this day was celebrated on 21 June 2015, which was initiated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi with his speech in the United Nations General Assembly on

27 September 2014.

When and how did yoga originated in India?

Lord Shiva is considered the originator of yoga, he is called Adiyogi i.e.

PERFECT 7



the first yogi. Whereas the credit of bringing yoga among the masses goes to the Saptarishis. The Vedas tell how Shiva's second teaching as an Adiyogi was dedicated to the Saptarishis. It is said that Shiva was sitting in meditation for years, many people eagerly came to him, but most left because he never paid any attention to anyone. But seven of these people stayed, they were so determined to learn from Shiva, that they sat still for 84 years. After this, on the day of the summer solstice when the sun was moving from north to south, Shiva noticed these 7 beings - he could no longer ignore them. The next full moon, 28 days later, Shiva transformed into Adiguru (the first guru), and brought the science of yoga to the Saptarishis.

Maharishi Patanjali carried forward the tradition of Yoga. According to him, yoga is not to allow the mind to wander here and there, it is, to keep it fixed in only one thing. According to them there are 3 types of yoga – Asana, Pranayama and Dhyana. Presently, Indian Yoga has got international recognition due to the efforts of Yoga Gurus like Baba Ramdev, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar etc.

Reasons for celebrating 21st June as Yoga Day

June 21 is the day of the summer solstice. During the June solstice, the North Pole is tilted towards the Sun or we can say when the Sun starts moving from North to South. From the point of view of yoga, this time is a better time for transition ie meditation. This date is also the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world.

Theme of Yoga Day 2022

Like every year, this year also a theme was kept for International Yoga Day. The theme of 2022 is 'Yoga for Humanity'.

Benefits of Yoga

- Yoga can greatly affect neural patterns in the brain, which can improve ability to concentrate and focus.
- Yoga improves strength, balance and flexibility.
- Yoga helps in relieving back pain.
- Yoga can reduce the symptoms of arthritis.
- Yoga benefits heart health.
- Yoga relaxes you, which helps you sleep better.
- Yoga can mean more energy and a brighter mood.
- Yoga helps you manage stress.
- Yoga connects you to a collaborative community.
- Yoga promotes better self-care.

2 |

International Day for Countering Hate Speech

Why in News?

In July 2021, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on "promoting inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech", highlighting global concerns over "the spread and promotion of hate speech" around the world. Under this resolution, 18 June was declared as the International Day to Countering Hate Speech. This year the first day is celebrated on 18th June.

Other issues related to hate speech-Background

The International Day to Combat Hate Speech is an initiative based on the United Nations Strategy and Action Plan on Hate Speech launched on 18 June 2019.

Theme of the day

The first International Day to Combat Hate Speech was observed under the theme "The Role of Education to Address the Root Causes of Hate Speech and Advance Inclusion, Non-Discrimination and Peace".

Definition of hate speech

The United Nations Strategy and Action Plan on Hate Speech defines hate speech as follows-

"Any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor."

There is no clear definition of "Hate Speech" in the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Importance

The day is important to combat hate speech, because hate speech is not only a denial of India's constitutional values and ideals, but it also undermines the core principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter, such as human dignity, equality, peace and respect.

Hate speech breeds violence and disharmony. Cause physical, psychological and emotional harm to the affected people or communities. Social media and other means of communication have also increased the destructive effect of hate speech. If left unchecked, it can lead to widespread

human rights violations and escalate conflicts.

Countermeasures against hate speech

- 1. Build harmony and solidarity at every level, from the grassroots to the international level, within the framework of justice.
- 2. Make efforts to protect fundamental human rights and freedoms.
- 3. Educate yourself about the inte-

grated pluralistic cultures, traditions and subaltern history around the world.

- 4. Build traditions to strengthen fraternity within and among communities around the world.
- 5. Demand justice for the victims of communal, castiest, misogynistic hatred and discrimination.

Way Forward

Today, when the whole world is facing many separatist fundamentalist ideologies including terrorism, extremism, fundamentalism, regionalism, "hate speech" has an important contribution at the root of these immoral and destructive ideologies. That is why we all should take a pledge together to control "hate speech" to maintain world peace and harmony.

ENVIRONMENT



The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Why in news?

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was observed on 17 June. The aim of this celebration is to promote public awareness at international level to combat desertification. The day offers a chance to realize that land degradation neutrality is achievable by problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at every level. The theme of this year is "Rising up from drought together".

About desertification and drought

According to the United Nation, "Desertification is land degradation in typically dry areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities." While Drought is a period of time when an area or region gets below-normal precipitation. Inadequate precipitation either rain or snow can reason to reduce soil moisture or groundwater. It affects not only agricultural activities but also increase the problems related to availability of water.

History and Significance

The history of this day dates back to December 1994 when United Nations General Assembly resolved to combat desertification and drought. Therefore, the United Nation with the support of countries and NGOs are organizing events to increase and spread awareness about this day. The aim for starting this day is to turn the degraded land into healthy and fertile land.

The day becomes extremely crucial especially when the report of United Nation estimates that approximately 180 Cr people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity by 2025 while by 2045, desertification may displace about 13.5 Cr people. The overgrowing and never-ending demand of basic human needs such as water, food, education, health, raw materials, highways and homes has resulted in the melting of three-quarters of Earth's ice-free land.

Objective

It has basically 3 objectives;

- 1. To promote public awareness about desertification and drought.
- 2. Let people know that desertification and drought can be effectively tackled, solutions of this is also possible and key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and cooperation at each level.
- 3. To strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in that countries which are experiencing serious drought and desertification, mainly in Africa.

India and UNCCD

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with the IUCN launched a flagship project to enhance capacity on forest landscape restoration and Bonn challenge in India by a pilot phase of about 3.5 years implemented in the



states of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka.

At the Paris climate conference in 2015, India had joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to restore 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020. The pledge committed by India, is one of the largest in Asia. According to the India state of forest report, India has around 24.62% forest (21.71%) and tree cover (2.91%) of the total geographical area of the country.

Way Forward

Recently published report says that India has not done satisfactory work on environmental issues which should be taken seriously. By doing this we can achieve the objective of Sustainable Development Goal by 2030.



Four New Corals Found from Indian Waters

Scientists have recorded four species of corals for the first time from Indian waters. These new species of azooxanthellate corals were found from the waters off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

About Azooxanthellate Corals

The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of planktons.

They are deep-sea representatives with the majority of species being reported from depths between 200 metres and 1,000 metres. They are also reported from shallow waters unlike zooxanthellate corals that are restricted to shallow waters.

The details of the new species have been published in Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Scienc-

All the four groups of corals are from the same family, Flabellidae. Truncatoflabellum crassum (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), T. incrustatum (Cairns, 1989), T. aculeatum (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), and T. irregulare (Semper, 1872) under the family Flabellidae were previously found in Japan, the Philippines and Australian waters, while only T. crassum was reported with the range of Indo-West Pacific distribution.

Importance of Coral Reefs Coastal protection

Healthy reefs act as natural barriers, protecting coastal areas and beaches from strong ocean waves. Without coral reefs, many beaches and buildings become vulnerable to wave and storm damage. With more frequent storms due to climate change, these coastal protection services will become even more important. In the tsunami of December 2004, some coastlines were protected from severe damage because of healthy reefs.

Medicine

Coral reefs are called the medicine chests of the sea. Some creatures found on reefs produce compounds that have been used for human applications. Several treatments for diseases like cardiovascular diseases, ulcers, Leukaemia, etc from chemicals in reef plants and animals. Coral's unique skeletal structure has been used for making bone-grafting materials.

Food

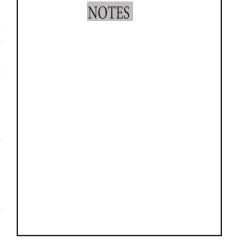
Reef fish are a source of protein for a billion people, especially for those living near reefs. Some commercial fishing enterprises also depend on coral reefs and surrounding fish species.

Tourism

Healthy reefs support local and global economies. The tourism industry and fisheries, coral reefs generate billions and provide jobs for millions around the world. Countries with coral reef industries get most of the gross national product from them. A study estimated the value of coral reefs at \$10 billion and direct economic benefits of \$360 million per year.

Meteorology

A recent study by the Indian Institute of Tropical meteorology has stated that corals found in the North Indian ocean had the potential to provide new insights into the onset and withdrawal of the Indian Monsoon until a few hundred years ago.







SCIENCE-TECH



CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has declared IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI as 'critical information infrastructure'.

What is critical information infrastructure?

The Information Technology Act of 2000 defines Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) as a "computer resource" which can impact the national security, economy, public health or safety of the nation.

The government has the power to declare any data, database, IT network or communications infrastructure as CII to protect that digital asset.

Any person who secures access or attempts to secure access to a protected system in violation of the law can be punished with a jail term of up to 10 years.

Why is CII classification and protection important?

World over governments have taken immediate steps to protect their critical information infrastructure. IT resources form the backbone of countless critical operations in a country's infrastructure and due to their interconnectedness disruptions in CII can have a cascading effect across sectors. An information technology failure at a power grid can lead to prolonged outages crippling other sectors like healthcare, banking services.

For example on October 12, 2020 as India battled the pandemic, the electric grid supply to Mumbai suddenly stopped impacting the mega city's hospitals, trains and businesses. Later, a study by a US firm that looks into the use of the internet by states, claimed that this power outage could have been a cyber attack, allegedly from a China-linked group, aimed at critical infrastructure.

How are CIIs protected in India?

Created in January 2014, the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCI-IPC) is the nodal agency for taking all measures to protect the nation's critical information infrastructure. NCIIPC will monitor and forecast national-level threats to CII for policy guidance, expertise sharing and situational awareness for early warning or alerts. But, the basic responsibility for protecting the CII system shall lie with the agency running that CII.

In the event of any threat to critical information infrastructure the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre may call for information and give directions to the critical sectors or

persons serving or having a critical impact on Critical Information Infrastructure.

Way Forward

Cybersecurity remains an arena with a plethora of stakeholders and constantly evolving technology. Thereby, while the guidelines for the protection of CII provide a basic framework for the protection of the CII, there will be a need to constantly evolve sector-specific guidelines in order to protect these infrastructures. There is also need of cybersecurity professionals to partner with the NCIIPC in order to cover significant portions of the sector.

To strengthen its cybersecurity, India should see the National Cyber Security Strategy as a key opportunity to articulate how international law applies to cyberspace.

The synergy between the private and the public is also important for protecting CII.

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DST launches Geospatial Self Certification Portal

Why in News?

Recently, Department of Science & Technology has launched a Geospatial Self Certification Portal for liberalizing geospatial industry in India.

Aim of the Portal-

The portal is a massive step towards liberalization & self certification in the Geospatial industry in India, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched the Self Certification Portal for conveying adherence to provisions of Geospatial Guidelines by Individuals, companies, organizations, and Government agencies. The Government of India, under the aegis of the Prime Minister has been taking concrete steps to foster ease of doing business and entrepreneurship in the country, with a focus on data and technology-driven development. The release of new Geospatial Data Guidelines on February 15, 2021, by DST, was part of this vision and introduced much-needed changes to liberalize the Geospatial industry.

About the Portal-

- This Portal facilitates entities engaged in map-related activities to certify themselves quickly and easily.
- It is launched for conveying adherence to provisions of Geospatial Guidelines by Individuals, companies, organizations, and government agencies.
- The Portal has been developed in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- The self-certification facility for entities in the portal is free and universal.

Improvements by Geospatial Portal-

One of the key developments brought in by the Guidelines was the replacement of process of prior approvals, security clearances, licenses and other restrictions for the collection, generation, preparation, dissemination, storage, publication, updating and/or digitization of Geospatial Data and Maps within the territory of India with a Self-Certification Regime for conveying adherence to provisions of Geospatial Guidelines by Individuals, companies, organizations, and Government agencies.

What is Geospatial Technology?

Geospatial technologies is a term used to describe the range of modern tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the Earth and human societies.

The term 'geospatial' refers to a collection of technologies that help to collect, analyse, store, manage, distribute, integrate, and present geographic information.

It consists of the following technol-

- Remote Sensing
- GIS (Geographic Information Sys-
- GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System)
- Survey
- 3D modelling

It enables better measurement, management, and maintenance of assets, monitoring of resources and even providing predictive and prescriptive analysis for forecasting and planned interventions.

Conclusion

The geospatial sector in the country is rightly positioned for investment. The latest geospatial self certification portal is a step in the right direction towards ease of doing business & entrepreneurship in India through technology driven development.

NOTES





ECONOMY

RBI Payment Vision 2025

Why in news?

Recently the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its 'Payment Vision 2025' document, which aims to triple India's digital payments growth.

About Payment Vision 2025

The 'Payments Vision 2025' document was released by the Reserve Bank of India, which aims to establish India as a payments powerhouse globally, by three fold growth in digital payments.

Theme

Its core theme is 'e-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everytime' (4E), which aims to provide a safe, secure, fast, convenient, accessible and affordable e-payment option to every user.

Document vision

- 1. Geographical Identity of Digital Payments
- 2. Regulating all the important intermediaries involved in the payments
- 3. Regulation of Bigtech and Fintech in the Payments Sector
- 4. Buy Now, Pay Later
- 5. To triple the number of digital payments, increase the use of debit cards and reduce the circulation of cash.

Importance-

1. Global Leader- This will strengthen India's position as a global leader in the digital payments sector. For example, UPI is being used in countries like Bhutan, Nepal, Singapore etc.

- 2. Digital Society- It is India's Transformation towards Cashless Economy
- **3. Financial Inclusion-** It will promote financial inclusion by bringing more and more people into the ambit of digital payments. According to RBI data, there has been an increase of 216% in total digital payments in the last 3 years.
- 4. Ease of Use and Convenience -This will empower the users to make easy payments anytime and anywhere with convenience.
- 5. Promote Data Localization As we know that in the current 4th industrial revolution, data has emerged as a new currency. Therefore, having a data store in India itself, will boost India's economic prosperity.

Challenges-

- 1. Digital illiteracy- According to Deloitte report, digital literacy in India is less than 10%.
- 2. Cyber Threats- Digital payment frauds will increase with increasing modes of digital payment. There is also an increasing likelihood of exposure to cyber security risks such as online fraud, information theft, and malware or virus attacks.
- 3. Fees on Digital Payments Given the socio-economic condition of India, charges on digital payments discour-
- 4. Geopolitical Risks This document also talks about ring-fencing of domestic payment systems in view of

emerging geopolitical risks, including the need to mandate domestic processing of payment transactions.

Achievements of Payments Vision 2019-21

• Payment Vision 2021 gives every Indian access to e-payment options that are secure, robust, convenient, quick and affordable. It also sets four goals of competition, cost, convenience and confidence.

These goals have been accomplished through the following initiatives-

- Competition Creation of regulatory sandbox, Access to Centralized Payment System (CPS) for Non-Bank PSOs, Facilitating Low Value Digital Payments in Offline Mode, 'On Tap' Authorization for Payment Systems, Internationalization of Domestic Payment Systems, Features Framework for self-regulatory organization for phone-based payment services, payment systems, etc.
- **Cost-** Waiver of charges levied by RBI for transactions in Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system etc.
- Facility- Availability of NEFT, RTGS and National Automated Clearing House on 24x7x365 basis, reconciliation of turn-around-time for settlement of unsuccessful transactions and compensation etc.
- Self-confidence- Framework for payment regulating aggregators,





e-mandate for recurring transactions, tokenization of card transactions and card-on-file tokenization etc.

Laws.

3. Promote Digital Literacy

NOTES

Way Ahead-

- 1. Promoting Digital Data Infrastructure
- 2. Creation of Strong Cyber Security

SEBI forms advisory panel on hybrid securities

Markets regulator SEBI has set up an advisory committee on hybrid securities, which will make recommendations for giving a fillip to the growth of such instruments, including measures focusing on ease of issuance and attracting domestic and global capital.

The 20-member committee will be chaired by K V Kamath, Chairperson of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) showed. In addition, the committee comprises top level officials of infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), real estate investment trusts (REITs), finance as well as legal experts and representatives of SEBI. REITs and InvITs are classified as hybrid securities and they are relatively new investment instruments in the Indian context but are extremely popular in global markets. The committee has been given the task of advising SEBI on issues related to development and regulation of primary and secondary markets of hybrid securities in the country.

Further, it will identify use case scenarios of hybrid securities in the context of the infrastructure financing needs of the Indian economy and make recommendations for developing instruments to meet the needs of the infrastructure sector.

Besides, SEBI has reconstituted its research advisory committee, which

is responsible for promotion, development, maintenance of databases relevant for capital market regulation research.

About SEBI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was constituted as a non-statutory body on April 12, 1988 through a resolution of the Government of India.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established as a statutory body in the year 1992 and the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992) came into force on January 30, 1992.

Purpose of SEBI

The purpose for which SEBI was setup was to provide an environment that paves the way for mobilsation and allocation of resources.It provides practices, framework and infrastructure to meet the growing demand.

It meets the needs of the following groups:

- 1. Issuer: For issuers, SEBI provides a marketplace that can utilised for raising funds.
- 2. Investors: It provides protection and supply of accurate information that is maintained on a regular basis.
- 3. Intermediaries: It provides a competitive market for the intermediaries by arranging for proper infra-

structure.

Powers of SEBI

When it comes to the powers of SEBI, there are 3 main powers of the organization. They are as follows-

- 1. Quasi-Judicial The first and foremost power of this organization is that it has partial judicial powers in declaring judgments in fraudulent matters or misconduct in the Securities Market.
- 2. Quasi-Executive -The organization also has the power to incorporate rules and implement legal actions in order to establish an environment of fairness and transparency in the market. It can also take steps against violators.
- **3. Quasi-Legislative -** The third power of SEBI falls in the legislative domain. The organization has the power to formulate laws and regulations and frame guidelines in order to protect the rights of investors and keep violations at bay.

NOTES	

NEWS OF NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

1. ISRO successfully launches India's Communication satellite GSAT-24 from Kourou in French Guiana



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched communication satellite GSAT-24 from Kourou in French Guiana. GSAT-24, built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), was launched by French company Arianespace.

GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite weighing 4180 kg with pan-India coverage for meeting DTH application needs. It was the first demand driven communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL post space sector reforms. NSIL, a Government of India company under the Department

of Space, has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.

2. IIT Madras to set up 5G test bed for Army Training Command



The Indian Institute of Technology Madras along with the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) would establish a 5G test bed at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) at Indore to facilitate the use of 5G technology for the Indian Army along the borders. The collaboration would provide impetus to the induction of systems, devices and equipment using niche technology and use of Al-based algorithms for enhancing capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces. The partnership is expected to encourage students, faculty and scientists to take up research in 5G communication and develop military applications.

3. PM inaugurates 'Vanijya Bhawan' and launches NIRYAT portal



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the new premises of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry- 'Vanijya Bhawan'. During the gramme, PM also launched a new portal-NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade) - which is developed as a one stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

Constructed near India Gate, the Vanijya Bhawan is designed as a smart building which incorporates the principles of sustainable architecture with a special focus on energy saving. It will serve as an integrated and modern office complex that will be used by the two Departments under the Ministry

i.e. Department of Commerce and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). NIRYAT portal will help in breaking silos by providing real time data to all stakeholders.





PM inaugurates Centre for Brain Research at IISc Bengaluru



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) which is situated in the premises of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

About CBR

The Centre for Brain Research was established as an autonomous, non-profit research organization in the Indian Institute of Science, with the generous gift from Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan (co-founder of Infosys Limited) and Mrs. Sudha Gopalakrishnan.

The mandate of CBR is to carry out basic research to understand brain functioning in health and disease. CBR aims to foster focused research

programme for inter-disciplinary neuroscience research with primary goal to discover rational therapies for dementia and other age-related brain disorders. CBR has initiated comprehensive, long-term longitudinal study of cognition, genetics and brain imaging in ageing population that include patients and healthy individuals.

5. New CEO of NITI Aayog



The Government of India has appointed retired IAS officer Parameswaran lyer as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog. He will replace the current CEO Amitabh Kant whose term will end on June 30.

About NITI Aavog

On January 1, 2015, NITI Aayog was constituted in place of Planning Commission. Keeping the spirit of cooperative federalism at the centre, the approach of maximum governance, minimum government was given place. Its administrative structure is as follows-

Chairman: Prime Minister

Vice President: Appointed by the Prime Minister

Governing Council: Chief Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.

6. G-7 unveils \$600 bn infra project



G-7 leaders pledged to raise \$600 billion in private and public funds over five years to finance needed infrastructure in developing countries and counter China's older, multitrillion-dollar Belt and Road project.

United States would mobilize \$200 billion in grants, federal funds and private investment over five years to support projects in low- and middle-income countries that help tackle climate change as well as improve global health, gender equality and digital infrastructure.

Europe will mobilize 300 billion euros (\$317.28 billion) for the initiative over the same period to build up a sustainable alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative scheme.







7. New Director General of National Investigation Agency

Former Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta has been appointed Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the Central Government. Dinkar Gupta, a 1987 batch IPS officer of Punjab cadre, will hold the post till March 31, 2024.

About National Investigation Agency-

The National Investigation Agency was formed under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008. Realizing the need for a central agency to investigate terrorism and some other criminal acts after the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, the NIA was formed.

It is the central agency for investigation and prosecution of offenses in the following cases:-

- · Offenses affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states.
- Offenses against nuclear installations.
- Smuggling of fake Indian currency.

Recently, the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by the Parliament amending the original Act of the year 2008. There is a provision in this bill to allow NIA to investigate the following additional criminal cases as well-

- Offences relating to counterfeit currency or banknotes
- Manufacture or sale of banned weapons
- Cyber terrorism
- Offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

It is headquartered in New Delhi and has branches in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur and Jammu.

8. India facing twin deficit problem



The finance ministry has cautioned the re-emergence of the twin deficit problem in the economy, with higher commodity prices and rising subsidy burden leading to an increase in both fiscal deficit and current account deficit. It's also the first time the government has explicitly talked about the possibility of fiscal slippage in the current fiscal year.

The report said rationalising non-capex expenditure has thus become critical, not only for protecting growth supportive capex but also for avoiding fiscal slippages.

The ministry had earlier hinted that India's fertiliser subsidy bill for FY23 could rise to around Rs 2.5 trillion against the Budget Estimate of Rs 1.05 trillion because of a global supply shortage amid the war in Ukraine.





9. South Korea launches home-grown space rocket in second such attempt



South Korea launched its first domestically built space rocket on June 21 in the country's second attempt, months after its earlier lift-off failed to place a payload into orbit. A successful launch would boost South Korea's growing space ambitions but also prove it has key technologies to build a space-based surveillance system and bigger missiles amid animosities with rival North Korea, some experts say.

In the first attempt last October, the rocket's dummy payload reached its desired altitude of 700 km (435 miles) but didn't enter orbit because the engine of the rocket's third stage burned out earlier than planned. South Korea, the world's 10th-largest economy, is a main supplier of

semiconductors, automobiles and smartphones on world markets. But its space development programme lags behind that of its Asian neighbours China, India and Japan.

10. IOC unveils "Surya Nutan"



Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has unveiled a stationary, rechargeable and indoor cooking stove that uses the sun's energy to cook food while always being kept in the kitchen. The stove, which entails a one-time procurement cost and has zero maintenance, is being touted as a substitute for fossil fuels. Stove has been named Surya Nutan.

About Surva Nutan

Surya Nutan, the stove is different from solar cookers as it does not have to be placed under sunlight. It has been developed by IOC's research and development division at Faridabad. It always stays in the kitchen and a cable carries solar energy captured through a PV panel kept outdoor or on the

It collects energy from the sun, converts it into heat through a specially designed heating element, stores thermal energy in a scientifically proven thermal battery and reconverts the energy for use in indoor cooking. The



11. India ranks 4th in global gold recycling

India has emerged as the fourth largest country in global gold recycling, said World Gold Council in a report in June, adding that over the past five years 11 per cent of India's gold supply has been from "old gold." The high recycling was driven by movements in the gold price, future gold price expectations, and the wider economic outlook. Recycling in India is a Rs 440 billion industry.

There are three major sources of gold recycling- jewellery, manufacturing scrap, and end-of-life industrial scrap. Old jewellery scrap represents the largest source of recycling in India, with an approximate 85 per cent share of the total.

Industrial scrap is generated from end-of-life electronic products, such as printed circuit boards, mobile phones, connectors, and contact points. This industrial segment accounts for less than 5 per cent of the total Indian scrap supply.





Current Affairs at a Glance

- 1. US-led coalition launched 'Partners in the Blue Pacific' initiative to counter China. PBP will support Pacific islands and boost diplomatic, economic ties in the region.
- 2. Rajasthan has come on the world map with huge reserves of uranium, found at Rohil (Khandela Tehsil) in Sikar district. After Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan is the third state where uranium has been found.
- 3. Russia defaults on foreign-currency sovereign debt for 1st time since 1918.
- 4. "International MSME Day" is celebrated every year on 27 June under the auspices of the United Nations. This year MSME Day is being celebrated under the theme "Resilience and Rebuilding: MSMEs for Sustainable Development".
- 5. Olympic gold medallist Sydney McLaughlin broke her own women's 400 metres hurdles world record at the U.S. championships in Eugene, Oregon, winning the final in 51.41 seconds.
- 6. Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala on a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak.
- 7. The US Supreme Court on Friday overturned the landmark 1973 Roe v Wade ruling that recognized women's constitutional right to abortion.
- 8. The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed on June 26. This year, the theme for the day is "Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crisis."
- 9. The government has issued a notification, extending the goods and services tax (GST) compensation cess until March 31, 2026. The cess was to end on June 30, 2022, five years after the single tax rolled out on July 1, 2017.
- Rabab Fatima of Bangladesh has been appointed as the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- 11 Kempegowda International Airport Bangalore (Karnataka) has been adjudged as the best regional airport in India and South Asia for the year 2022.
- 12. The United Nations (UN) celebrates World Refugee Day every year on 20 June. This year's theme is "whoever, whatever, whenever. Everyone has got a right to seek safety".
- 13. The National Museum of Customs and GST named "Dharohar" in Goa was inaugurated by the Finance Minister as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsay
- 14 The 19th Shangri-La Dialogue was held in Singapore after two years. This summit is organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
- 15. The world's largest freshwater fish 'stingray' has been found in the Mekong River of Cambodia.
- 16. Haryana-based ICAR-National Research Center on Equines (NRC) launched the country's first domestic COVID-19 vaccine "Anocovax" for animals.
- 17 China has launched its third aircraft carrier 'Fujian' which is the country's most advanced and first fully indigenous naval ship.
- **18.** The "Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana" has been launched by the Gujarat government for pregnant women.
- 19. 'Sklarjung Rigzin' became the first Indian mountaineer to climb Annapurna Peak, Nepal.
- 20. Scientists have discovered the world's largest known bacterium, in a swamp in Guadeloupe. At about 1cm long, the strange organism, Thiomargarita magnifica, is roughly 50 times larger than all other known giant bacteria and the first to be visible with the naked eye.

BRAIN BOOSTER



Introduction

The Integral Coach Factory, also known as ICF is one of the oldest production units in independent India. It was inaugurated on 2 Oct, 1955 by the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in Chennai.

1. Production

- ICF has manufactured more than 65000 coaches since its establishment.
- In 2019-20, the factory produced the highest ever production of 4166 coaches, thereby emerging as the largest manufacturer of railway coaches in the world.
- In the time of pandemic 2021-22 it has shown its importance by manufacturing 3101 coaches.

2. Global Presence

• The coach factory has so far exported more than 800 coaches to various countries like Thailand, Myanmar, Taiwan, Zambia, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Nigeria, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Malaysia, Angola and Sri Lanka.

3. Green Initiative

- ICF has taken several steps to protect the environment. Such as construction of green gardens at the side area of the road, installation of windmills and solar panels for the generation of electricity, etc.
- ICF is a 'Zero Discharge Factory' and 'Green Workshop'.
- The Integral Coach Factory set up Green Houses in its premises in which environmental protective plants have been planted. There is also a 'Pali House' in its campus where the necessary seeds for plants and trees are researched.
- ICF has became the only organisa-

4. Promote women empowerment

- There are 9 teams of women empowerment in the coach factory premises in which 130 women are working continuously.
- Renowned as the world's leading and largest rail coach manufacturer, women involve in doing such a typical works that only men used to do.
- Women of this team are handling difficult tasks like welding, fitting, harnessing, painting of motors and single phase motor winding.



Integral Coach Factory

tion in Indian railways to have completely Neutralize Green House Gas Emission due to its industrial activity and acheived Carbon Negative Status

5. Train – 18 (Vande Bharat Express)

- In the year 2018-19, India's first Semi High Speed Train-18 was produced by ICF which runs between New Delhi and Varanasi.
- Promoting "Make in India", this factory uses more than 80 % of the products which are completely domestic.
- The first prototype Train-18 was produced in a record time of 18 months that is capable of traveling at a speed of 160 km/h within 140 seconds.
- Indian Railway is planning to increase this speed up to 250 km/h which will require up-gradation of railway track.
- In addition to the construction of 75 trains by Aug. 2023, in this year's budget 50000 Cr rupees have been allocated so that 400 Vande Bharat can be built in next three years.
- It costs rupees 106 Cr to make this 16-coach train presently.

6. Recent Achievements

- ICF has received the prestigious Greenco Gold level award under Green Company Rating System by Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ICF also got the prestigious EN 15085 Certificate for Specific Welding Standards under Manufacturer of Railway Vehicles and Components. ICF is the first Indian Railway Production Unit to achieve such types of certification.



1. Why in News?

The Centre has banned the use of 'single-use plastic' from July 1. The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a gazette notification last year announcing the ban, and has now defined items that will be banned from July 1.

2. About Single-Use Plastics

- Single-use plastics are goods that are made primarily from fossil fuel-based chemicals (petrochemicals) and are meant to be disposed of right after use -often, in mere minutes.
- Single-use plastic has among the highest shares of plastic manufactured and used — from packaging of items, to bottles, polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, trash bags, food packaging etc.
- Since the 1950s, 8.3 billion metric tons of plastics have been produced, and half of that in the past 15 years alone.

3. Why Is Single-Use Plastic Bad?

- We produce 300 million tons of plastic each year worldwide, half of which is for single-use items. That's nearly equivalent to the weight of the entire human population.
- Single-use plastics account for a third of all plastic produced globally, with 98% manufactured from fossil fuels.
- Single-use plastic also accounts for the majority of plastic discarded, 130 million metric tonnes globally in 2019, all of which is burned, buried in landfills or discarded directly into the environment.
- Plastics don't really decomposed; they just break up, over time, sun and heat slowly turn plastics into micro plastics.
- Micro plastics end up in the water, eaten by wildlife and came inside our bodies.
- Micro plastics have made their way up to the Antarctica continent and to the bottom of the Mariana Trench.

4. Banned Items

- Items banned by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are earbuds; balloon sticks; candy and ice-cream sticks; cutlery items including plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, trays; sweet boxes; invitation cards; cigarette packs; PVC banners measuring under 100 microns; and polystyrene for decoration.
- The Ministry had already banned polythene bags under 75 microns in September 2021, expanding the lim-



Single-use plastic banned in India

7. Avoiding SUP

- Always use a reusable bag when shopping.
- Educate yourself.
- Purchase reusable items.
- Educate others to reduce the use of SUP.
- Inform other about the dangerous effects of single use plastics.
- Buy in bulk, avoid individually packaged items like snack packs.

- it from the earlier 50 microns.
- From December, the will be extended to polythene bags under 120 microns.
- There is also a complete ban on sachets using plastic material for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.

5. Enforcing the Ban

- The ban will be monitored by the CPCB from the Centre, and by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) that will report to the Centre regularly.
- Directions have been issued at national, state and local levels to not supply raw materials to industries engaged in the banned items.
- Local authorities have been directed to issue fresh commercial licenses with the condition that SUP items will not be sold on their premises, and existing commercial licences will be cancelled if they are found to be selling these items.
- Those found violating the ban can be penalised under the Environment Protection Act 1986 - which allows for imprisonment up to 5 years, or a penalty up to Rs 1 lakh, or both.

6. Countries dealing with single-use plastic

- Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in 2002.
- New Zealand became the latest country to ban plastic bags in July 2019.
- China issued a ban on plastic bags in 2020 with phased implementation.
- As of July 2019, 68 countries have plastic bag bans with varying degrees of enforcement.



1. Why in news?

- On June 17, member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) wrapped up the twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12) securing agreements on relaxing patent regulations to achieve global vaccine equity; ensuring food security, according subsidies to the fisheries sector and continuing moratoriums relevant to e--commerce, among others.
- Together they constitute what WTO's Director-general Ngozi Okonjo ¬Iweala is referred to as the Geneva Package. India saw some successes at the MC12 with respect to the above mentioned sectors.

2. About WTO's Ministerial Conference

- Ministerial Conference takes place once every two years and can take decisions on all matters under any multilateral trade agreement.
- Unlike other organisations, such as the IMF or World Bank, WTO does not delegate power to a board of directors or an organisational chief.
- All decisions at the WTO are made collectively and through consensus among member countries at varied councils and committees.
- This year's conference took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

3. Agricultural Debates

- The agreements on the subject are of particular significance to India.
- Referring to its status as a significant contributor to the World Food Programme (WFP), India had earlier stated that it had never imposed export restrictions for procurement under the programme.
- Negotiators agreed that member countries would not impose export prohibitions or restrictions on food-

4. No Consensus on Fisheries Re**lated Agreements**

- India successfully managed to carve out an agreement on eliminating subsidies to those engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- The only exception for continuing subsidies for overfished stock is when they are deemed essential to rebuild them to a biologically sustainable level.
- · Further, the agreements hold that there would be no limitation on subsidies granted or maintained by devel-



WTO Ministerial Conference

stuffs purchased for humanitarian purposes of the WFP.

• The central premise of the agreements was to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of food to those in need, especially in humanitarian emergencies.

oping or least developed countries for fishing within their exclusive economic zones (EEZ).

5. Moratoriums on Electronic Transmissions (ET)

- Member countries agreed to extend the current moratorium on not imposing customs duties on electronic transmission (ET) until MC13 that is scheduled to take place in December 2023.
- 105 countries which includes the U.S., the U.K., Australia, China and Japan among others, had sought an extension of the moratorium, while India and South Africa being in opposition
- · Broadly, ETs consist of online deliveries such as music, e-books, films, software and video games.
- Customs duties provide the necessary capital infusion for capacity building and in turn, attempt to address the digital divide particularly high in low income and developing countries.

6. Discussions on Patent Relaxations

- Member countries agreed on authorising the use of the subject matter of a patent for producing COVID-19 vaccines by a member country, without the consent of the rights holder.
- Further, it waives the number of vaccines that can be exported to member countries.
- The agreement, however, comes too little, too late for economically poorer countries because several Lower Developed Countries (LDCs) have suffered in their efforts to combat the now nearly three -year -old pandemic.
- Within the next six months, members are expected to decide on increasing the scope of the agreement to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics as well.





1. Why in news?

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its nod for the auction of spectrum that can be used to offer 5G services. at its meeting held on June 14.
- A total 72 GHz of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years will be put on sale during the auction planned towards the end of July.

2. About 5G Technology

- 5G is the next generation cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra low latency (Latency is the amount of time data takes to travel between its source and destination).
- As per the set standards with 5G, the peak network speeds are expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gbps as opposed to about 25 Mbps on current 4G networks.
- In India, however, 4G speeds average at around 6-7 Mbps, but are picking up gradually.
- It will enable a sharp increase in the amount of data transmitted over wireless systems due to more available bandwidth and advanced antenna technology.

3. Commercial Rollout of 5G

- The world's second largest telecom market is one of the few major countries without 5G service.
- It is said that the 5G deployment is likely to start from August-September this year and service should commence in about 20-25 cities by the year ¬end.
- Experts and analysts expect a gradual roll-out of 5G across the country in a phased manner over the next two to three years, with roll-outs beginning from the second half of the current year.

4. Benefits of 5G

- 5G is expected to form the backbone of emerging technologies such as IoT (Internet of Things) and machine to machine communications, thereby supporting a much larger range of applications and services.
- It is expected that with 5G technology, consumers will be able to download data heavy content such as 8K movies and games with better graphics in just a few seconds.
- It will enhance working efficiency in various sectors such as economy by improving the infrastructural activity like industry, agriculture, institutions, hospitals and highways.
- 5G is expected to create a cumulative economic impact of \$1 trillion in India by 2035.

5. Key issues regarding 5G

- There are two main issues;
 - o high reserve prices for the spectrum and
 - o direct allotment of spectrum for captive non-public networks.
- Concern is that 5G technology has more industry use than for individual consumers because it is very cost effective tech. for e.g. a block of 5MHz spectrum (paired) in the 700MHz band will cost ₹196bn (US\$2.5bn).
- On allowing direct allocation of spectrum for captive non-public networks, the government has reasoned that the move will spur a new wave of innovations in Industry 4.0 applications such as machine machine communications, IoT, Al across automotive, healthcare, agriculture, energy, and other sectors.
- The users will need to update to 5G -enabled devices to access the network, if they are not already using one.



5G AUCTIONS

6. Way forward

When major economies and world power are advancing their technology so that they could achieve high growth and better lifestyle for their people, India that is also the fastest growing economy can't live on denial mode. We have to work on this for achieving better results in terms of technology.



1. Why in News?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to allow linking of credit cards with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das stated that RuPay credit cards issued by the RBI promoted National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will be enabled first, and will become available after system developments.

2. About Unified Payment Interface?

- UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI. The interface facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions.
- The UPI, managed by the NPCI, was first introduced in 2016.
- It is an advanced version of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).
- UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.

3. Need to Link Credit Card with

- UPI is currently the biggest among the NPCI operated systems including National Automated Clearing House (NACH), IMPS, Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS), Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), RuPay etc.
- The UPI has, over time, become a popular mode of payment in India with more than 26 crore unique users and five crore merchants on the platform.

4. Significance of the move

- The arrangement is expected to provide an additional avenue for payment to customers and hence enhance convenience.
- The linking of credit cards to UPI has been proposed to further deepen the reach and usage of credit cards.
- It is expected to bolster transactions and acceptance at more merchant sites.
- People who generally prefer to pay by credit card for different financial privileges, can now pay

using credit cards via UPI.

- · Currently, many merchants do not have credit card pointofsale (PoS) terminals especially in semi urban and rural areas but a significant number do have the QR code based UPI acceptance facility. Now, they too will be able to accept credit payments via UPI without needing a PoS device.
- Linking of credit cards with UPI is likely to increase the use of such cards in smallticketsize payments, as it would provide users with more options to pay from.
- · Currently the average ticket size per transaction is ₹1.600 while it is ₹4.000 in credit cards. So, with the new development the UPI transaction ticket size is likely to go up to somewhere around ₹3,000 to ₹4,000.



Linking credit cards with UPI

- In May 2022, about 594 crore transactions amounting to ₹10.4 lakh crore were processed through the interface.
- At present, the UPI facilitates transactions by linking savings/current accounts through users' debit cards.

5. Challenges

- It is not clear how the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be applied to UPI transactions done through credit cards.
- Foreign card issuers such as Visa and MasterCard have a lion's share of the credit card network business, part of the fees goes to them
- The Indian government has shown its intent to promote the indigenous RuPay card system. It remains to be seen if it indeed does turn out more economical for merchants to accept payments from users with credit cards from foreign issuers.



1. Why in news?

 Central govt recently launched its Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) as a prospective alternative to dominant global giants Amazon. com and Wal-Mart in its fast-growing e-commerce market.

2. About ONDC

- ONDC is a non-profit company whose network will enable the display of products and services from all participating e-commerce platforms in search results across all apps on the network.
- ONDC aims to raise e-commerce penetration in the next two years to 25 per cent of India's consumer purchases, from nearly 8 per cent now, in a country of 135 Cr. people.
- It also hopes to sign up 90 Cr. buyers and 12 lakh sellers on the shared network within the next five years, while achieving gross merchandise value of \$48 billion.
- The government estimates that India's e-commerce market was worth more than \$55 billion in gross merchandise value in 2021 and will grow to \$350 billion by the end of this decade.
- Currently, Amazon and Waymart's Flipkart control more than 60 per cent of the market.

3. Aim to boost Economy

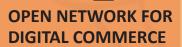
- The existing platforms work in silos and are tightly controlled, keeping out many small players. It expects ONDC to increase competition and foster innovation by start-ups.
- ONDC will bring in logistics firms and others who can collaborate with sellers to deliver products to customers.
- · The focus would be on small merchants and rural consumers, with apps in Indian languages.
- It will help limit the opportunities for selected sellers who receive pref-

4. Challenges

- ONDC aims mainly to tap millions of small businesses that often lack of technological expertise, so the government will have to run a massive awareness campaign to get them on
- Smaller businesses with low volumes may also lack the resources to match the discounts offered by heavyweights like Amazon and Flipkart.
- Lack of distribution systems also can hamper the current situation of small businesses.

5. Other important points

- As per the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Rules, there will be no fee for filing cases up to Rs. 5 lakh.
- E-commerce platforms have to acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within forty-eight hours and redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt under this Act.
- Every e-commerce entity is required to provide information relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, grievance redressal mechanism, payment methods, security of payment methods, charge-back Options, etc. including country of origin.



erential treatment—a common accusation against major e-commerce companies.

- Users will be able to rate service providers on ONDC, which will be applicable and visible across the network.
- Heavy investment made by the Government in rolling out fibres network for 5G will help boost E-commerce in India.
- Under the Digital India movement, Government launched various initiatives like Umang, Start-up India Por-

6. Way Forward

- The internet has opened so many opportunities for doing business online and e-commerce is one of the most popular ones.
- E-Commerce has undeniably become an important part of our society.
- The successful countries of the future will be those that take E-Commerce seriously, dedicating sufficient resources to its development.
- E-Commerce is not an IT issue but a whole business undertaking

tal and Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) etc. to boost digitisation.

 ONDC will help to end predatory pricing, especially in high-margin, high-value products.



1. Why in news?

- Recently NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu has filed nomination for presidential election in India.
- Indian President is the head of the state (article 52) and also is the first citizen of the country.
- He is a part of union executive along with the vice President, Prime Minister, union council of ministers.

2. Election of President

- Article 54 of the Indian constitution says that there shall be no direct election for the Indian President.
- The principle of election is called Proportional Representation with means of a single transferable vote.
- It is a secret ballot system of voting.
- An electoral college elects president of India. The Electoral College responsible for President's elections comprises elected members of:
- a. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- **b.** Legislative Assemblies of the states
- c. Legislative Assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry
- Once President is elected, he holds office for five years. He can also be re-elected and there is no cap on his re-election (article 57).

3. Qualification of President (Article 58)

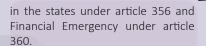
- He should be the citizen of India.
- His age should be a minimum of 35, years.
- He should qualify the conditions to be elected as a member of the Lok Sabha.
- He should not hold any office of profit.
- Article 60 says about oath or affirmation that is taken by the president while article 61 tells the procedure for the impeachment of president.

4. Powers of President: **Executive Powers**

- Every executive action that the Indian government takes is to be taken on his name.
- He appoints the attorney general of India.
- He appoints the following people on the recommendation of council of ministers:
- a. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)
- b. Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners



PRESIDENT OF INDIA



• President has diplomatic powers for e.g. every International Treaty and agreement that is approved by the Parliament is negotiated and concluded on his name.

- c. Chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission
- d. State Governors
- e. Finance Commission of India chairman and members.
- f. He appoints National Commissions Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
- g. He appoints inter-state council.

5. Legislative Powers

- He summons or prorogues Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha.
- He summons a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in case of deadlock.
- He addresses the Indian Parliament at the commencement of the first session after every general election.
- Article 123 of Indian constitution deals with the ordinance making power of the President.

6. Judicial Powers

- He appoints CJI and other judges of Supreme Court and also appoints chief justice of high courts and other judges.
- He takes advises from Supreme Court however, those advises are not binding on him.
- He has pardoning power under article 72.

7. Other Powers

- He has some financial powers like prior recommendation is must on money bill, gives permission to lay Union Budget before the Parliament and He constitutes the Finance Commission every five year.
- President is the supreme commander of defence forces like army, navy and air force.
- He has three types of emergencies power such as National Emergency under article 352, President's Rule

Mains Special

Indian Society, Art & Culture and Indian Histroy

1. Assess the impacts of globalisation on family structure in India.

Ans.

Globalisation is the word used to describe the growing interdependence of the world's economies, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade in goods and services, technology, and flows of investment, people, and information.

Its effects are encompassed over economy, polity, society and culture and have important implications for human life, family and way of living.

Its impacts on family structure in India are as follows:

- Due to increased literacy, awareness and opportunities, the family members are moving away which is leading to the formation of nuclear families from the traditional joint families.
- The earning member of the family has now more say in the matters of the family as the elderly are losing importance.
- The role of women in the family has completely changed. Now the women are earning and taking decisions for their families rather than being subordinates of make members.
- With the increased penetration of technology and social media, the younger generation is getting westernised rather than modernised which has led to losing of familial values among the youth.
- There is a sense of individualism among family members. Children, as well as parents, spend very less time together as they are busy with their fast-paced lives.
- The process of globalisation led to inculcation of liberal values into the family system which gradually led to vanishing of orthodox practices.

However, the impacts are both positive and negative. The vanishing of traditional values at the cost of modernisation is of deep concern. Hence every family should try to conserve their core traditional and cultural values along with maintaining a liberal and modern outlook.

2. 'Controlling population is the only way to capture

the increasing poverty in India'. Give logical arguments along with suitable examples.

Ans.

In 2019, the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index reported that India lifted 271 million citizens out of poverty between 2006 and 2016. Contrast this with the situation in 2020: the highest global poverty increase happened in India. Considering the rapid population growth, the United Nations estimated the number of poor in the country to be 364 million in 2019 or 28 percent of the population. And according to the UN's population projections, India's population will increase by a multiple of 1.09 between 2021 and 2031, surely increasing the number of poor. Rapid population growth hinders poverty reduction

Impeding women's empowerment: Rapid population growth means that women are having high numbers of children, which, in developing countries in particular, means an increased chance of death or disability from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. Having unintended children affects women's prospects of empowerment and poverty alleviation, as it limits their ability to pursue education and acquire the knowledge and skills that would allow them to improve their earning power and their health.

Limiting household investment: High fertility rates and rapid population growth can reduce the resources that households have but they also increase the amount of dependents that those diminished resources have to support. This reduced investment in health and education and worsening of children prospects negatively impacts economic development.

Redirecting government resources: Unsustainable population growth can also limit the government's ability to productively invest. Governments faced with rapid population growth are forced to redirect resources away from investment towards providing healthcare for mothers and newborns and dealing with the significant complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Limiting job opportunities and lowering wages: Population growth has dramatically outpaced job. creation and,





at current population projections, this problem will worsen unless there is unprecedented job creation across the world's poorest economies. Between now and 2050, the working-age population in developing economies will increase by about 15 million persons per year, where already about 60 per cent of the work force is unemployed. But only a rapidly growing population cannot be termed as the single cause behind increasing poverty. Lack of infrastructural development, improper health and education facilities, corruption etc are also the other underlying factors that need to be looked upon.

3. What is communal harmony? Analyse the impacts of disturbed communal harmony on the socio-political web of the country.

Ans.

Communal harmony means that people of different religions, castes, creeds, sex and different background live together in the society with love and peace amongst them. Communal harmony strives to create goodwill and harmony among various communities. The aim is to foster an ethic of coexistence rooted in or inspired by religious and cultural values.

India has been a country of tolerance. From Buddha to Mahatma Gandhi, Indian society is full of examples of tolerance and harmony as a way of life. But in recent times, there has been a rise in communal violence across the nation. The causes of this communal disharmony can be: Vote bank politics, Struggle for identity, Conflict of interests, Reports of threats to religious ideologies, Irresponsible reporting by media, Growing intolerance levels

Impacts of Social disharmony: Social:

- Threat to minority: Rise in intolerance and communal disharmony lead to majoritarianism and thus, suppress minorities and hinder their rights.
- Mob-violence: Rise in disharmony has led to the targeting of religious minorities and led to a rise in mob violence, which has impacted the psyche of minorities.
- Regionalism: The anti-national elements get adequate opportunity to fan regional feelings and work on creating an atmosphere to break the cohesiveness of our society.
- Lawlessness: Lawlessness accruing out of communal disharmony is exploited by the divisive forces operating in the country because of which internal security risks gets heightened.

Political:

• Freedom of speech: It has also impacted freedom of speech. Disharmony and intolerance have led to excessive scrutiny of speech and expression and prevent many from speaking freely due to fear of life.

- Harmed human rights: Deployment of large scale security forces dissipates the state exchequer and may result in occasional Human Rights abuses.
- Threat to Rule of law: With the rise in the incidence of mob justice and lynchings, there is a threat to rule of law. The recent killing of policemen by a mob is an example of eroding rule of law.
- Communal Politics: Youth may be diverted towards the vested interests of secessionist and terrorist forces in the face of wooing politics.

India is an evolving society and hence needs to see each and everyone as a human rather than a person of a different community. Here the role of political representatives is very crucial as they shape the ideology of their followers and mutual corporation is the only thing that will help us to survive happily.

4. With the ever-increasing application of technology in every sphere of life, the internet has become a part and parcel of our lives. Discuss the impacts of internet penetration on the social structure of India.

The number of active Internet users in India is expected to increase by 45% in the next five

years and touch 900 million by 2025 from around 622 million in 2020, according to the

IAMAI-Kantar ICUBE 2020 report. The number of internet users in urban India rose by 4% to 323 million in 2020, accounting for 67% of the urban population. The top nine cities account for 33% of active internet users in urban India.

Several studies have found that the telecommunications infrastructure is one of the significant factors in economic growth, alongside others such as overall investment, education, energy and transportation networks. But with every technology comes its impact that is positive as well as negative.

Impacts of internet penetration on the social structure of India:

POSITIVE:

- The vulnerable sections of the society are now more aware of their rights and can easily assess the means of grievances.
- COVID19 shows us how the internet has helped us during the times of complete lockdown to interact with our loved ones and knowns.
- The Internet has provided the dependent section of our society a platform for livelihood and new opportu-



nities.

- It has unshackled the sections of society that were the victims of social evil by providing equal opportunities to everyone without any discrimination based on social prejudices.
- It has helped tribals to be a much greater part of mainstream society as well as it has helped the elderlies with new hobbies and interests.
- Women, children and elderlies are much more financially aware today than before.
- The Internet has helped services to reach our doorstep and also helped the Government to take its services to every beneficiary in every nook and corner.

NEGATIVE:

- It has created a digital divide in society that is a social stratification that divides society into classes.
- It has created an environment of fear and threat due to uncontrolled flow and misinformation and hatred.
- The vulnerable section of society is easily duped online by scammers and loses their hard-earned money.
- Various websites are filled with adult content and nudity which wrongly impact the psychology of children.
- Women are objectified as sexual commodities and are mostly harassed online.
- Online crimes (Hacking, data theft, breach of privacy, cyberbullying) are on the rise and elderlies and the less educated are the main victims of it.
- Children are spending more time on the internet than on the grounds playing or among their real-life friends. Increased cases of social media and online game addiction are being observed among children.

The internet has transformed people's lives for the better be it businesses, consumers or technocrats. It has increased economic growth, productivity, efficiency, scale, accuracy, profits, markets, utility, jobs and reduced time, energy and money spent on things. But there should be proper checks and balances on every disruptive technology otherwise it can break the social web.

5. The increased connectivity and rising opportunities have led to large scale inter-state migration in India. This migration has caused significant damage to regionalism and core cultural practices. Examine.

Migration can be defined as the process of going from one country, region or place of residence to settle in another. The duration and purpose of this new settlement varies from person to person.

Today, people from around the globe choose to migrate, for better educational and employment opportunities, to escape persecution, to relocate after catastrophic events, including terrorism, disasters and war, and/or to join relatives who migrated at an earlier time.

But migration has hugely impacted the culture of a region or the cultural identity of a person. Psychosocial changes experienced by immigrants include assimilation, which can be viewed as a process by which cultural differences disappear as immigrant communities adapt to the majority or host culture and value system. An individual's cultural identity may be lost during the assimilation process as he or she moves within the host society. Acculturation, a process that may be voluntary or forced, requires contact between culturally divergent groups of people and results in the assimilation of cultural values, customs, beliefs and language by a minority group within a majority community. During the acculturation process, both the immigrant and host cultures may change. Changes in attitudes, family values, generational status and social affiliations can occur in both the majority and minority cultures as the two interact; however, typically one culture dominates

Even regionalism is losing its significance because of the migrating population. Also, if the individual feels isolated from his or her culture, unaccepted by the 'majority culture' and has a lack of social support, a consequent sense of rejection, alienation and poor self-esteem may occur. But on the brighter side migration has contributed to the richness in diversity of cultures, ethnicities and races in developed countries. People from different background and culture come together and makes a rich blend of cultures in which each one is an equal participant. This beauty of mixed culture is only due to migration. Therefore, migration is not always a threat, rather it's always giving something in return.

Recently, many Indian states have opposed the move of declaring Hindi as the first language in their educational institutes. In this context, critically comment the role of language in national integration. Ans.

The Indian Constitution bestows upon 18 of the country's major languages status of official languages with pride place for Hindi (in Devanagari script) which is recognised as the "official language" for all India communication at the central level.

The debate over Hindi being India's "National Language" has been on since the time the Constitution was being written. It was recently resurrected by the Draft National Education Policy which seems to be giving Hindi more importance than other Indian languages. In fact, the num-



ber of native Hindi speakers in India is only around 44%, which includes speakers of languages such as Bhojpuri. One of the reasons people feel very strongly about issues related to a national language or the "imposition" of a language is because language is at the core of an individual's identity. It is in a language that an individual conceptualises and communicates his thoughts which enables him to actively participate in society. It creates a bonding among the people for the common ground and enables them to interact on personal levels. Linguistic segregation forms a identity of the populace and provides them confidence.

Various policies on language have been framed both by the central and state governments that have been termed as forms of linguistic chauvinism. Such policies threaten the diversity and federalism of India. The states' fear of the central government's ideology of monopolising faith, education, and language will adversely affect the Indian political system, which is based on pluralism and accommodation. The policies of the centre, as well as states, should be viewed with precaution as they further advance the politics of majoritarianism.

The dangers of imposing a language are manifold. It can affect the learning ability of non-native speakers thereby affecting their self-confidence. It can also endanger other languages and dialects and reduce diversity.

National integration cannot come at the cost of people's linguistic identities. National integration in a multilingual country does not require the imposition of one official language on the country, especially when the language selected for the purpose is one of its many regional languages even if it happens to be that of the largest linguistic group in the country. At the same time, the convenience, in fact the necessity, of having one or more languages as the official language or languages for centre-state and inter-state communication for political, economic, legal and even social reasons cannot be disputed.

7. Write a short note on the conservation of Indian cultural heritage.

Ans.

The plurality and multiplicity of the Indian Culture are evident to the whole World as India has one of the world's largest collections of songs, music, dance, theater, folk traditions, performing arts, rites and rituals, languages, dialects, paintings, writings, temples, tombs, and architectures that are classified, as the 'Intangible and tangible Cultural Heritage' of India.

Indian traditional art and craft are age-old practices by different craft guilds all over India. Though they are the

manifestation of the cultural heritage of this country, gradual seclusion from the larger population has led to unawareness of their importance among the masses. Also, the damages to tangible heritages due to unsustainable construction and pollution are putting them in grave danger of deterioration.

The Indian cultural heritages are of national importance and critical for the propagation of cultural knowledge, hence there is a need to preserve them in the following

ways:

- The Ministry of Culture formulated a scheme titled "Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India", with the objective of reinvigorating and revitalizing various institutions, groups, individuals, identified non-MOC institutions, non-Government organisations, researchers and scholars so that they may engage in activities/ projects for strengthening, protecting, preserving and promoting the rich ICHs.
- Moreover, India has successfully inscribed 14 ICH elements in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity under the 2003 Convention.
- Also, the National list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India is an attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian Culture embedded in its Intangible Heritage. It aims to raise awareness about the various Intangible Cultural Heritage elements from different states of India at the National and International levels and ensure their protection.
- Schemes such as the 'Adopt A Heritage' was launched in September 2017 'to develop the heritage sites, monuments, ruins and make them tourist-friendly'. The project aims 'to enhance tourism potential and cultural importance of heritage in a planned and phased manner'.

Hence with increased awareness and education in the context of cultural heritage preservation the deterioration can be reversed. Novel methods of preservation such as 'Virtual heritage' are a progressive step in this direction.

Discuss the contributions of the Mughal era to Indian painting.

Ans.

The paintings made in the Mughal period had a distinctive style as they were drawn from Persian antecedents. There was a change in the colour palette, themes and forms. The focus shifted from depicting the god to glorifying the ruler and showing his life. They focused on hunting scenes, historical events and other court-related





paintings.

Major contributions:

- They brought the technique of foreshortening to the Indian painter's repertoire. Under this technique, "objects were drawn in a way that they look closer and smaller than they really are."
- Babur patronized Bizhad and Humayun acquired Abdus Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali, who were the jewel painters of that time.
- Akbar was responsible for the establishment of an entire department devoted to the paintings and scribing of his documents.
- The defining features of paintings in Akbar's period are the use of 3-dimensional figures and the 'Indian influence' on Mughal art.
- The Mughal paintings reached their zenith during the period of Jahangir. He emphasised on bringing naturalism to portrait painting. One of the unique trends that developed in this period was decorated margins.
- Shah Jahan eschewed the use of charcoal to draw and encouraged the artists to draw and sketch using a pencil. He also ordered to increase in the use of gold and silver in the paintings.

The Indian painting art is one of the most admired art forms around the world as it the confluence of several cultures round the globe. Hence, it should be preserved with utmost care.

9. 'After independence, the integration and unification of India was a challenge burdened with many difficulties'. Analyse.

Ans.

Colonialism was a traumatising experience of India and its citizens. Due to the ill-governance and self development goals of British the country suffered a lot among which prominent were poverty, malnutrition, disease, cultural upheaval, economic exploitation, political disadvantage, and systematic programmes aimed at creating a sense of social and racial inferiority. With the unprecedented courage and sacrifices our freedom fighters got us the much desired independence. But the newly independent India faced many challenges in front of it, to build itself from scratch.

Challenges can be summarised as National and International-

1. NATIONAL CHALLENGES-

Social issues:

• Ensuring the unity in diversity - India's population in 1947 was almost 345 million. This vast population was divided into many castes and religions. They spoke different languages and had their own individual cultural

and food habits. They wore different kinds of dresses and practiced different professions. For a united India it was necessary to bring all the people of India into single stream.

• Illiteracy: At the time of independence literacy rate in India was 12% which was very serious issue for nation as is was the biggest hindrance in nation building. No awareness of education system and minimal education infrastructure was adding to it. Therefore it became very necessary to educate the people of India because lack of education could have pushed the nation back into darkness.

Political issues:

- Unity of nation- with around 500 princely states governed by Maharajas existing at that time it was a major task to persuade them to be a part of united India and accept its governance
- British had drawn state boundaries of India in accordance to their administrative benefits without any thought of cultural and linguistic cohesion. After independence, there was a increasing demand of reorganisation of states based on languages and it went to extent that it produced secessionist trends.
- Secessionist movements: Punjab's Khalistan movement of the 1980s, Insurgency in the North-East, and the Naxal Movement in central-eastern India (1960s) were the biggest internal security challenges to India.

Economic issues:

- At the time of Independence, 80% of the Indian population was facing extreme poverty and lack of food resources. Famines and hunger forced India to ask for international help.
- India had a low economic capacity, stagnant agriculture and poor industrial base. There was nascent middle class and private industrialists were few. Finally task of economic development solely fell on Indian government which was itself having scarce resources.

2. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- Global world order marked with cold war tensions: Most of the developing countries were band-wagoning either of the two superpowers USA or the Soviet Union. India followed a policy of Non-Alignment to stay away from cold-war politics and focus on its internal development.
- Pakistan claiming the whole region of J&K as its own led tensions between both countries and finally resulted in 3 wars among them.

The challenges faced by India were surely complex and difficult but with the infallible administration of our leaders and devotion of our countrymen to bring India at par with other prosperous countries of world we have





travelled a long way and achieved a lot. Undeniably in the making of a nation problems are inevitable but these problems or challenges only made our country best among bests.

10. What do you understand about 'Satyagraha'? Throw light on its importance in the course of India achieving independence.

Ans.

The idea of satyagraha basically emphasised the power of truth and the demand to search for truth. It suggested that if the cause was true, if the struggle was against injustice, then the physical force was not necessary to fight the oppressor. Without asking for vengeance or being aggressive, a satyagrahi could win the battle through nonviolence. This could be done by appealing to the conscience of the oppressor. The common people – including the oppressors - had to be persuaded to see the truth, rather than being forced to accept the truth with the help of violence. Through this huge and great struggle, the truth was bound to ultimately triumph. Mahatma Gandhi had a strong feeling that this dharma of non-violence could unite all Indians.

Importance in the course of India achieving independence:

Satyagraha had been considered as a weapon of soul force to resist any kind of oppression. While Gandhi regarded Satyagraha as a way of life, during the freedom struggle of India, Satyagraha was used as a weapon to resist the authority of the state and to achieve various things for the general welfare of the people. Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had conducted the Satyagrahas at Champaran and Bardoli not only to achieve material gains for the people, but also to resist the unjust authority of the then British regime. The Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930, which was started with the breaking of the Salt Law at Dandi, and the Quit India Movements were classic examples when Gandhi and his colleagues used Satyagraha as a weapon of the soul force.

On various occasions, Gandhi clarified the difference between passive resistance and satyagraha. Satyagraha is a more dynamic force than passive resistance because it contemplates prolonged mass action in resistance to injustice. Secondly, satyagraha can be practised at all levels-domestic, national and international, while passive resistance is contemplated at a political level only. Thirdly, satyagraha offers continuous purification of mind. It has no place for hatred, while passive resistance may be compatible with internal violence towards the enemy. The practice of satyagrah baffled British oppressors since the inactivity of satyagrahis towards the violence was not something witnessed by them before. The truthfulness and non violence of satyagrahis finally led the colonists to understand the strong will of freedom fighters.

Satyagraha is the moral alternative to war. Gandhi showed us the way to use it for problem-solving and conflict-resolution from micro-level to macro-level. Gandhi's satyagraha proved to be an effective means for political redress. Many of the contemporary challenges related to war and peace, terrorism, human rights, sustainable development, climate change, socio-political unrest, and politico-administrative corruption could be faced through adoption of the Gandhian Way. The twenty-first century world has much to learn from it.

11. The Civil Disobedience Movement was a major Indian National movement. Discuss its achievements and limitations.

Ans.

The Lahore Congress (1929) had left the choice of the precise methods of nonviolent struggle for Purna Swaraj to Gandhiji. Gandhi was not sure of his plan of action. Therefore before launching the movement he once again tried to compromise with the Government. He placed 'eleven points' of administrative reform and stated that if Lord Irwin accepted them there would be no need for agitation. But the demands were turned down and on 12 March 1930 Gandhi started the Historic Salt March from his Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi beach accompanied by his 78 selected followers. There Gandhi and his followers broke the law by manufacturing salt from the sea and the Civil disobedience movement began.

Achievements of the movement:

- It was this event that first brought Mahatma Gandhi to world attention. The march was widely covered by the European and American press.
- It was the first nationalist activity in which women participated in large numbers. The socialist activist Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay had persuaded Gandhiji not to restrict the protests to men alone. Kamaladevi was herself one of numerous women who courted arrest by breaking the salt or liquor laws.
- It was the Salt March which forced upon the British the realisation that their Raj would not last forever, and that they would have to devolve some power to the Indians.
- It shattered people's faith in the British Government and laid the social root for the freedom struggle, and popularised the new method of propaganda like the prabhat pheris, pamphlets etc.





• It ended the exploitative salt policy of the British was followed by the defiance of forest law in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Central province and the refusal to pay the rural 'Chaukidari tax' in Eastern India.

Failures of the movement:

- A novel and remarkable feature of the Civil Disobedience Movement was the widespread participation of women. However, this sudden active role of women in politics did not produce any significant change in the conditions of women in or outside the family. Gandhian non-violence, after all, did not entail any drastic violation of the traditional image of women; rather, it was male action that had in some ways been 'feminized' through the emphasis upon self-sacrificing acceptance of suffering.
- Gandhiji's request for remitting the death sentence on Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru was turned down by the Viceroy, and they were executed on 23rd March. The mass movement had not the strength to persuade the government.
- The movement was paused and eventually ended but many farmers lost their land in this process and lost their trust in national leaders and Congress.
- Economic hardships pushed big Indian businesses to collaborate with British companies. Hence, the aim of swaraj and swadeshi was lost.
- Different factions with different self interest brutally destroyed the oneness of people. This resulted in the communal award of 1932, successfully implying the British policy of 'Divide and Rule'.
- The movement ended in 1934 without achieving the best positive results it aspired for. Thus, another heroic struggle of the people came to an end without achieving desired goals. But the sacrifice of the people had not been in vain. A change in favour of peasants economic demands came in the Congress programme, and finally the formation of Congress ministries in the provinces signalled the victory of people's movement.

12. 'The press played a very crucial role in the Indian freedom struggle during colonial times'. Discuss. Ans.

Though Europe witnessed its rise in newspaper publication in the 16 century, printing and its allied profession arrived late in the Indian subcontinent. The Indian subcontinent experienced its first newspaper in the late 18th century; when James Augustus Hicky, launched the Bengal Gazette in 1780.

The later part of the 18th century saw the rapid rise of Indian newspapers of different interests. Many newspa-

pers emerged during these years under distinguished and fearless journalists. These included The Hindu and Swadesamitran under G. Subramaniya Aiyar, The Bengalee under Surendranath Banerjee, Voice of India under DadabhaiNaoroji, Amrita Bazar Patrika under Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh, Indian Mirror under N.N. Sen, Kesari (in Marathi) and Maharatta (in English) under BalgangadharTilak, Sudharak under Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Hindustan and Advocate under G.P. Verma.

The main aim of these newspapers was not to make a profit but to serve the public. In fact, these newspapers had a wide reach and they stimulated the popular library movement. The impact of this movement was not limited to cities and towns; these newspapers also reached remote villages, where each news item and editorial would be read and discussed thoroughly in local libraries. In these newspapers, government acts and policies were put under thorough scrutiny. They acted as an institution of opposition to the Government. The journalists evolved clever strategies to subvert these legal hurdles. For instance, pieces critiquing the Government were prefaced with sentiments of loyalty to the very Government or critical writings of socialists or Irish nationalists from newspapers in England would be quoted. This was a difficult task which required an intelligent mix of simplicity with subtlety.

As time went on, many newspapers took note of the British strategy of using Hindu-Muslim discord as a weapon to distract people from any real attempt at revolting on a nationwide scale. Tilak encouraged anti-imperialist sentiments among the public through Kesari and Maharatta. Several other leaders used their newspapers to:

- Religion revivalism
- Decoding true nature of British government
- Explaining the impacts of British laws on Indian society
- Explaining the role of youth and other during hard times.

Thus the press not only helped in spreading the national sentiment but also ensured the participation of people in the movement. Eventhough when various limitations were imposed on the Indian press it grew up back strongly every time.



MCQs Based on Current Affairs

- 1. When is Global Wind Day celebrated?
 - (a) February 2
 - (b) March 21
 - (c) June 5
 - (d) 15 June

Answer - D

- **2.** Which of the following state government has launched Suraksha Mitra Project?
 - (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Punjab
 - (c) Delhi
 - (d) Kerala

Answer - D

- **3.** Recently, after how many years Microsoft has closed its web browser Internet Explorer. Have given?
 - (a) 27 years
 - (b) 28 years
 - (c) 30 years
 - (d) 32 years

Answer- A

- **4.** With reference to the World Competitiveness Index 2022, consider the following statements-
 - 1. It is issued by Management Development Institute.
 - 2. Denmark has moved up from the third place last year to the first this time.

Which of the above statement(s) is /are not correct?

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

Answer- D

- **5.** Where has Asia's longest tooth elephant 'Bhogeshwar' passed away in June 2022?
 - (a) Karnataka
 - (b) Kerala
 - (c) Andhra Pradesh
 - (d) Jharkhand

Answer - A

6. With reference to the 8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, consider the

following statements:

- 1. It is organized by Egypt.
- 2. Nagaland's Loksabha Member of Parliament S Phangnon Konyak will represent India at the Conference.

Which of the above statement(s) is /are not correct?

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

Answer - B

- **7.** Where has Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Brain Research Center recently?
 - (a) Hyderabad
 - (b) Lucknow
 - (c) Bangalore
 - (d) Mumbai

Answer - C

- **8.** Recently the world's largest plant has been discovered off the coast of which country?
 - (a) West Coast of America
 - (b) East China Sea
 - (c) Gulf of Mexico
 - (d) Shark Bay Australia

Answer - D

- **9.** With reference to the World Desertification and Drought Prevention Day, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It is organized on 17th June.
 - 2. The theme of this year was 'Rising up from drought together'.
 - 3. This day is celebrated to commemorate the formation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer- D





- 10. Where has the Unmesh International Literature Festival started recently?
 - (a) Tamil Nadu
 - (b) Kerala
 - (c) Uttar Pradesh
 - (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer - D

- 11. With reference to the Indian crocodile, consider the following statement:
 - 1. World Crocodile Day is celebrated on 17th June.
 - 2. 'Only 2 species of crocodile are found in 'Kendrapara 'Odisha'
 - 3. The saltwater crocodile is listed in the IUCN in "Least Concern Category". Select the correct answer from the code given below.
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) all of the above

Answer - C

- 12. FIFA has announced to host the U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 in which country?
 - (a) India
 - (b) China
 - (c) Malaysia
 - (d) Australia

Answer - A

- **13.** Which of the following countries has presented the resolution on multilingualism in the United Nations General Assembly?
 - (a) India
 - (b) China
 - (c) Egypt
 - (d) Andorra

Answer - D

- 14. With reference to BIMSTEC, consider the following statements:
 - 1. BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility to be set up in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 - 2. This sub-regional organization came into existence in the year 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.

3. BIMSTEC is a regional organization of countries in South Asia.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) all of the above

Answer – A

- **15.** The Blue Homeland Doctrine, which has been in the news, belongs to which country?
 - (a) Portugal
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) China
 - (d) Turkey

Answer - D

- **16.** With reference to World Music Day, consider the following statements:
 - 1. World Music Day is celebrated every year on 21st June to highlight the importance of music.
 - 2. Its celebration started in 1982 in India. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer - A

- 17. 'Operation SANKALP, which was in news recently, is related to which armed force?
 - (a) Indian Navy
 - (b) Indian Army
 - (c) Indian Air Force
 - (d) Paramilitary forces

Answer - A

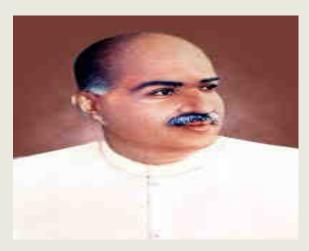
- 18. Recently Fatima Peman has become the first Muslim woman to wear hijab in the Parliament of which country?
 - (a) France
 - (b) Pakistan
 - (c) Turkey
 - (d) Australia

Answer - D





Eminent Personality: Shyama Prasad Mukherjee



Shyama Prasad Mukherjee is an example of great leader-ship and political milestone. He was born on July 6, 1901. He was the independent India's first Minister of Industry and Supply and founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Shyama Prasad was a qualified barrister and was passionate about education.

About Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

- **1.** Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was born on July 6, in 1901. His father Ashutosh Mukherjee was a judge of the Calcutta High Court.
- **2.** He started his initial education in Bhawanipur's Mitra Institution in 1906. He passed his matriculation exam and was admitted to Presidency College.
- **3.** He stood seventeenth in the Inter-Arts Examination in 1916 and graduated in English, securing the first position in first class in 1921.
- **4.** He lost his father in 1924, the same year he enrolled as an advocate in Calcutta High Court.
- **5.** At the age of 33, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee became the youngest vice-chancellor of Calcutta University in 1934.
- **6.** During Mukherjee's term as Vice-Chancellor, Rabindranath Tagore delivered the university convocation address in Bengali for the first time, and the Indian vernacular was introduced as a subject for the highest examination.
- **7.** Mukherjee demanded the partition of Bengal in 1946 to prevent the inclusion of its Hindu-majority areas in a Muslim-dominated East Pakistan. A meeting held by the Mahasabha on April 15, 1947, in Tarakeswar, authorised him to take steps for ensuring partition of Bengal.

- **8.** In May 1947, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee wrote a letter to Lord Mountbatten telling him that Bengal must be partitioned even if India was not. He also opposed a failed bid for a united but independent Bengal made in 1947 by Sarat Bose, the brother of Subhas Chandra Bose, and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, a Bengali Muslim politician.
- **9.** After he left the Indian National Congress due to difference of opinion with the then-Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru on Jammu and Kashmir issues, he founded Jana Sangh in the year 1951, which later on became the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- **10.** Shyama Prasad Mukherjee died after 40 days of being arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir State police for entering the state without permit. He passed away in jail under mysterious circumstances.

NOTES





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AN INTRODUCTION



Dhyeya IAS, two decades old institution, was founded by Mr.Vinay Singh and Mr. Q. H. Khan. Ever since its emergence it has unparallel 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 4500 selections in civil services. Our journey is a small contribution for the development of the society and nation by nurturing the potential civil services aspirants.

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

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