

PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

March 2022 / Issue-2

Right to Information: An Overview

The Status of Women in the Workforce:
Prospects and Challenges

The problem of heart attack And Youth

Defence Self-Reliance: Key to National
Security

Geographic dimensions of increase in
Speed of jet Stream

Economy in Time of War

Moving towards Zero Budget Natural
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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.

The rigorous syllabi not only instil in them, a passion for knowledge but also attempts to teach them how to apply that knowledge in real-life situations. The programmes lay emphasis on well-rounded personality development of the students and also inculcate the values of honesty and integrity in them.

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.

Our brand of education has broad horizons as we believe in exposure. Our students are encouraged to widen their knowledge base and study beyond the confinements of the syllabus. We aim to lend a gentle guiding hand to make our students recognize their inner potential and grow on their own accord into stalwarts of tomorrow's society.

Yours very truly,

Q H Khan
Managing Director



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+ CURRENT AFFAIRS
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TIMING : 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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+ CURRENT AFFAIRS
(Nov. 2021 to Jan. 2022)

TEST-5

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ALL SECTIONS OF GS
+ CURRENT AFFAIRS
(Feb. 2022 to Mar. 2022)

TEST-6

15 MAY, 2022

TIMING : 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

ALL SECTIONS OF GS
+ CURRENT AFFAIRS
(Apr. 2022 to May 2022)

TEST-7

22 MAY, 2022

TIMING : 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

ALL SECTIONS OF GS
+ CURRENT AFFAIRS
(Jul. 2021 to Dec. 2021)

TEST-8 & 9

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+ CURRENT AFFAIRS
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PREFACE



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

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

Vinay Kumar Singh
Editor
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PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES



Right to Information: An Overview

Context

According to an RTI analysis, The Application for Information was denied by the center on “national security grounds” increased by almost 83 percent in 2020-21.

Introduction

Under the Right to Information Act-2005, all ministries have to send RTI status reports of their departments to the Central Information Commission (CIC). Reports sent by over 2,182 departments of these ministries were analyzed by a Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) official. A total of 53,537 applications have been rejected during this period. Of the rejected applications, 1,024 notices were rejected on grounds of ‘national security. It may be noted that last year 557 notifications were rejected on grounds of national security.

Key points of analysis:-

- As per the data received from the central departments, it is found that 1.29 million RTI requests were received in 2019-20, which is 2.48 percent less than the previous year.
- The Maximum number of RTI applications were filed with the Ministries of Health and Steel.
- There has been an 83% increase in the rejection of Right to Information (RTI) applications by Central Government Ministries on the grounds of “National Security” during 2020-21 while the rejection rate of all cases has decreased by 2.95%.
- Although India’s overall rejection

rate has declined, the government’s use of section 8(1) of the RTI Act (Exemption from providing information on national security matters) has increased. For example, 401 RTI applications have been rejected by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs on the grounds of “national security”.

- Like in previous years, this year also, the prohibition of seeking “personal information” was prohibited under Section 8(1)J of the Act.

Analysis of the status of various ministries

- 401 RTI applications have been rejected by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs on the grounds of “National Security”.
- Ministry of Labor and Employment Rejected RTI based on “intelligence and security agencies”. It may be noted that Section 24 of RTI prohibits information other than a corruption from security establishments.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution refused to report the use of national security exemptions in hundreds of cases during the pandemic year.
- According to the analysis, there was a decline in rejections by seven ministries namely Finance, Defence, Personnel, and Education. Whereas, several other ministries like steel, external affairs, railways, and health and family welfare have seen a substantial increase in the rejection of RTI applications.
- As per the analysis, in the case

of some ministries like steel and consumer affairs, the main reason for the high rejection rate was that these ministries had made very few rejections last year. This year the rate has increased as compared to last year due to higher rejections.

About the right to information

RTI was enacted in 2005 to promote the concept of transparency by making general information related to the working of the government machinery accessible to the public.

Key Provisions of RTI Act

- Any citizen can request information from a public authority.
- The request made by the citizen is required to be replied to within 30 days.
- The Act also requires every public authority to computerize its records for dissemination.
- If the citizen is not satisfied with the information provided, he can file an objection within 90 days.
- Its implementation is done by the Central Information Commission.
- Every department has a Public Information Officer or Public Information Officer who provides information on behalf of the department concerned.

Grounds for denial of information:

There are also certain provisions based on which a public authority can disapprove of providing information to a citizen. These grounds have been laid down in section 8 of the Act.

- Information that may affect national security interests, national environmental interests, national scientific interests, integrity, abetment of crime, and relations with foreign states
- Confidential information relating to foreign states
- Information regarding cabinet meetings
- Information prohibited by the court
- Notice of breach of parliamentary privilege
- Information relating to patents and trade secrets
- Personal information that has no public interest
- Information available to a person in his/her deliberation (contractual relationship) unless such disclosure is in the public interest
- Information that endangers the life or physical safety of any person.
- Information that obstructs the process of investigation

“Central intelligence and security agencies such as IB, Enforcement Directorate, Research and Analysis Wing, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and agencies designated by the State Governments have also been kept out of the purview of Right to Information through a notification. However, the exemption received by these institutions is not absolute. Information related to human rights, corruption will have to be given by these institutions. Under section 9, the Public Information Officer can cancel the application in the absence of access to the information.

Benefits of Right to Information Act

- The Second Administrative Reforms Commission has described this act as the master key of governance.



- This year 1.29 million RTI applications have been received which shows public awareness of this Act.
- Commonwealth scam, 2G scams have been reported using this act.
- This act has improved the working style of the institutions. For example, the candidates of IIT JEE and Civil Services started getting answer keys, information about their numbers, pending cases started becoming available in the courts.
- Transparency International's report considered the act as an effective tool against corruption.
- Seeing the success of this Act, Sri Lanka has also implemented this Act.

Challenges in front of Right to Information Act

- Official Secrecy Act 1923: was implemented by the colonial powers. At present, although the RTI Act (Section 8(2)) states that in case of conflict with the Official Secrets Act, information should be provided “on grounds of public interest”, this does not happen. It is generally seen that in almost all the cases related to the Official Secrecy Act, information is not provided. , Therefore, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended repeal of the Official Secrecy Act, of 1923 and the introduction of a dedicated National Security Bill to protect national security interests.
- **Jurisdiction of RTI:** It is known that political parties and media

houses are a major source of information to the public but political parties, media houses, and courts are not under the purview of RTI.

- **Lack of punctuality:** The number of employees is insufficient for the proper operation of RTI and those who are appointed as RTI officers have to look after the day-to-day work of their department. As a result, there is no assurance of getting the information within 30 days. As a result, the pendency of RTI cases also increases.
- **The Low Penalty:** If the information officer is unable to provide the information or refuses to take the application, then the information officer will be fined at the rate of RS. 250 per day (the total fine will not exceed Rs. 25,000) and the Information will also have to be provided later. But so far only 1% of the people have been fined.

Way Forward:-

- In this context, first of all, following the recommendation of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, the Official Secrecy Act will have to be repealed.
- Media houses and political parties have to be brought under the purview of RTI. It is noteworthy that efforts are being made by the Hon'ble Court in this regard, balancing transparency and autonomy.
- The provision of providing information within 30 days should be strictly followed.



The Status of Women in the Workforce: Prospects and Challenges

Context

According to the Employees' Provident Fund data, a state-run social security organization, "women's employment in the organized economy will grow at twice the rate of men's net jobs."

Introduction

There is a steady decline in the cases of corona in India, along with this, women are seen making better efforts for employment. By December 2021, data from the Employees' Provident Fund, a state-run social security organization, shows that women's employment in the formal economy will grow at twice the pace of men's net jobs. Along with this, if we talk about the global health sector, according to a study published in the medical journal 'Lancet' for the year 2021, women represent 71% of the global health care workforce. In addition, this study suggests that women are five times more likely to face disruptions than men. In India, women account for 30% of doctors and more than 80% of nurses and midwives, so their challenges are also greater.

Amid these possibilities and challenges, although the participation of women in organized sector jobs is increasing, they still face huge challenges.

Opportunities in the field of women's employment

According to the Employees' Provident Fund data, a state-run social security organization, "wom-

en's employment in the organized economy will grow at twice the pace of men's net jobs." According to a LinkedIn Opportunity Index 2021 survey, 66% of Indian women's Gender discrimination has reduced compared to a generation ago. This is a great success.

The participation of women in the organized sector is increasing. For example, according to the data of Employees Provident Fund, a state-run social security organization, in 2021-22, there will be one woman employed for every four working men. In 2020-21 this ratio was 1:5.

Employment of women is increasing relative to men in the younger generation. In 2018-19, 33.4 percent of the women entering the workforce were in the age group of 18-21 and 28.4% were in the age group of 22-25. In 2021-22, the share of employment increased for women aged 22-25 and 26-28 and declined in all other categories. On the other hand, for men, employment shifts from younger to older men. In 2018-19, most of the jobs were among men in the age group of 18-25 years but the increase over the years has been higher for men aged 26 years and above.

The government has taken some important initiatives to promote gender equality and welfare. These include Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Poshan Abhiyan, and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Under the Mahila Shakti Kendra Yojana, efforts are made to

empower rural women through community participation.

The 'Nari Shakti' initiative presented in the Union Budget is aimed at bringing about a change in the status of women and the inclusive development of women.

Challenges for employment of women in India:

The problem of patriarchy

As a result of patriarchal culture, the role of women in different religions and households is also different in the fabric of society. These roles sometimes put extra pressure on women. The patriarchal prejudice that "earning is a man's job" affects the position of women in employment.

Work-Family Balance:

The biggest obstacle in women's employment is the problem of balancing work with family responsibilities.

Work like child care, cleaning and cooking are essential for the welfare of the household for the betterment of the society as a whole.

During the Corona period in India, about 85% of women were unable to get promotions as their ability to do domestic and organizational work together during work from home was affected.

In the LinkedIn Opportunity Index 2021 survey, 71% of women admit that it is difficult to strike a balance between work and household responsibilities.



Work place problem

- Inconvenience of transport for women to reach the workplace and cases of sexual harassment at the workplace make employment difficult for women. 22% of women believe that the corporate environment is male-friendly.

Selected Employment and Employment Encroachment

- Women are considered eligible for select services like education, health. They are considered unskilled in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Management). Along with this, there has been encroachment by men in the employment of traditional women such as chefs (food manufacturing), tailoring (clothing).
- Data from the Employees' Provident Fund, a state-run social security organization, shows that women's employment has increased in areas with less expertise and lower wages. Therefore, income inequality still exists between women and men.

Care economy

- Care economy refers to the responsibility of taking care of children or family members on women. In India, 66 percent of women's work is unpaid compared to an average of 12 percent of men. Which is part of the care economy. Which is a challenge in their planning.

Efforts made for the empowerment of working women in India

Constitutional provision

- Article 15 and 16 of the Constitu-

-tion of India protects against discrimination based on gender. Equal pay for equal work has been provided in the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution of India also provides for women's reservations.

Statutory provision

- The government has extended the period of maternity leave granted under the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 to 26 weeks instead of 12 weeks. It also has other provisions that may make it easier for women to work.
- Initiated by the Ministry of Labor under the Factories Act 1948, especially regarding the safety of women for travel. As per this provision, the state will provide a pick and drop facility for the late working women which will help in creating a strong infrastructure to create an enabling environment for the working women.
- The Equal Remuneration Act, 1948 also applies equally to men and women without any discrimination.
- Internal Complaints Committee Local Complaints Committee (LCC) has been set up in each district to receive harassment complaints at the workplace by the Women's Harassment (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act. The Act has several provisions for the empowerment of women in the workplace.

What should be done

- The social status of women is different than that of men. Women at the workplace re-enter the workforce after a break at different stages (e.g. single women, married women, young mothers, and widowed women). Where there is an emotional difference with the ability to work. In this situation, there is a need to accept gender-sensitive thinking.
- Along with the law, it is neces-

sary for society to be democratic. The divergence of the principles of society and law brings with it a major problem. To get rid of this time, it is necessary to develop women's empowerment as a mass movement.

- The legal problem also needs to be rectified on some grounds. Legislation designed for women working in the unorganized sector with gender-sensitive provisions such as ensuring confidentiality, minimum wages, maternity benefits, leave and a legal framework for grievance redressal can benefit women empowerment.
- Will have to invest in the care economy. Investing in the CARE economy will provide women with a break from caregiving, thereby increasing productivity in the health, social work, and education sectors (in which women play an important role).
- Equal pay for equal work needs to be promoted.
- Violence and harassment at the workplace must end. Domestic violence and gender-based violence and harassment at the workplace have seen a rise during the pandemic. As a result, the ability of women to engage in employment has further reduced.

Conclusion

According to NHFS data, this is the first time that the number of females per 1000 males in India has been 1020. More than 50% of the population also needs more empowerment. Although various efforts have been made for women's empowerment in India, due to these efforts, 66% of women believe that gender discrimination has reduced compared to a generation ago. Along with this, the participation of women in the organized sector is also increasing, but it is also a harsh truth that India needs to make a lot of efforts in this direction.



The problem of heart attack And Youth

Context

Recently, Australia's legendary spinner Shane warne has died due to a heart attack. Although it usually comes in old age (after 60 years) but for some time it has also been seen in people in the age group of 40 to 60 years.

Introduction

Legendary Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne has died at the age of 52 due to a heart attack. It should be noted that Shane Warne was also the highest wicket-taker for Test Cricket Australia and the first winning captain of the Indian Premier League to be held in India. In his youth, he had to face the problem of heart attack even after having a healthy body, a luxurious lifestyle. Recently former Indian cricket captain and currently BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and comedian Sunil Grover had heart attacks. Some time ago Siddharth Shukla (40 years), Inder Kumar (43 years) - Puneet Rajkumar (46 years) died of a heart attack.

What is heart attack?

A heart attack is also called a myocardial infarction. Along with this, it is also known as cardiac infarction, cardiopulmonary arrest, congestive heart failure, and coronary infarction. This is a condition in which there is less blood flow and blood stops in one part of the heart. After this, the muscles of the heart are broken and pain is felt in the left part of the body (from chest to shoulders and arms). Along with this, there is also difficulty in breathing in this dis-

ease. Other symptoms include tachycardia, sweating, anxiety, fish, vomiting, cough, and dizziness.

Causes of heart attack

There are many reasons responsible for the condition of heart attack-

- Diabetes (with or without insulin resistance).
- smoking tobacco
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Low HDL
- High Triglycerides
- high blood pressure
- obesity
- Irregular sleep patterns
- Irregular lifestyle
- Pollution

Statics of heart attack in India

- According to the Cardiological Society of India (CSI), more than 6 million people in India suffer from heart failure.
- According to the 2019 report of All India Medical Research (ICMR)
 - o About 200 million young people under the age of 30 suffer from high blood pressure and 19% of all deaths per year are related to heart disease.
 - o ICMR also told that every fourth youth of the country is on the threshold of a heart attack. More than 800 youth are dying every day due to heart-related diseases.
- Tobacco use is one of the biggest risk factors for heart disease. In the age group of 30 to 44, 26% of heart diseases are due to tobacco use. Subsequently, irregular sleep patterns and stress conditions are responsible for heart attacks. More than 70 million people in India have diabetes. It

also includes a lot of young people.

o According to heart experts, "Young men who smoke 10 cigarettes a day increase their chances of getting heart disease by 50%. It is important to note that the level of cholesterol increases due to smoking and faulty eating pattern, which increases the heart rate by 50 percent. And the blood pressure increases by 30 percent.

- 50% of the total heart attack cases in the country are people below 50 years of age and 25% are below 40 years of age. Between 2000 and 2016 the rate of heart attack in this age group (40 to 60) increased by 2% per year.
- Cardiovascular diseases are responsible for about 80% of premature deaths due to air pollution. The fine particulate matter gets carried into the bloodstream along with the toxins by the speaker which cause a serious heart attack.

Diagnosing heart attack

Treatment of myocardial infarction can range from lifestyle changes and cardiac rehabilitation to medication, stents, and bypass surgery.

Prevention

- It is important to note that many of these factors are modifiable, so the problem of heart attack can be avoided by making a healthy lifestyle. For this, the problem of heart attack can be prevented by using regular exercise, yoga, pure food, lifestyle according to biological clock, etc.

Diagnosis during heart attack

- The defibrillation method uses electric shocks. These electric shocks help in correcting irregular heart rates. It not only helps in restoring normal heart rate but in this process, by providing extra oxygen to the patient, an attempt is made to remove the problem of blood circulation and breathing.

- If the cause of myocardial infarction is fat deposition, statins may be used in that case. It helps in reducing the production of harmful cholesterol in the liver. Through this process, the pressure of the obstructed blood vessels is reduced and the vessels get relaxed.

- Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery or heart bypass surgery is an important method of prevention of heart attack. It is an open-heart procedure. Typically, this procedure involves removing a segment of a vein from a location elsewhere in the patient's body (usually the leg) and grafting it, bypassing (bypassing) the blocked artery, thereby releasing the blocked artery. A new route of blood flow is created (bypassing it).

- Balloon angioplasty is a group of heart procedures called percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). Balloon angioplasty does not require open surgery. In this, the doctor will fix a fixed place and make a hole there, in this local anaesthesia is used to numb the location of the hole. After this, a small tube called a sheath is then inserted into the artery to provide a temporary passage for medical devices to reach the heart.

- During a coronary angiogram, the doctor will inject a contrast dye through a catheter into the bloodstream, allowing the doctor to see the patient's arteries on an X-ray monitor. A small balloon attached to the end of the medical device is in-

serted into the catheter and passed from inside arteries to the blocked coronary artery. The balloon is then inflated. It is normal to feel a little bit of pain when the balloon is inflated. The balloon is then emptied and the catheter is removed from artery. This procedure relieves narrowing of coronary artery and increases blood flow through artery.

- Stent therapy: A stent is a small, metal, expandable sieve-like tube that supports an artery and helps keep it open. In many cases, balloon angioplasty alone may not be successful in opening clogged artery. Therefore, doctor may recommend a coronary stent to replace the blockage of the artery. Another type of PCI procedure is the placement of a stent in an artery of the heart. Placement of a stent does not require open surgery.

Preventive measures after a heart attack

- Medicines used in the treatment of myocardial infarction have some side effects. The medicines given to the patients have high nitrate content. The most commonly seen side effect is a headache.

- After this, a heart attack can be prevented by a healthy lifestyle, abstinence from tobacco and alcohol consumption, etc.

Conclusion

India is a country of Youths . India's economy is on the path of demographic dividend. Diseases such as heart attacks deplete India's human resources and affect its demographic dividend. The government is making continuous efforts towards the problem of a heart attack. The government provides subsidies on bypass surgery, along with this work is also being done to make people aware. are being made aware of yoga in the



country. Although even after these efforts, we can say that the problem of heart attack is becoming a big threat to the whole world including India. Although even after these efforts, we can say that the problem of heart attack is becoming a big threat to the whole world including India.

NOTES



Defence Self-Reliance: Key to National Security

Why in News?

Addressing a webinar on budget proposals related to the defense sector, PM Modi alluded to the neglect of indigenous design and development in the defense sector after independence that led to the country becoming one of the world's largest arms importers in recent years. PM Modi said the development of the local defense industry was critical for national security.

Design and development of unique defense capabilities that are tailor-made to meet the Indian military's requirement is the key to national security as it cannot be achieved through imports, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he explained the blueprint to achieve self-reliance in defense.

Challenges to achieving self-reliance in Defence Sector:

These challenges are:

- **Lack of growth in defence modernisation and defence capabilities:**

Over the years, the pace of defence modernisation in India has remained slow and indigenous production of high-tech weapons continues to be a challenge. This is mainly due to a

- o Declining defence budget towards long term investments, and research and development;
- o Process inefficiencies and delays in domestic production by government lead organizations;
- o The government's reluctance to grant defence contracts to India's private sector.
- o As a result, India continues to

rely on foreign imports for high-tech weapons, thereby hindering the development of the indigenous industry.

- **Budgetary issues:** While India's defence budget has increased over the years, a major chunk is spent on personnel costs such as salaries and pension, thereby shrinking the funds available for defence production. Further, India's budget allocation for research and development remains around 4 % (It was 4% of the total defence budget for 2020-2021). This is much lower compared to capital expenditure by technologically advanced countries like USA and China, which spend 12% and 20% of their defence budgets on research and development, respectively.

- **Lack of strategic planning for future needs of the Armed Forces:**

In the emerging geopolitical scenario, the Indian Armed Forces have to remain operationally ready to respond to border threats. Consequently, the Armed Forces' war-fighting capabilities have to be constantly augmented and the technology in the weapons and equipment has to be updated. In order to meet these needs indigenously, there is a need to strategically and pragmatically plan for the needs of the Armed Forces and invest in long-term development of high-tech weapons. Commentators have argued that this is currently lacking in India's defence policy.

- **Production and time delays:** Indigenous defence production has been wrought with production de-

lays. For example, India's first indigenously produced Light Combat Aircraft, HAL Tejas, faced a long production delay with HAL requiring a total of seven years to produce 16 aircrafts despite the estimated timeline of four years.

- **Hierarchical and skewed decision-making:** A 2018 internal report of the Ministry of Defence identified skewed decision-making process, bureaucratic red-tape and multiple decision-making heads as the reason for inordinate delays in defence procurement. Decision-making on issues of national security and defence procurement has been slow and inefficient due to hierarchical complexities, resulting in the slow growth of defence modernisation.

Government initiatives to Self-Reliance in Defence Sector:

- Ministry of Defence has notified a 'First Positive Indigenisation list' of 101 items on 21st August, 2020 and '2nd Positive Indigenisation list' of 108 items on 31st May, 2021 for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timelines indicated against them. This is a big step to promote indigenisation in defence sector.

- SRIJAN portal to promote indigenisation was launched on 14 August, 2020. As on date, 10,929 items, which were earlier imported, have been displayed on the portal for indigenisation.

- DPP-2016 has been revised as Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020, which is driven by the

tenets of Defence Reforms announced as part of 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

- In order to promote indigenous design and development of defence equipment 'Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and manufactured)}' category has been accorded top most priority for procurement of capital equipment.
- The 'Make' Procedure of capital procurement has been simplified. There is a provision for funding up to 70% of development cost by the Government to Indian industry under Make-I category. In addition, there are specific reservations for MSMEs under the 'Make' procedure.
- FDI: The Government of India has enhanced FDI in Defence Sector up to 74% through the Automatic Route for companies seeking new defence industrial license and up to 100% by Government Route.
- An innovation ecosystem for Defence titled 'Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)' has been launched in April, 2018. iDEX is aimed at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, startups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia and provide them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
- Government has established two Defence Industrial Corridors, one each in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The investments of Rs 20,000 crore are planned in Defence corridors of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu by year 2024..
- Defence Investor Cell (DIC) has been created in Feb-2018 the Ministry to provide all necessary information including addressing queries related to investment opportunities, procedures and regulatory require-



-ments for investment in the sector. As on date, 1,176 queries had been received and addressed by Defence Investor Cell.

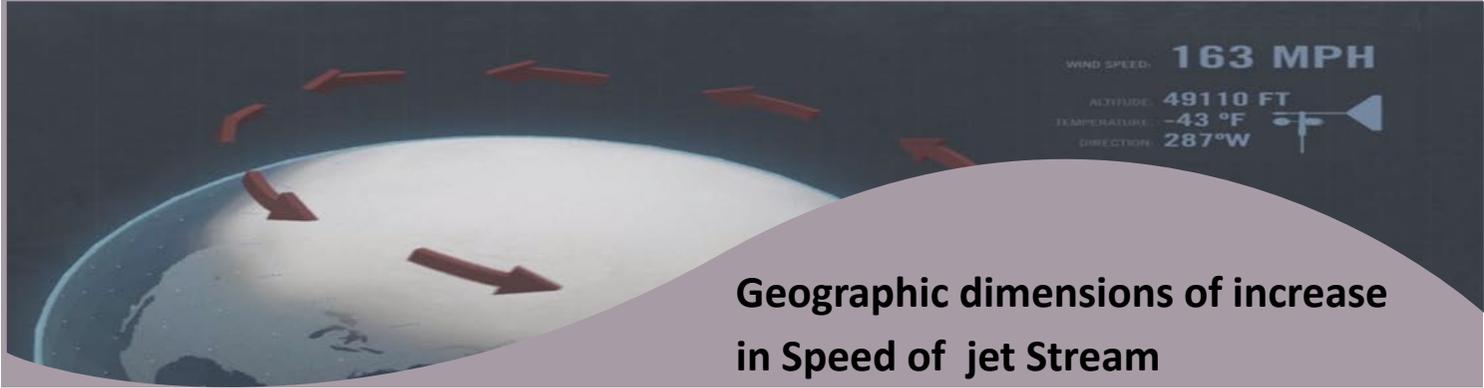
- Technology Development Fund (TDF) has been created under DRDO to promote self-reliance in Defence Technology through participation of Public/Private industries especially MSMEs and startups.

Way forward:

- To overcome the challenges identified above and support self-reliance in defence production, the government should consider the following suggestions for reform:
 - **Supporting private sector:** To build a defence industrial base, the government should consider supporting the private sector in India and trusting the private sector with bigger and stable defence contracts. Supporting research and development, and design and manufacturing capabilities of the private sector are vital for increasing defence production in India.
 - **Funds for Armed Forces:** Several defence projects are pending due to a lack of funds. The Indian government should consider reviewing the budget allocation for the defence to ensure adequate funds for the three forces relative to personnel costs. In addition, long-term and larger capital investment in the defence production, and research and development are the need of the hour.

- **Decision-making and time delays:** To overcome decision-making challenges facing defence procurement, the Ministry of Defence should consider a restructuring of the decision-making process. Representatives from the three forces should be included in defence procurement and national security decision-making for a more inclusive and efficient decision-making. Time delays in defence procurement can also be reduced by making structural changes to the decision-making process.
- Self-reliance in defence manufacturing is a crucial component of effective defence capability and to maintain national sovereignty and achieve military superiority. A robust domestic defence manufacturing sector can transform India's military capabilities and help achieve self-reliance in its defence requirements

NOTES



Geographic dimensions of increase in Speed of jet Stream

Context :

New recent research shows that the Northern Hemisphere jet stream (in Winter) position over the North Atlantic and Eurasia has moved northward by 330 km and averaged over 141 years during 1871–2011. Winter jet-speed increased to 132 mph.

About research

This research was done by the Natural Environmental Research Council under the auspices of JPI climate and JPI Ocean Joint Call. This research is funded by the Government of Ireland and supported by the Marine Institute.

Key findings of the research

- The study, published in Climate Dynamics, provides a comparative study of the “Northern Hemisphere Jet Stream” across oceans and continents.
- This study revealed that jet stream trends vary on a regional and seasonal basis.
- Between 1871 and 2011, the average speed in the (Winter) jet stream latitudes in the North Atlantic from 44°N to 47°N increased from 10 mph to 132 mph in the range between 1871 and 2011, but in the North Pacific no increase was observed.
- Significant increases in winter jet latitude and speed have been observed in the North Atlantic and Eurasia. These changes are directly proportional to the decreasing temperature and increasing pressure gradient between the equator and the Arctic during the period. This is

potentially warming the Arctic ice.

- In the North Pacific, no increase in jet latitude or speed has been observed. However, the change in North Pacific sea surface temperature during this time reflects variability in the jet latitude of about 50%.”
- The variability and trends in the Northern Hemisphere jet stream vary on a regional basis in the North Atlantic, North Pacific, Eurasia, and North America. It is important for forecasting the climate and developing plans to deal with climate change.

What is jet stream?

Jet stream refers to the very high-speed wind flow running in the troposphere. Generally, they are found in the Northern Hemisphere. These air currents flow in a transition belt about 150 km wide and 2 to 3 km thick. The normal speed of jet flow is 150 to 200 km per hour, but in the core, their speed ranges from 320 km to 480 km per hour. This wind flows mainly in the southern hemisphere from 60 ° south latitude towards the pole. The kinetic energy of jet wind is concentrated in a narrow belt of high-velocity wind.

Origin of jet stream:-

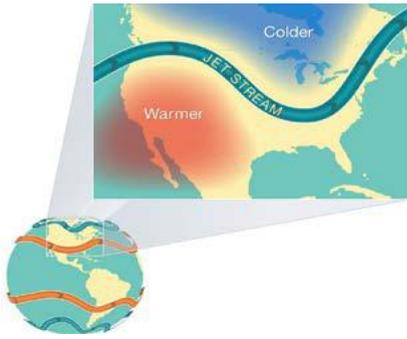
The origin of jet stream is mainly due to :-

- The temperature gradient between the equator to the poles ,
- The Circumpolar Whirl caused by high pressure on the surface of the poles (pressure gradient between poles and equator) ,
- Low pressure in the troposphere

above it(Pressure gradient between surface and subsurface air over the poles).

Types of jet stream

- There are mainly 4 types
- o Polar jet air currents
 - o Polar Frontier Jet Stream
 - o Sub-tropical westerly jet
 - o Tropical East Jet
- **Polar jet air currents:** - These currents mainly flow in the troposphere from 60 ° north and south latitudes towards the poles. Their direction is from South-West to North-East in the Northern Hemisphere and from North-West to South-East in the Southern Hemisphere.
 - **Polar Frontal Jet Stream:** - This jet stream was discovered by Swedish scientist Rossby, hence it is also known as ‘Rossby Web’. They are formed (about 8 to 12 km) above the convergence zone (30 °- 60 ° latitude) of home polar cold air masses and tropical warm air masses. Due to the union of two opposite air masses, their temperature gradient is high. The direction of these winds is from southwest to northeast. These winds are irregular.
 - **Sub-tropical westerly jet:-** This airflow occurs in the upper troposphere (10-14 km) north of the home sub-tropical high air pressure belt above latitudes of 20 degrees to 35 degrees. Its speed is 340-385 km / hr. The main reason for their origin is the convection action in the equatorial region. Due to the convection action, the north-east flow in the belt of the disturbance boundary is there.



• **Tropical East Jet :-** This flow occurs only in the northern hemisphere in summer (14 to 16 km) over India and Africa. The direction of its flow is from north-east to south-west.

Changes in the position and extent of the jet stream: Index Cycle of Jet Stream

There is often a change in the position and extent of the jet stream (from the poles to the equator). Under which the jet stream pattern is almost straight from the flow in the west-east direction to the diversion path. The period of formation of the wave-like flow path from the west-east direction is called the index cycle. This index cycle precedes 4 phases. These cycles are also called jet development-cycle nouns.

The description of the four stages is as follows:

• **First Stage:-** This position of the jet stream is known as a high tropical index due to its being near the poles. In the Northern Hemisphere, this current is polarized in the north and warm westerly winds in the south. In this stage, the communication of the jet stream is almost in a straight path from west to east. In this situation, the direction of the stream appears on the surface due to the convergence of the cold polar air masses, the western air masses.

• **The Second stage:-** Gradually the wave starts forming in the jet stream. This wave is also known as the Rossby wave. When the amplitude of

these Rossby waves increases, the jet stream expands to the equator. As a result, the cooler polar air moves closer to the equator, and the tropical air reaches the poles.

• **Third Stage:-** In this stage, the flow of the jet stream becomes completely meandering or wave-like. At this time the flow is very close to the equator. It is to be noted that in the first two stages, the slope is north-south, while in this stage it becomes in the east-west direction. Polar cold air masses care about the equator. Along with this, a large amount of tropical hot air masses flow towards the poles.

• **The Fourth stage: -** During this, due to the excessive longitudinal flow of the jet stream (north-south side), the waves break up. As a result of the break, some streams separate from the original stream and flow through a circular path. Due to this many cells of the circular air system (cyclonic cells and front) develop.

Importance of jet stream

The jet stream affects the weather in a big way. It has the following importance-

• Horizontal convergence and divergence occur in the upper part of the troposphere due to jet stream. High-level cyclones and anticyclones are formed due to convergence and divergence in the upper atmosphere. Air rises in cyclones and air settles down in the anticyclonic air system. In this way, due to the upward and downward circulation of air in the upper surface, there is a rapid mixing of the winds of the troposphere and the stratosphere. This mixture of air sends man-made pollutants from the troposphere to the stratosphere.

• Due to the change like the surface (low level) cyclones and counter cyclones due to the jet stream, there are fluctuations in the local weather (flood-drought).

- It carries some ozone depleting substances into the stratosphere resulting in depletion of ozone layer.
- The jet stream has a significant influence on the monsoons of South Asia. The tropical monsoon rain would have been influenced by the jet stream.
- Jet stream influences the climate of India. Tropical east jet affects India. This flow is responsible for the origin of the Indian monsoon. Being warm, this jet stream carries convective rain in India by lifting the surface of hot and humid air. Thus monsoon bursts in India.
- The sub-tropical westerly jet is responsible for the Western Disturbance in India which brings winter rains over northern India. It is good for wheat crops.

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Economy in Time of War

Why in News?

- Recently, News of Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered panic among investors everywhere.

Key Highlights

- The Sensex at the BSE fell 2,702 points or 4.7% to close at a six-month low of 54,529.
- Markets will likely remain volatile in the near term in line with geopolitical developments.
- Experts feel that since India is not a party to this external event and is not impacted directly, its medium- to long-term economic prospects are not altered — and investors should not sell in panic.

Concerns

• Inflation Risks

o Fuel Prices

- Russia is the world's third largest oil producer.
 - ▣ Brent crude shot past the \$100 per barrel mark for the first time in eight years on concerns over supply.
 - ▣ Rising oil prices could speed up already rising inflation.
 - ▣ India imports more than 80% of its oil requirement, but the share of oil imports in its total imports is around 27.5%.
 - ▣ While increases in domestic fuel prices have been put on hold as five states vote in Assembly elections, the recent surge in global crude could intensify the pressure on the state-owned oil retailers.
 - ▣ Calibrating price hikes is now more complex, given the cascading inflation impact that could follow the increase.

o Current Account Deficit

▣ Rising oil prices will also impact the current account deficit, which is the difference between the values of goods and services imported and exported.

o Other Commodity Prices

▣ Sanctions on Russia by the West could impact its trade with the world — and result in a rise in the prices of other commodities and products, including wheat, edible oil, and metals.
▣ India imports most of its requirement of sunflower oil from Ukraine, and the two countries now at war are also two of the world's biggest producers of wheat.

Inflation

- Inflation refers to the rise in the prices of most goods and services of daily or common use, such as food, clothing, housing etc.
- Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time.
- Inflation is indicative of the decrease in the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency.
- This is measured in percentage.
- In India, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation measures inflation.

Deflation

- o The opposite and rare fall in the price index of this basket of items is called 'deflation'.
 - In India, inflation is primarily measured by two main indices — WPI (Wholesale Price Index) and CPI (Consumer Price Index).
 - o WPI measures wholesale and CPI measures retail-level price changes.

Economic Recovery

- The rise in crude prices poses inflationary, fiscal, and external sector risks.
- Oil-related products have a share of over 9% in the WPI basket.
- According to Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda, a 10% increase in crude would lead to an increase of around 0.9% in WPI inflation.
 - o A larger oil import bill will impact India's external position.
- It is also likely to increase subsidies on LPG and kerosene, pushing up the overall subsidy bill.
- Some experts, however, argue that India's economic fundamentals remain strong, and the war will not have a significant impact on the economy.
- There is a view that with the third wave of Covid close to its end and most restrictions having been withdrawn, there will be an increase in consumption and domestic growth, quickening the pace of recovery.

FPI Sentiment

- Foreign portfolio investors have been selling their holdings in Indian equities over the last four months after the US Federal Reserve announced an increase in the pace of withdrawal of stimulus followed by a hike in interest rates beginning March 2022.
- Investors started pulling out funds from emerging economies to park them in US treasuries and benefit from the expected rise in bond yields.
- Geopolitical concerns have inten-

-sified the outflow of funds over the last two months.

- Out of the total FPI pullout of Rs 82,745 crore beginning November 2021, Rs 57,774 crore was withdrawn between January and February 2022.
- This outflow is likely to continue over the coming days.
- On 24 Feb, FPIs pulled out a net of Rs 6,448 crore from Indian equities, leading to the fall in the markets.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI)

- Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) consists of securities and other financial assets held by investors in another country.
- It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of a company's assets and is relatively liquid depending on the volatility of the market.
- Along with foreign direct investment (FDI), FPI is one of the common ways to invest in an overseas economy.
- FDI and FPI are both important sources of funding for most economies.

Domestic Institutional Investors Behavior

- As FPIs pulled out on Thursday, domestic institutions emerged as net investors.
- According to provisional data released by the stock exchanges, DIIs (Domestic Institutional Investors) invested a net of Rs 7,667 crore on Thursday, which is more than what the FPIs pulled out.
- Over the last two months, DIIs have invested a net of Rs 55,551 crore in equities.
- Experts say that the current geopolitical concerns will not impact long-term fundamentals and prospects of businesses, and investors should take the fall in markets as

an opportunity to invest in mutual funds and high-quality blue chip companies.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs)

- Domestic Institutional Investors are institutions like insurance companies, mutual fund houses, pension funds, or provident funds.
- DIIs generally pool money from the small investors of the country and then trade in different securities and assets of the country.
- Like the FPIs, over the years, DIIs have also emerged to become an essential source of domestic funds for the companies and play a significant role in the economy's net investment flow.

Equity Investors

- While markets may remain volatile, retail investors should look at the DII investment pattern, investment advisors say.
- If DIIs are investing amid the sharp fall in markets, retail investors too should not panic- and should increase their investments if they are underweight in equities.
- With the fundamentals strong and concerns restricted mostly to external factors, experts say the markets will likely bounce back once the situation eases.
- However, investors should not take unnecessary risks.

Gold Outlook

- In times of uncertainty and inflation, gold emerges as the asset class of choice for investors.
- It is important to note that at a time when equities have been falling, gold has risen sharply.
- Gold prices are likely to rise further from current levels, as investors will move towards the safe haven following inflation-related concerns on higher crude prices and geopolitical

tensions.

- If the current situation further escalates, investors will cling on to safe haven asset or sit on cash, i.e. dollar.
- Along with geopolitical tensions, rising inflationary concerns has also been supporting precious metal prices on lower levels, hence supporting our view of buying on dips.

Conclusion

- The pandemic has left the global economy with two key points of vulnerability — high inflation and jittery financial markets.
 - o Aftershocks from the invasion could easily worsen both.
- Household spending an even-larger chunk of their incomes on fuel will have less cash for other goods and services.
- Plunging markets would add another drag, hitting wealth and confidence, and making it harder for firms to tap funds for investment.



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Moving towards Zero Budget Natural Farming

Context

The Government of India is continuously moving towards zero-budget natural agriculture. Since the last three Union budgets, continuous provision is being made regarding zero-budget natural agriculture.

Introduction

The Finance Minister of India has repeated the government's commitment to natural, chemical-free, organic, and natural agriculture in her budget speech. This is the third time in the last budget speeches that the Finance Minister has mentioned natural farming zero-budget. The term budget used in this farming system refers to the expenditure on agriculture. That is, zero budget agriculture means performing agricultural work by natural inputs without using available agricultural inputs like chemical fertilizers and fertilizers in the market. This reduces the cost of this farming method to zero. Collectively this process is called zero-budget natural farming.

Pillars of Zero Budget Natural Agriculture

The following four techniques are used for zero-budget natural farming.

- **Jeevamrutha** – Nutrients are provided to the soil with the help of Jivamrita or Jeevamrutha. Due to Jeevamrutha, the activity of microorganisms in the soil increases, which leads to a good yield of crops. Along with this, trees and plants can also be saved from fungal and bacterial plant diseases with the help of Jee-

vamrut. Hence it acts as a catalytic agent in natural agriculture.

- o To make this, 200 liters of water, 10 kg of fresh cow dung, 5 to 10 liters of aged cow urine, 2 kg of pulse flour, 2 kg of brown sugar and clay are used.

- **Beejamrutha:-** It is used during seed sowing. With its help, the roots of new plants are protected from fungus, soil-borne diseases, and other diseases. Cow dung, cow urine, anti-bacterial liquid, lime, and clay are used in their manufacture.

- **Mulching:-** This method is used to conserve soil moisture and maintain soil fertility. Under this process, many types of materials are applied to the soil surface. It manages the soil quality during agriculture.

- **Whapasa (vapour, moisture):** - In this method of agriculture, plants do not require much water to grow (according to Subhash Palekar's book) so in this method, the plant is given steam for growth. , Whapasa refers to the condition in which the elements of air and water are present in the soil and help in the growth of the plant.

Need for zero budget natural farming

- Due to chemical farming for the last several years, there has been a massive decline in the fertility of the soil. The rate of desertification has increased. Zero budget natural farming is necessary to stop this.

- Agriculture at present suffers from the problem of "continuously declining profits". In chemical agriculture, money is used for many

works including the use of pesticides, fertilizers, irrigation, which increases the cost of agriculture and reduces profit. Zero-budget natural farming can solve this problem.

- Due to the exploitation of groundwater for irrigation, a situation of the water crisis is arising. Zero budget natural agriculture will reduce the exploitation of groundwater.

- Due to chemical farming, there has been a great decline in the health of nature and human beings. This problem can be prevented by natural farming.

- The foods lose their quality due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Which is affecting the food of humans as well as the animals that eat fodder.

Benefits of zero budget natural farming

- Zero budget natural farming does not require chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Which reduces the cost of agriculture. Presently the demand for organic foods is increasing which will provide benefits to the farmers doing natural farming.

- It protects the environment. An increase in the groundwater level leads to a reduction in pollution through the soil, food, and water in the ground.

- This method is also suitable for soil conservation. The use of organic manure improves the quality of the land. Along with this, the water holding capacity of the land increases with the use of this method.

- At present, there is a discussion on creating a balance between economic growth and environmental protection at the global level. Zero-budget natural farming can play an important role in this context.

- Government of India gives a huge amount of subsidy on chemical fertilizers. The central government has made a provision of Rs 63,222.32 crore for urea subsidy and Rs 42,000 crore for nutrient-based subsidy in the Budget 2022-23. Zero budget natural farming could lead to a drastic drop in this subsidy which could strengthen fiscal consolidation.

Issues related to zero budget natural farming

- Shortly after the introduction of organic farming in Sikkim, there has been a decline in the production of organic agriculture. Along with this, many farmers have returned to traditional farming after a few years given the decline of yield benefits in zero-budget natural farming.

- It is not completely zero-cost agriculture. There are many types of costs involved in this, such as maintenance of cows, cost of electricity and pumps for irrigation, labor, etc.

- There are only 23.02 million hectares of land under natural farming, which is only 1.27 percent of the total cultivable land (181.95 million hectares) in India.

- Central subsidy provided for chemical fertilizers has been one of the major economic burdens of India, but the organic sector receives a subsidy of only Rs 500 crore.

- The role of zero-budget natural farming is still unclear in the context of increasing agricultural productivity and farmer income.

- A study published in the journal 'Nature Sustainability' states that while the nutritive value of natural inputs is effective in low-input farms (farms that use low amounts of

fertilizers and pesticides), it is less effective in high-input farms. Effectiveness is low.

- Farmers lack the expertise and patience to manufacture the materials used in zero-budget natural agriculture.

- Productivity will be low in natural farming. This can affect the food security of the growing population of the country.

- Simultaneously, the government's inaction at the ground level has also affected natural farming.

Status of Natural Agriculture in India

- Sikkim is the first organic farming state in India.

- Andhra Pradesh government has set a target of reaching zero budget natural farming to every village by the year 2024.

- Himachal Pradesh government also started a project to promote zero-budget natural farming in its state.

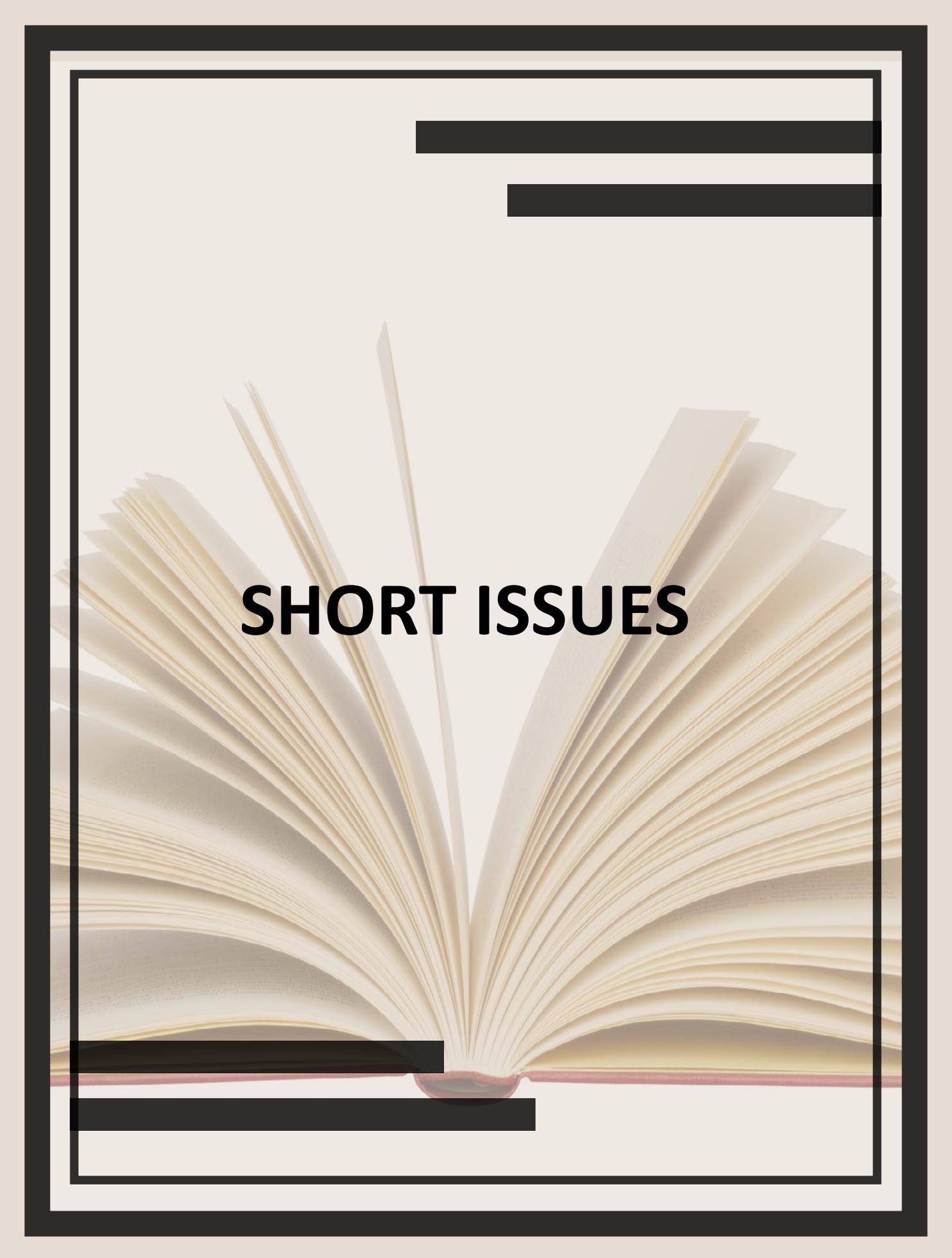
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana launched in 2015 has covered 7 lakh hectares of land and 8 lakh farmers in the last four years. He said that Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala have adopted natural farming on a large scale.

- In the next five years, the Government of India aims to reach 20 lakh hectares of land in any form of organic farming, including natural farming.

Conclusion

The United Nations Report on the Right to Food, 2017 stated that agroecosystems are capable of providing sufficient yields to provide food and ensure proper nutrition to the entire population of the world. Food security is pervasive not only at the level of India but at the global level. Along with this, there are many such examples where villages are bringing transformation in rural life by moving towards natural farming and successful experiments of natural farming are being done in cities too. The Indian government is indeed encouraging people to promote natural farming, but this encouragement should be at the subsidized and economic level along with publicity and awareness. Despite the adequacy of government assistance, looking at these achievements of natural agriculture, it can be imagined that if the state's cooperation is received in it, then it can play an important role in economic development and in establishing environmental balance.





SHORT ISSUES

NATIONAL

1 'Sagar Parikrama' program

Oceans are the world's largest ecosystem covering about three-quarters of the Earth's surface. Not only this, but they are also very important from the point of view of livelihood, climate change, commerce and security. In such a situation, neglecting them cannot be considered good for any economy, so recently the Government of India started a program called 'Sagar Parikrama'.

Oceans are very important for the economy, security and livelihood of the coastal states of India. The country has a coastline of 8118 km, which passes through 9 coastal states and 4 union territories. It provides livelihood to lakhs of coastal fishermen. Realizing its importance, on March 5, the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Purushottam Rupala inaugurated a 'Sagar Parikrama' program. The event was jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries, National

Fisheries Development Board, Coast Guard of India, Fisheries Survey of India, Gujarat Marine Board and representatives of fishermen.

This program has been started as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Under this, navigational travel will be done on a pre-determined sea route which will pass through all the coastal states and union territories. It aims to show a sense of unity with all fishermen, fish farmers and other stakeholders. Also, the yatra is being organized with the aim of interacting with fishermen and fisheries communities and stakeholders to know the problems of coastal fishermen. The Yatra of 'Sagar Parikrama' will focus on a sustainable balance in the use of marine fish resources for the country's food security, livelihoods of coastal fishing communities and protection of the marine ecosystem. The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an important initiative to celebrate the

75th year of Independence of the Government of India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

The 'Sagar Parikrama' Yatra was started from Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial in Mandvi, Gujarat. This parikrama will be organized in other districts of Gujarat and other states/UTs of the country in a phased manner. The Parikrama will involve fisheries officers from the state, various representatives of fishermen, farmers, entrepreneurs, stakeholders, professionals, officials and scientists from across the country associated with fisheries. Under the program, efforts will be made to adopt various measures for the conservation of marine ecosystems. In this, certificates related to PM Matsya Sampada Yojana will also be provided to fish farmers, progressive fishermen and young fisheries entrepreneurs.

2 GNCTD (Amendment) Act 2021

Why in News?

- Supreme Court issued a notice challenging the Constitutional validity of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, (GNCTD) which increased the powers of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor over the elected government.
- In February 2019, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court had delivered a split verdict on the question of powers of the GNCTD and Union

Government over services and referred the matter to a 3-judge bench.

- The Act in question gives sweeping powers to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi by declaring him to be the **"Government of Delhi"**.
- This Act was also questioned because it provides that the opinion of the LG "shall be obtained" on all such matters as may be specified by the LG, before taking any executive action on decisions of the Council of Ministers of the Delhi Government.

History of GNCTD Act:

- The GNCTD Act was enacted in 1992 to supplement the constitutional provisions relating to the Assembly and the Council of Ministers in the national capital. The act outlines few important provisions such as:
 - The powers of the Assembly
 - The discretionary powers enjoyed by the L-G
 - Duties of the Chief Minister with respect to the need to furnish information to the L-G.

Key provisions of the GNCTD Amendment Act 2021:

- Lt. Governor's upper hand: The act makes it necessary for Delhi government to obtain the opinion of the lieutenant governor before taking any executive action and it forces the elected government to take the L-G's advice before taking any action on any cabinet decision.
- Statement of object & reasons of the Act: The Union government claims that the amendment Act

seeks to give effect to the Supreme Court's interpretation and that it "further defines" the responsibilities of the elected government and the Lt Governor in line with the Constitutional scheme

- Meaning of government: In its proposed amendments the Act mentions that the term "government" in any law made by the Legislative Assembly shall mean the L-G. It gives effect to "Government means the Lieutenant Governor of the NCT of

Delhi appointed by the President under Article 239 and designated as such under Article 239 AA of the Constitution"

- Making rules: it seeks to add a provision in the original GNCTD Act, 1991, barring the Assembly or its committees from making rules to take up matters concerning day-to-day administration, or to conduct inquiries in relation to administrative decisions.

3

India Data Accessibility and Use Policy

- Union government has released a draft data policy this week, 'India Data Accessibility and Use Policy', for feedback and inputs from the public.

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) came out with a draft policy that proposes a framework for government-to-government data sharing and moots that all data for every government department or its organisation shall be open and sharable by default, with certain riders.
- Simply put, this is about generating non-personal data like traffic data which can be anonymised to build an AI algorithm which Google or Uber-like companies are already using to alert where are the congestion or which is the best route to take.
- It will be applicable to all data and information created, generated and collected by the government directly or through ministries, departments and authorised agencies.
- The 'Preamble' of the policy states

that "India's ambition of becoming a 5 trillion-dollar digital economy depends on its ability to harness the value of data".

- o This objective can be traced back to the 2018-19 Economic Survey, which contained an entire chapter on transforming citizen data into a public good for revenue generation.

- o The Survey noted that since such data is generated and belongs to the people, it should be used for the people.

- o The survey had also noted that private sector could be granted access to "select databases" for commercial use.

- The draft policy also proposes to make available certain data for the purpose of R&D and innovation.

- o Minimally processed data sets shall be made available at no cost to promote innovation and R&D — for restricted access data sharing as per the licensing model adopted.

- o Pricing of data sets will be decided by the owner/government department or agency and must be

notified in a transparent manner.

Significance:

- The government's draft on the 'India Data Accessibility and Use Policy' is a move aimed to ensure more effective data-based governance paradigms for better and more broad-based governance.

- According to MeitY, the objective of the policy is to "radically transform" India's ability to harness public sector data for large scale social transformation.

- To build artificial intelligence (AI) solutions for the country, access to government open data is very critical. India cannot build AI ambitions without data.

- o But, privacy has to be at the heart of it, cannot compromise any individual's privacy.

- The draft has been evolved in consultation with various stakeholders including academia, industry, and government, and currently is put up for public consultation.

1 Escaping the Global Sanctions Net

Why in News?

- A shift is taking place in the business of global dominance and hegemony, from the model of expressing force through troop presence to financial sanctions. It is led by the US and has become recently visible in the US and EU sanctions on Russia.
- The US, UK and EU have adopted sanctions aimed at freezing the assets of President Vladimir Putin and his foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, in response to the war in Ukraine. They also plan to place sanctions on the Russian central bank and remove some of the country's lenders from the Swift global payments system, in addition to other economic sanctions. Other allies, including Japan, Canada, Australia and South Korea, have also adopted sanctions.

Economic rivalry leading to military confrontation:

- From rule-bound globalism, there is a move to an understanding of the management of individual economies, bound together by multiple networks of investment and trade.
 - This is a global economy of individual rivalries between countries and corporations, continually shifting alliances, and contingencies overtaking assumed structural certainties.
 - It demonstrates the emergence of an intensive rivalry among individual countries, exposing their red lines with the potential to turn into a military confrontation — the Uyghurs and Taiwan for China; the US presence in the Pacific; Ukraine for Russia, the latter already militarised.

How sanctions work:

- Sanctions are designed by the government and implemented by both profit-making and non-profit private enterprises, domestic and international NGOs (including the United Nations).
- Due to globalization, every country and corporation are bound together by multiple networks of investment and trade.
- **Who are the beneficiaries?** The US policy of using economic tools for realising foreign policy and overall national security objectives prioritises the private sector.

A case study of Afghanistan and sanctions by US:

- In Afghanistan, financial manipulations from afar in the form of sanctions may result in subjecting trading activities and investment ventures to the approval of the US Treasury through a system of licencing.
 - This may give the US a say in who trades with whom and what to trade etc.
- **Confiscation of foreign exchange reserves:** Another way of exerting control from afar. Following the withdrawal of the American troops on August 15, the US froze Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves of \$7 billion deposited in the New York Federal Bank.

Implication and issues of sanctions:

- An opportunity to China: Sanctions offers economic lever to China in its dealings with the Taliban, to the Chinese state-owned enterprises and private corporations with an op-

portunity to invest in Afghanistan's infrastructure, linking it to the Belt and Road project, and in its rich mineral resources of copper, cobalt, and lithium.

- **Concerns for India:** China could also use this as an opportunity to unite investments in Afghanistan and Pakistan, isolating India.

- **Recasting of power configurations:** Russian military and political escalation to re-institute control over former Soviet regions, including Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, and the rapprochement between China and Russia against the West, may open up new possibilities for China in Middle Eurasia.

- **Misuse of sanctions for personal gain:** The Taliban demanded the unfreezing of the funds by the US, much-needed in Afghanistan where, according to the UN, more than half of the population is under threat of starvation. On February 11 came the shocking news that the Biden administration will split the funds between compensation for 9/11 victims and humanitarian aid for the Afghans.

- **More loss than gain:** The impact of any disruption in Russian exports of oil, gas, palladium, wheat and fertiliser at a time when those prices are barely recovering from inflationary pressures caused by Covid-19 disruptions, is likely to offset any leverage the Western sanctions may hope to gain.

- **Peace uncertainty in future:** By supporting Russia, Beijing is suspending its long-held position of no interference in the internal affairs of

individual countries, inviting plentiful speculation about whether Putin's

move in different Eurasian regions could provide Xi with a precedent in

Taiwan.

2

Freedom in the World Report, 2022

Why in News?

India, for the second consecutive year, continues to not completely free country, according to the findings in the Freedom of the World report.

Context:

• According to Freedom House's Freedom in the World report India's status, for the second consecutive year, continues to not completely free country, giving it 'global freedom score' of 66/100 after judging it on various political rights and civil liberties.

• This year, India has dropped a point to score 66 on 100, compared to 2021. While the reports until 2020 have called India a free country, the scores are consistently dropping since 2017 while half a decade ago, India scored 77 on 100, the score dropped to 75 in 2019 and 71 in 2020.

• India's freedom scores are similar to that of Bolivia, Hungary and Albania. The countries that have scored the worst include South Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea. Sixty-nine countries are currently not free worldwide.

• This makes the situation worse than in 1973 when only 63 countries were not free. Apart from the worst scorers, the list also includes Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Thailand and Qatar. This is an increase from the last year, where only 54 countries were not free.

Freedom in the World Report, 2022

• Freedom in the World is an annual global report on political rights

and civil liberties, composed of numerical ratings and descriptive texts for each country and a select group of territories. The 2022 edition covers developments in 195 countries and 15 territories from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

• The report has been published by US-based non-profit organisation Freedom House, which is funded by the US government.

• Political rights indicators such as the electoral process, political pluralism and participation and government functioning.

• Civil liberties indicators related to freedom of expression and belief, associational and organisational rights, the rule of law and personal autonomy and individual rights.

• Countries are declared as "free", "partly free" or "not free".

Key point about India:

• The report had criticised the ruling government in multiple areas. "Democracies in other parts of the world also continue to decline under the influence of freely elected leaders who have embraced illiberal politics. India, which has suffered a series of setbacks to political rights and civil liberties since 2019, showed no signs of reversing course, as notable opposition figures faced arrest and surveillance," it notes.

Surveillance on People and opposition parties

• According to the report, some of the pointers that contributed to India's low scores are the detection of Pegasus in the phones of a few politicians and journalists, the death

of activist Stan Swamy, who was imprisoned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the infamous Lakhmipur Kheri incidents.

Freedom of media and expression

• About internet freedom, India scored a mere 49, the same score as that of Uganda. Here too, the score has come down. The reasons are - the increasing internet shutdowns by governments, low internet penetration and poor infrastructure. "Internet freedom declined slightly in 2016, offsetting gains made in 2014 and 2015. The number of network shutdowns ordered by local authorities increased dramatically," it says.

Lack of freedom' in institutions

• The report alleged that freedom of various institutions such as the Election Commission of India and the Supreme Court have been "called into question". "The panel's decisions concerning the timing and phasing of national elections, and allegations of selective enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, which regulates politicians' campaign behaviour and techniques, suggested bias toward the ruling BJP"

ENVIRONMENT

1

Forest Survey Report 2021

Why in News?

• Green space and other nature-based solutions are an essential component for the development of sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities. However, recently released FSI Report 2021 noticed a meagre increase in forest cover in the last decade in Country's Megacities.

Key Points:

- Urbanisation is an inevitable process of development that has the potential to provide privileged social and economic advantages, including better education, health, housing and employment opportunities.
- Though only half the world's population lives in urban areas with the ability to generate 80% of the Global Gross Domestic Product, urbanisation has a good capacity and rich potential to improve well-being in societies.
- As per the UN World Cities report highlights, the present population of urban areas will increase from 55% to 68% by 2050.
 - o The urban population of Indian cities is projected to reach near 60% from 31% (2011) by 2050.
 - o By 2030, India will have seven megacities which will include Ahmedabad and Hyderabad apart from New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru.

Need for Green Spaces:

• Green spaces in cities and towns besides providing various ecosystem services and public health benefits also offer services of psychological relaxation, stress reduction, physical

activities and reduction of climate-related vagaries such as pollution, heat waves, etc.

- Apart from consuming a huge quantum of natural resources by our cities, almost 70% of all greenhouse emissions is generated from an urban built environment.
 - o The ever-increasing pace of urbanisation is going to make this condition worse in the years ahead.
- In a study by T. Endreny et. al (2017), trees in megacities may save nearly \$500 million per year in services including environmental protection that make urban environments cleaner, more affordable and more pleasant places to live in.
- There have been various international meetings, conferences and agreements to improve access to fair green space to achieve the objectives of sustainable urban policies.
 - o Ensuring environmental sustainability is one of the three interlinked principles of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016.
 - o The importance of green space has also been highlighted in Self Development Goal 11 dealing with sustainable cities and communities to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Green space and other nature-based solutions are an essential component for the development of sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities.
 - o WHO has recommended per

capita green space of nine square metres besides access to public green spaces within 300 m linear distance or a five-minute walk from the houses of urban residents.

- Though many western cities easily qualify when it comes to both these norms, the condition of Indian cities is quite inadequate.
 - o In terms of decadal change of forest cover in seven megacities, the FSI Report 2021 noticed an overall increase of 68 square kilometres in the last 10 years.
 - o All megacities witnessed poor decadal growth except for Hyderabad.
 - o Hyderabad is the only city that has seen decadal increase in per capita forest cover from 4.3 to 8.2 sq. met near the recommended green cover of 9 sq. met. The poor per capita forest cover in some cities needs corrective interventions for its improvement.

NOTES

Recently, scientists of the US space agency NASA have discovered the world's largest crater within a million years in northeast China. This is the second impact crater discovered in China.

A crater is a circular or nearly round-shaped crater on an astronomical object that has been formed in an explosive manner. It can be formed by the eruption of a volcano; may have been formed by the impact of a meteorite falling from space, or it can also be formed through some other explosion inside the ground. There are many types of craters like-

1. Impact crater, which is formed when a small object collides with a large object at a very high speed. For example, impact craters are formed when asteroids or meteorites collide.

2. Volcanic crater formed by volcanic eruptions.

3. Collapse crater, which is formed by an explosion under the ground, such as a nuclear test, etc. In this, the ground sinks downwards.

4. Maar Crater which is formed by the explosion of water in boiling lava.

5. Bill crater, which is formed due to the collapse of the roof of the cave or the empty space under the ground.

6. Explosion crater, which is formed when the debris is thrown outwards from an underground explosion, that is, the ground does not sink into it.

The new crater discovered in China is Yilan Crater. This crater was formed within about 1 lakh years. It is in Xiyuan County, China's coastal province of Liaoning. This crater with a diameter of about 1.85 km

is made in the lower part of Jing'an mountain. Radiocarbon dating has shown that it was formed between about 46 thousand and 53 thousand years. This has been found from the investigation of charcoal and other organic matters present here. A study has been done about this crater has been published in the Science Journal named 'Meteorites and Planetary'.

Yilan Crater looks like a moon. Experts believe that this crater, which looks like the moon, was formed by the collision of an asteroid or meteorite.

Earlier the record for the largest crater was held by Meteor Crater in Arizona, USA. It was formed between 49 and 50 thousand years. Its diameter was 1.2 kilometres. Apart from this, there is another crater named Jiyuan in China, which is 1.8 kilometres in diameter, but its age has not been ascertained yet.

So far, about 190 craters present on Earth have been detected, which scientists have divided on the basis of age.



About 200 million years old 'Vredefort Crater' present in the Free State of South Africa is the largest and oldest crater in the world. Its diameter is about 380 km. UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site in 2005.

NOTES

1 Vacuum bomb

The war between Russia and Ukraine continues. All countries around the world are urging Russian President Putin to stop this war, but Putin is not ready to back down. In return, Ukraine is also standing on the front. Meanwhile, Ukraine has accused Russia of using banned clusters and vacuum bombs. Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky has claimed that Vladimir Putin is committing a war crime by using these weapons. Many civilians have died in these attacks.

The vacuum bomb is a highly explosive weapon with high power, which uses the atmosphere to increase its firepower manifold. Vacuum bombs are also called thermobaric weapons. It is one of the most powerful non-nuclear weapons ever developed. For this reason, this weapon has been banned under the Geneva Convention. This bomb is also called the Father of All Bombs. This generates heat like an atomic bomb and it explodes with an ultrasonic shock wave that brings more destruction.

The vacuum bomb absorbs oxygen from its surroundings to raise the temperature to a significant degree. Due to absorbing oxygen in this way, this bomb causes more destruction than conventional weapons. These weapons first release a special type of spray into the air, which contains very fine

particles of metal, flammable dust or chemical drop. These sprays are spread all around the environment. Then the ignition source in the bomb generates fire, which spreads very rapidly across the area, creating a tremendous and dangerous vacuum. The power of such an explosion is so high that even the roofs of houses fly away. The bunkers are ruined. The person who is present near the bomb immediately turns into steam. It has such an effect on distant people that blood starts flowing from the internal organs of their bodies.

Thermobaric weapons were developed in the 1960s by the US and the Soviet Union. Both the US and Russia have made several versions of such bombs, but they have neither sold them to any other country nor used it publicly due to international sanctions. In September 2007, Russia detonated the largest thermobaric weapon ever used, releasing the equivalent of 39.9 tons of energy. At the same time, the cost of each unit of America's thermobaric weapons is more than \$ 16 million.



Why in News?

• Critiques of the microfinance companies have said that there's too much hype about how micro loans change people's lives but the ground reality is very different. Let's look in detail how micro loans have helped in poverty alleviation.

Key Points:

- Studies have suggested that though poor people's dependence on informal financing has reduced but not fully since micro lenders meet their demand for money only partially.
 - o People still need to raise money from the loan sharks to tackle health issues and for other emergency needs as also for children's education.
 - o Microfinance institutions (MFIs), particularly the NBFC-MFIs and banks, can only give them loans for productive purposes.
- Moreover, at least one large MFI has been trying to raise money from investors for the past two years, without success. This is a testimony to their change in approach to the industry.
- For many Investors MFIs in Bangladesh seems to be doing a better job at pulling people out of poverty, and those in Indonesia offering higher returns on investment.

Role of MFIs:

The Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) of the microfinance industry, claims microfinance has made immense contributions in pro-

moting financial inclusion over the past decade by providing doorstep access to credit and insurance services and employment through micro-enterprise development.

- Between March 2012 and December 2021, the gross loan portfolio of the industry rose from ₹ 17,264 crore to ₹ 2.51 trillion, while the number of borrowers went up from 200 million to 570 million.
 - o The coverage has expanded from 27 states to 37.
 - o It also says the number of people employed by the industry has gone up from 69,000 to at least 400,000 in the past decade.
- Quoting a report by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, MFIN says during 2018-19, the microfinance sector created around 12.8 million jobs directly and indirectly.
- Besides, at least 120 million people have got insurance cover both for credit and their lives.
- Moreover, around 98% of the microfinance clients are women.
- Finally, 90% of the loans are being disbursed directly through bank accounts, and collections too are being increasingly done digitally.
 - o The cashless loan disbursements are creating savings habits among the borrowers.
 - Sa-Dhan, another SRO of the industry, says since March 2010, the number of MFI branches almost doubled from 11,459 to 20,065 even though the number of MFIs has fallen from 264 to 208.
 - o Meanwhile, the average loan size has increased from ₹ 9,766 to ₹

35,106.

Steps taken:

- In June 2021, the central bank released a consultative document on microfinance regulations, proposing radical changes.
 - o The plan is to waive the limit that does not allow more than two NBFC-MFIs to lend to one borrower and the limit on the amount of loan would be based on the debt-income ratio of a household.
 - o It wants to cap the payment of interest and principal for all outstanding loans by a borrower at 50% of the household income.
- But the RBI has not said what will be the maximum household income to get the micro borrower tag .
 - o Currently, the ceiling on loans is ₹ 1.25 lakh (it cannot exceed ₹ 75,000 in the first cycle).
 - o Experts suggest that this needs to be raised.
 - o Many micro borrowers need more money, which they should be given if we want to rescue them from money lenders.
- The RBI proposal is also in favour of doing away with the prevalent norm that 50% of the loans must be for income generation.
 - o The wall between income-generating and consumption loans is being pulled down. The lenders can give loans for education, medical expenses, household assets, consumption and even repayment of high cost loans taken from money lenders.
 - Finally, the RBI wants to do away with the cap on loan rates. That will be left to the market.

Why in News?

- Sharp increase in exports of engineering goods, petroleum products, gems & jewellery and chemicals pushed up India's total goods export in February by 21.88 per cent (y-o-y) to \$33.81 billion, as per preliminary data released by the government on Wednesday.

India's exports:

- With total goods exports in the April-February 2021-22 period at \$374.05 billion, an increase of 45.8 per cent over the same period last year, exporters are closer to meeting the target of \$400 billion set by the Commerce & Industry Ministry for FY22.
- The on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine, however, is a growing concern for sectors such as engineering goods, which have a market in Russia, due to uncertainty over payments as well as rising freight costs.
- The value of non-petroleum exports in February was \$29.70 billion, registering a growth of 18.04 per cent over the year-ago period.

Trade deficit widens

- Goods import increased 34.99 per cent to \$55.01 billion, widening trade deficit to \$21.19 billion from \$13.12 billion in February 2021. The increase in imports is attributable to sectors including petroleum, electronics, gold, coal and chemicals.
- Imports in April 2021-February 2022, at \$550.12 billion, were 59.21 per cent higher than imports in the same period last fiscal, al-

most doubling the trade deficit to \$176.07 billion compared to \$88.99 billion in the comparable period of 2020-21.

- The value of non-petroleum imports came in at \$39.96 billion with a growth of 26 per cent over non-petroleum imports in February 2021.
- Exports took a beating in 2020-21, declining 7 per cent to \$292 billion, with Covid-19 disruptions affecting manufacturing, both globally and within the country. However, with a revival in global demand, exports have been on a growth track in the on-going fiscal.
- With monthly exports crossing the \$30-billion mark for the 11th consecutive time during the fiscal, we are on course to cross the \$400-billion exports target for the fiscal," said A Sakthivel, President, FIEO. This would translate into a growth of over 40 per cent over exports in the previous year.

Global situation, a challenge

- While the engineering goods sector is on track to achieve its export growth target of \$107 billion in 2021-22, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is proving to be a challenge. "Among the CIS countries, Russia is the biggest export market for Indian engineering goods. Exclusion of Russia from the SWIFT payment system would, therefore, mean delayed payment realisation for exporters.
- The ongoing geopolitical crisis has already pushed up the prices of key commodities, especially crude and metals. "The shipping

cost, which has already been going through the roof, would further hurt the exporters. In case the crisis continues, there could be spillover effects elsewhere, too, and that means impact on trade deepening.



NOTES



Nepal to become first country to deploy India's UPI platform

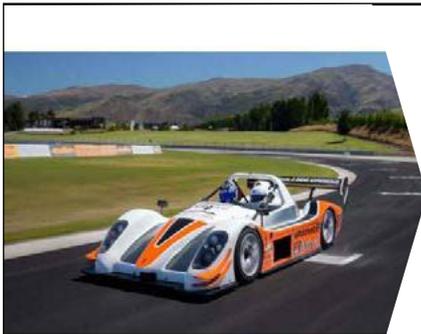
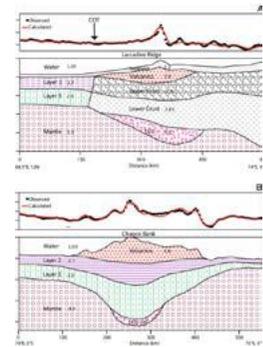
1. Nepal becomes the first country to adopt India's UPI platform

Nepal has become the first country to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface as a payment platform. For this purpose, NIPL has entered into an agreement with Gateway Payments Services Pvt Ltd and Manam Infotech Pvt Ltd for the adoption of UPI in Nepal. Gateway Payments Services Private Limited is an authorized Payment System Operator in Nepal. Gateway Payments Services Pvt Ltd will operate and manage UPI in Nepal as Nepal Rastra Bank Authorized Payment System Operator. According to an earlier figure, in 2021, UPI made 39 billion financial transactions possible. This amount is equivalent to about 31% of the GDP of India. NIPL is the international branch

and wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India

2. Tectonic evolution of Greater Maldives Ridge traced by Indian researchers

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism have explored the tectonic and nature of the Greater Maldivian Ridge (GMR). The origin of the Greater Maldives Ridge, located in the western Indian Ocean, has been a matter of controversy. This study will help Indian researchers to understand the breakdown of Gondwanaland on the one hand and the development of ocean basins on the other. The results of the study will help to better understand the evolution of plate-tectonics of the Indian Ocean. This research suggests that the Moho deep is above the Maldives Ridge section and shallower to the south in the Deep Sea Channel region. Researchers have speculated that the Maldives Ridge may have formed around the mid-oceanic ridge.



3. First motorsports racing track of Northeast India to be built in Mizoram

The first motorsports racing track of East and Northeast India will be built in Mizoram. An agreement has been signed between Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Mizoram State Sports Council for the purpose of construction of this track. This racing track to be developed at Lengpui in Mizoram will be 2 km long and 6 meters wide. The Central Government-owned Rural Electrification Corporation will build motorsports racing tracks as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility. The Madras Motor Race Track, built in the 1980s, is India's first permanent racing circuit. The Buddh International Circuit is the only racing circuit located in Uttar Pradesh that has previously hosted the Indian Grand Prix.

4. SAMARTH Initiative

Recently, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has launched a 'Samarth' Initiative to promote women entrepreneurship. This Initiative will help women to become self-reliant and independent by providing them self-employment opportunities. According to the Ministry of MSME, 20 percent of seats in free skill development programs under Samarth Abhiyan will be allotted to aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs. More than seven thousand five hundred women will be benefited from this.

5. Annual frontiers report of UNEP released

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has stated in its annual Frontiers report that the incidence of wildfires will increase in the coming years. This report states that, in recent years, due to climate change and human activities, there has been an increase in the incidence of wildfires. Increasing concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases have increased the risk factor of wildfires. In its report, UNEP has clearly stated that the rapid expansion of cities towards forested areas has increased the incidence of wildfires. According to the report, wildfires are now common in the savanna ecosystem, affecting a quarter of the species in the savanna ecosystem. Environmentalists have drawn particular attention to this figure in the report, which states that between 2002 and 2016, an average of about 423 million hectares of land was burnt every year. According to this report, Africa was the most affected region by wildfires in 2021.



6. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022



The movie Pushpa: The Rise has been declared the Film of the Year at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 at an event held in Mumbai. While the Best Actor award went to Ranveer Singh for the film 83 and the Best Actress award went to Kriti Sanon for the film Mimi. The Best Director award went to Ken Ghosh for State of Siege Temple Attack. Sher Shah has adjudged the best film. Manoj Bajpayee has been awarded the Best Actor Web Series award for the web series Family Man 2. At the same time, Raveena Tandon received the Best Actress Award for the Aranyak web series.

The other winners are given in the following list:-

Category	Winner
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Satish Kaushik for Kagaz
Best Actor in a Negative Role	Aayush Sharma for Antim: The Final Truth
Critics Best Actor	Siddharth Malhotra for Shershaah
People's Choice Best Actor	Abhimanyu Dasani
best debut	Ahan Shetty for Tadap
best web series	Candy
best male playback singer	Vishal Mishra
Outstanding Contribution to the Film Industry	Asha Parekh
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Lara Dutta for Bell Bottom
Critics Best Film	Sardar Udham
Critics Best Actress	Kiara Advani for Shershaah
People's Choice Best Actress	Radhika Madan
Best International Feature Film	Another round
best short film	Paulie
Best Female Playback Singer	Kanika Kapoor

7. Government of India and World Bank sign agreement for reward project

The Government of India (including the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha) and the World Bank signed loan agreements worth US\$ 115 million for the implementation of the Rejuvenation of Watershed (Reward) project to make agriculture affordable through innovation development.

In this loan, Karnataka will get 60 million dollars, Odisha will get 49 million dollars and the Center will get 6 million dollars. This loan will be provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of the World Bank. This agreement will help farmers to adopt better watershed area management practices to become aware of climate change, increase productivity and enable them to earn more money.



8. Alcyoneus : The largest galaxy ever discovered



Researchers from the Leiden Observatory located at Leiden University in the Netherlands have discovered a new galaxy. It is the largest of all the galaxies ever discovered. It is named Alcyoneus. Alcyoneus is 240 billion times larger than the size of the Sun. Alcyoneus is 160 times larger than the Milky Way galaxy. It extends over 16.3 million light-years. Before the discovery of Alcyoneus, IC 1101 was the largest galaxy. There is also a supermassive black hole at the center of Alcyoneus. Alcyoneus has been discovered through data from the Europe-based Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) and NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer satellite observatory.

9. Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 concludes

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games concluded at the National Stadium in Beijing on 20 February. Norway topped the medals tally with 16 gold, 8 silver and 13 bronze. Germany finished second with 9 gold, 10 silver and 5 bronze while China stood third with 9 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze. This year India has not won any medal in Beijing Winter Olympics 2022. Alpine skier Arif Khan was India's flagbearer at the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. He recorded India's best-ever performance in the Winter Games.



10. India's millionaire families to grow by 11% in 2021



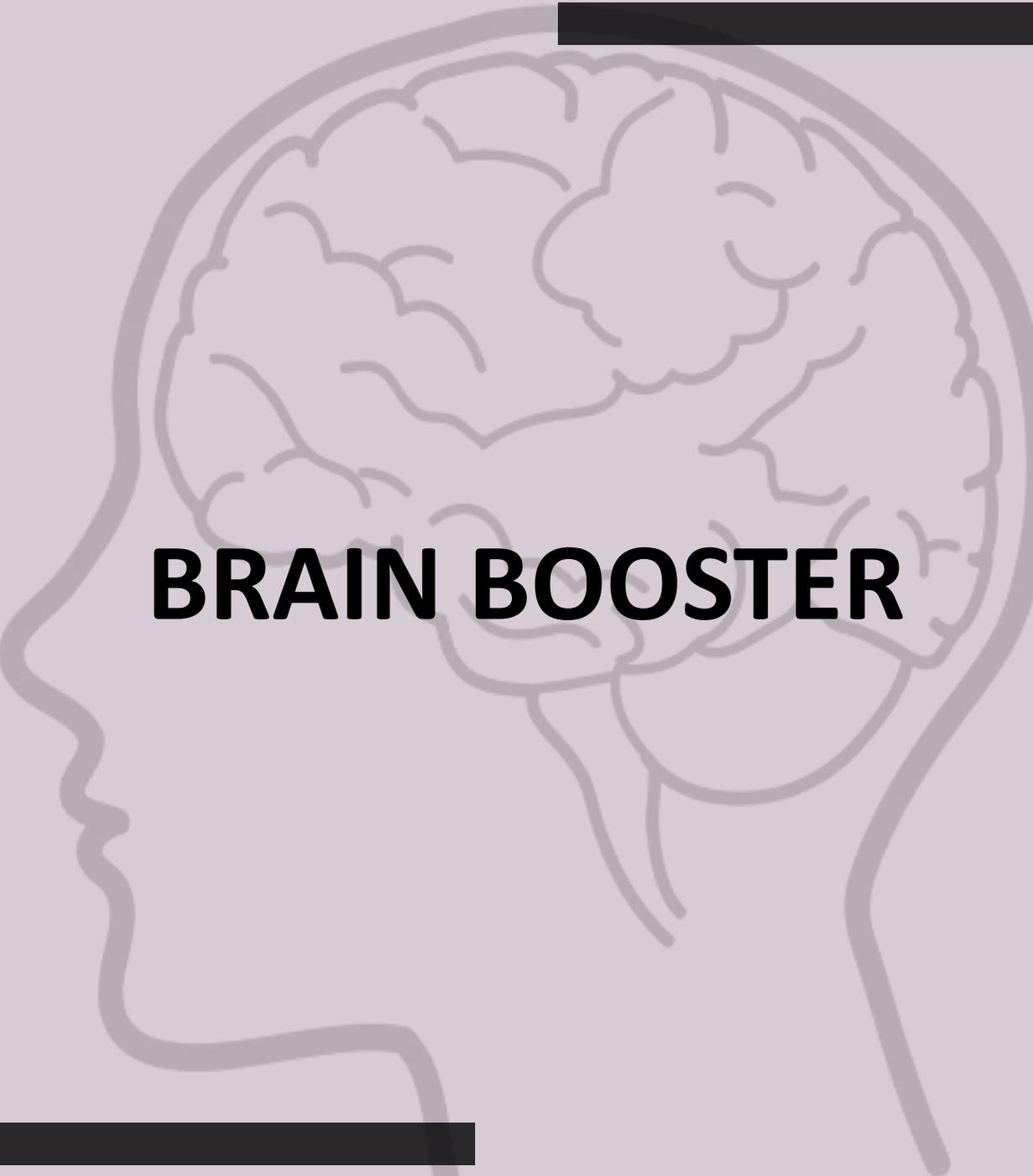
The Hurun India Wealth Report 2021 claimed that India's millionaire (USD) households have grown by 11%. At present, 4.58 lakh families in India are millionaires. The report also claims that the number of millionaire households will increase by 30% in the next 5 years and will reach 6 lakh households by 2026. There is also a fact related to these figures that India's rank in the Happiness Index has fallen compared to the previous year. Mumbai has the highest number of millionaires in the country, followed by Delhi and Kolkata. The report also states the brand preferences, consumption habits and lifestyle trends of Indian millionaires.

Current Affairs at a Glance

- Kannada litterateur Dr Chennaveera Kanavi passed away. He was known as “Samanvayada Kavi” and “Soujanya Kavi”.
- Former Vice Chief of Naval Staff G Ashok Kumar has been appointed as India’s first National Maritime Security Coordinator.
- Kharu team won the 15th CEC Cup Women’s Ice Hockey Championship 2022 at Ladakh Winter Sports Club, Leh.
- The Assam government will launch a four-year mentorship program ‘Project Aarohan’ to enhance the skills of the students.
- Bill Gates was awarded the “Hilal-e-Pakistan” award by Pakistan.
- Chetan Ghate was appointed as the new director of the Institute for Economic Development (IEG).
- Assam became the first state in the country to launch Night Navigation Mobile App in rivers.
- Gandhian social activist and freedom fighter “Shakuntala Choudhary” (also known as Shakuntala Baideo) passed away.
- India, Oman conclude bilateral Air Force exercise ‘Eastern Bridge-VI’ in Jodhpur.
- The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata conferred India’s Most Trusted Public Sector Company award to Coal India Limited at an event.
- Kerala’s first caravan park will be set up at Vagamom in the Idukki district.
- Yohan Poonawalla was honoured with the “Business Leader of the Year Award” at Urja Award 2022.
- The ‘Heal in India’ initiative was launched to promote medical facilities and infrastructure.
- For the first time in the country, the quantum key distribution link between two cities (100 km away) was demonstrated. This experiment was done jointly by the scientists of DRDO and IIT Delhi. Quantum distribution is a secure communication method that enables two parties to produce a shared random secret key known only to them.
- Moody’s estimates India’s growth rate at 8.4 percent in the financial year 2023.
- Dr. =KN Raghavan has been elected as the new chairman of the International Rubber Study Group.
- India’s first e-waste eco-park will come up in Delhi. The park will be developed on 20 acres of land. Delhi generates 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



BRAIN BOOSTER

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1. Why In news

On 23 February 2022, the websites of several Ukrainian banks and government departments became inaccessible. The incident represented the third wave of attacks against Ukraine this year, and the most sophisticated to date.

2. About cyber attack

- A cyber attack is any attempt to gain unauthorized access to a computer, computing system or computer network with the intent to cause damage.
- Cyber attacks aim to disable, disrupt, destroy or control computer systems or to alter, block, delete, manipulate or steal the data held within these systems.
- A cyber attack can be launched from anywhere by any individual or group using one or more various attack strategies.
- People who carry out cyber attacks are generally regarded as cybercriminals.
- Government-sponsored groups of computer experts also launch cyber attacks. They're identified as nation-state attackers.

3. Reasons for cyber attacks

- Financial gain
 - ◀ Most cyber attacks, especially those against commercial entities, are launched for financial gain.
 - ◀ These attacks often aim to steal sensitive data, such as customer credit card numbers or employee personal information, which the cybercriminals then use to access money or goods using the victims' identities.
- Disruption and revenge
 - ◀ Cybercriminals also launch attacks specifically to sow chaos, confusion, discontent, frustration or mistrust.
 - ◀ They could be taking such action as a way to get revenge for acts taken against them.
 - ◀ They could be aiming to publicly

4. Working of cyber attacks

- Threat actors use various techniques to launch cyber attacks, depending in large part on whether they're attacking a targeted or an untargeted entity.
- In an untargeted attack, they generally look for vulnerabilities that will enable them to gain access without being detected or blocked.
- In a targeted attack, the threat actors are going after a specific organization, and methods used vary depending on the attack's objectives.

embarrass the attacked entities or to damage the organizations' reputation.

- Cyberwarfare
 - ◀ Governments around the world are also involved in cyber attacks, with many national governments acknowledging or suspected of designing and executing attacks against other countries as part of ongoing political, economic and social disputes.
 - ◀ These types of attacks are classified as cyberwarfare.

access controls

- Maintaining a monitoring and detection program to identify and alert to suspicious activity
- Creating incident response plans to guide reaction to a breach

- Cyber criminals often create the software tools to use in their attacks, and they frequently share those on the so-called dark web.

5. Types of cyber attacks

- Malware, in which malicious software is used to attack information systems. Ransomware, spyware and Trojans are examples of malware.
- Phishing, in which hackers socially engineer email messages to entice recipients to open them. The recipients are tricked into downloading the malware contained within the email by either opening an attached file or embedded link.
- Man-in-the-middle, or MitM, where attackers secretly insert themselves between two parties, such as individual computer users and their financial institution.
- DDoS, in which hackers bombard an organization's servers with large volumes of simultaneous data requests, thereby making the servers unable to handle any legitimate requests.
- SQL injection, where hackers insert malicious code into servers using the Structured Query Language programming language to get the server to reveal sensitive data.
- Zero-day exploit, which happens when a newly identified vulnerability in IT infrastructure is first exploited by hackers.

6. Prevention of cyber attack

- Best practices include the following:
- Implementing perimeter defenses, such as firewalls, to help block attack attempts and to block access to known malicious domains
 - Using software to protect against malware, namely antivirus software, thereby adding another layer of protection against cyber attacks
 - Having a patch management program to address known software vulnerabilities that could be exploited by hackers.
 - Setting appropriate security configurations, password policies and user

Cyber Attack



1. About Global Gateway

On 1 December 2021, the European Union unveiled the Global Gateway, its plan to support infrastructure development around the world. It will help to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from fighting climate change, to improving health systems, and boosting competitiveness and security of global supply chains.

2. Principles of the Global Gateway

The European model of trusted connectivity in partner countries is long-term and in line with EU's interests and values: rule of law, human rights and international norms and standards. It is about

- smart, clean and secure investments in quality infrastructure
- connecting goods, people and services around the world in a sustainable way

Global Gateway partnerships will be based on 6 principles:

- a) democratic values and high standards
- b) good governance and transparency
- c) equal partnerships
- d) green and clean
- e) security focused
- f) catalysing private sector investment

3. Key areas of partnership

• Digital sector

Through the Global Gateway, the EU will strengthen connections between Europe and the world and help partner countries address the digital divide and further integrate into the global digital ecosystem.

• Climate and energy

☞ The Global Gateway will support this green transformation, on the way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and commitments of the Paris Agreement.

☞ It will promote green technology exchanges and reinforce energy

4. Sources of financing

• The Global Gateway will be delivered through the EU and EU Member States with their financial and development institutions, including the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

• The Global Gateway draws on the new financial tools in the EU multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027. These are

- ☞ Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe.
- ☞ Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) III

☞ Digital and international part of the Connecting Europe Facility

☞ Interreg

☞ InvestEU

☞ Horizon Europe,

☞ EU research and innovation programme.

• This would mobilise €300 billion between 2021-2027 for connectivity projects.

5. Global Gateway's approach & support to Human Rights

Global Gateway's key principles:

• Democratic values and high standards

☞ Global Gateway will adhere to the rule of law, uphold high standards of human, social, and workers' rights and respect the norms from international rules to intellectual property and open public procurement.

• Good Governance and Transparency

☞ Projects that work for people will require transparency, accountability and financial sustainability.

☞ Local communities, businesses and partners will have full say through proper public consultations and civil society involvement.

• Equal partnerships

☞ Infrastructure projects will be based on the needs and opportunities that they identify for their local economies and local communities, as well as the EU's own strategic interests.

• Green and clean

☞ The Global Gateway is a climate-neutral strategy to speed up sustainable development and recovery, create inclusive growth and jobs and transition to a cleaner and more circular global economy.

• Security-focused

☞ Secure infrastructure underpins the resilience of global economy and supply chains be it on digital, health, transport or energy.

• Education and research

☑ The EU will invest in quality education, including digital education, paying particular attention to the inclusion of girls and women and other vulnerable groups.

Global Gateway

security.

• Transport

☞ The Global Gateway will promote worldwide infrastructure investments that create sustainable, smart, resilient, inclusive and safe networks in all modes of transport.

☞ It will support networks such as the extension of the Trans European Transport Network.

• Health

☞ The Global Gateway will prioritise the security of supply chains and the development of local manufacturing capacities.

☞ The EU will be working with partner countries to diversify their pharmaceutical supply chains.

1. Why in news?

The 117th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) comprising of Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan was held from March 1-3, 2022 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

2. About Indus Waters Treaty

- The Indus river basin has six rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej; originating from Tibet and flowing through the Himalayan ranges to enter Pakistan, ending in the south of Karachi.
- In 1947, partition also cut the Indus river system into two.
- Both the sides were dependent on water from the Indus river basin for their irrigation.
- Therefore, infrastructure and equitable distribution was needed.
- Initially, the Inter Dominion accord of May, 1948 was adopted, under which India would supply water to Pakistan in exchange for an annual payment.
- This agreement, however, soon disintegrated as both the countries could not agree upon common interpretations.
- In 1951, both the countries applied to the World Bank for funding of their respective irrigation projects on Indus and its tributaries, which is when the Bank offered to mediate the conflict.
- Finally in 1960, after nearly a decade of negotiations, an agreement was reached between the two countries, leading to the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) by Jawaharlal Nehru, Ayub Khan & W.A.B. Iliff.

3. Crux of the treaty

- The treaty allocated the three western rivers— Indus, Chenab and Jhelum—to Pakistan for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural and domestic uses by India.
- The three Eastern rivers— Ravi, Beas and Sutlej — to India for unrestricted usage.

4. Objections raised under the treaty

- Treaty has been regarded internationally as a successful diplomatic effort, managing to withstand three wars and multiple military impasses between the two countries, the journey has been rocky.
- The treaty, became a source of dissatisfaction because
 - ☐ There is a growing demand for water,
 - ☐ Extensively technical nature of the document



Indus Waters Treaty

- 80% of the share of water or about 135 Million Acre Feet (MAF) went to Pakistan, leaving the rest 33 MAF or 20% of water for use by India.
- Besides, India is also allowed a minimum storage level on the western rivers it can store up to 3.75 MAF for conservation and flood storage purposes.
 - It also required both the countries to establish a Permanent Indus Commission constituted by permanent commissioners on both sides.
- India has right to build 'run of the river' hydropower projects over the Jhelum, Chenab and Indus.
- The treaty also allows Pakistan to raise objections over such projects being built by India, if it does not find them to be compliant with the specifications.

☐ The western rivers flow through the conflicted region of Jammu and Kashmir.

- Pakistan raised objections to Indian project over the Kishanganga Hydro Electricity Project (KHEP).
- Kishanganga is a tributary of the Jhelum river.
- The work for KHEP was started in 2007 and was supposed to be completed by 2016.
- Due to Pakistan's objection India agreed to lower the dam's height from 97 metres to 37 metres.
- In 2010, Pakistan took the matter to the International Court of Arbitration. The Court gave its final ruling in December 2013, giving India a green signal for the project, subject to conditions.
- The project was then inaugurated in 2018, despite continued protests from Pakistan.
- Pakistan had objected to the Salal dam project in 1970 over design concerns, negotiations for which ended in 1978.
- Pakistan again objected to the Baglihar Hydropower project in the 2000.

5. Geopolitical conflicts

- In the aftermath of the attack on J&K's Uri army camp in 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, "Blood and water cannot flow simultaneously".
- After 2019, Pulwama terror attack, India had for the first time threatened to cut off water supply to Pakistan.
- The IWT does not have a unilateral exit provision, and is supposed to remain in force unless both the countries ratify another mutually agreed pact.
- The IWT also provides a three step dispute resolution mechanism, under which issues can first be resolved at the commission or inter-Government level.
- If that fails, either side can approach the World Bank to appoint a Neutral Expert.
- And eventually, if either party is still not satisfied, matters can be referred to a Court of Arbitration.

1. Why In news

By 2031, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to retire and decommission the International Space Station (ISS). The U.S. space agency has detailed its goals for the next decade in the International Space Transition Report as it aims to hand over operations to commercial organisations. Other international partners that operate the ISS are, have not yet approved it.

2. About ISS

- The ISS was launched in 1998 as part of joint efforts by the U.S., Russia, Japan, Canada and Europe.
- The space station was assembled over many years, and it operates in low-earth orbit.
- Since its inception, the ISS has served as a laboratory suspended in space and has aided multiple scientific and technological developments.
- The idea of a space station originated in the 1984 State of the Union address by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan.
- ISS has consistently maintained human presence for the past 21 years, providing astronauts with sophisticated technologies for scientific research.

3. Reason for decommissioning of ISS

- The ISS was originally built to operate for 15 years.
- The space station has already surpassed that checkpoint by being active for 21 years, with plans to continue operations till 2030.
- The limitations on the lifecycle of the station are catching up.
- The ISS goes through 16 rotations of the earth per day, causing extreme temperature changes on the exterior.
- The side facing the sun can get heated up to 121°C while the temperature on the opposite, darker side can fall to -157°C, causing intense expansion and contraction of the building material.

4. De-orbiting the ISS

- NASA plans to remove the ISS from its orbit around the earth and eventually plunge it into the ocean at a point farthest from human civilisation.
- The space agency will use the dual method of natural orbit decay and a re-entry manoeuvre to bring an end to the ISS.
- According to the plan, the earth's natural atmospheric drag will be used in lowering the altitude of the ISS while setting up the deorbit.

- The space station operators will then provide the final push to it to lower the structure to the maximum possible height and ensure safe re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, leading it to Point Nemo over the South Pacific Oceanic Uninhabited Area (SPOUA).
- The exterior of the modules is expected to melt when the debris re-enters the earth's atmosphere.
- The exposed internal hardware is also expected to burn or vaporise during the process.
- It is believed that denser components like the truss sections will survive the re-entry and fall into the SPOUA.
- Alternative options like disassembly and return to the earth, boost to a higher orbit, and random re-entry were also considered.
- Disassembly in space would have posed huge logistical and financial challenges.
- ISS cannot be decommissioned by boosting to a higher orbit because of its large mass and low operational altitude.
- Existing propulsion systems do not have the capacity to raise the station's altitude to a high target and escape low-earth orbit.
- The random re-entry method was discarded since it carries a huge risk for the human population on the ground.

5. Environmental hazards associated with the plan

NASA claims that the debris of the ISS that survives the re-entry will settle on the ocean floor and not cause any substantial long-term impact.

6. Future of space stations

- As the ISS plans to end operations in space, new players are already lining up to replace it.
- In January 2022, China announced that its space station will be ready for operations this year.

International Space Station

- This orbital thermal cycling, coupled with dynamic loading, affects the longevity of the primary structure of the space station.
- The technical lifetime is also limited by parts like radiators, modules and truss structures that tend to degrade over time.
- NASA is planning to transfer low-earth orbit operations to private players and focus on its missions to explore the moon and Mars.

- Blue Origin, the aerospace company founded by Jeff Bezos, has also announced its plans to build Orbital Reef, a commercially developed, owned, and operated space station in low-earth orbit.



1. Why in news?

Recently, one hundred and seventy-five countries have agreed to a legally binding global treaty to end the plastic pollution crisis by tackling the plastic's entire supply chain. According to UNEP, it is the "biggest multilateral environmental deal" since the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

2. Key points:

- Peruvian holistic approach vs Japanese selective-focussed approach:
 - I. Two competing ideas had been put forward. One, led by Peru and Rwanda, encompassed all stages of plastic's life cycle, from production to consumption and disposal.
 - II. The second was a far more limited deal focused on plastics in the oceans, recommended by Japan.
- The deal that has emerged supports the Peruvian holistic approach. Crucially, elements of the treaty are legally binding.
- Sustainable Financing Mechanism: Treaty acknowledges that lower-income countries will find it harder to grapple with plastic pollution than high-income ones and so the treaty asserts some sort of financing model to help curb plastic use and waste.

3. Need of the treaty

- Past successful environmental treaties:
 - I. UNEP compared the accord to past environmental treaties such as the Montreal protocol on ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs) and the Minamata convention on mercury pollution, both of which led to massive reductions in emissions of these harmful chemicals.
 - II. Global treaties are proof that global deals can make governments and industry work differently.
- UNEP: Catastrophic health Consequences, if further delayed:
 - I. The world produced 381 million tonnes of plastic in 2015, and hundreds of thousands of tonnes are

4. Key provisions of Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021

- Prohibition of manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single use plastics (SUP), including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities from the 1st July, 2022.
- Thickness of plastic carry bags will be increased from 50 microns to 75 microns from 30th September, 2021 to 120 microns from the 31st December, 2022.
- Special emphasis to stop littering and promote reuse.

- Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility/EPR (as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016) has been given legal force through the 2021 Rules, for effective implementation.
- Accordingly, collection and management of plastic packaging waste, which is not covered under the phase-out of identified SUP items, through the EPR of the Producer, Importer and Brand owner (PIBO).
- Other measures for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:
 - I. Strengthening of waste management infrastructure in the States through the Swachh Bharat Mission.
 - II. Comprehensive action plans by State Governments and concerned Central Ministries.
 - III. Awareness generation:
 - ☑ India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon 2021 for Higher Educational Institutions' students
 - ☑ Startups for developing alternatives to identified SUP items and digital solutions to plastic waste management.

End 'Plastic Pollution'

- estimated to end up in the oceans every year, most of it from lower and middle-income countries with less capacity to burn or recycle it.
- II. Ubiquitous plastic pollution has been linked to negative impacts on marine life, and there are fears it causes biomagnification and bioaccumulation in the Food Web.
 - UNESCO: Cleanliness is next to godliness:
 - I. As observed by UNESCO – Tourists both domestic and foreign are just disgusted when they go to the coast and see plastic stuff polluting nature.
 - II. It impacts the nation's forex and

5. Conclusion

- What measures should be enacted under a global plastic treaty, and what teeth the deal might have, will now need to be worked out. As said by UNEP, the treaty must have "clear and strong global standards and targets".
- global image as a 'dirty country' .
- Circular Economic Model is only sustainable solution:
 - I. The best way to tackle plastic pollution is to capture its whole cycle. By covering the whole supply chain, a global agreement to tackle plastic pollution can support upstream solutions such as reducing or replacing plastic in products.
 - II. There is a broad consensus that global coordination is best achieved through a legally binding agreement.

1. Why in news?

The U.S., Europe and several other western nations have excluded Russia from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), an international network for banks to facilitate smooth money transactions globally. This could be the strongest economic sanction against Russia over its military moves in Ukraine, as it will potentially cut off the country from receiving international payments.

2. About SWIFT

- Founded in 1973, SWIFT is a global provider of secure financial messaging services.
- SWIFT was founded to replace the telex.
- It is a member-owned cooperative connecting more than 11,000 banks, financial institutions and corporations in more than 200 countries.
- SWIFT operates internationally with 26 offices located across the world, and is headquartered in Belgium.
- As a strategic international financial messaging service provider to the financial industry, SWIFT is overseen by the G-10 central banks.

3. Governance of SWIFT

- SWIFT is a cooperative company under Belgian law and is owned and controlled by its shareholders (financial institutions) representing approximately 3,500 firms from across the world.
- The shareholders elect a Board of 25 independent Directors, representing banks across the world, which governs the Company and oversees the management of the Company.
- The Executive Committee is a group of full-time employees headed by the Chief Executive Officer.
- SWIFT is overseen by the G-10 central banks (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, UK, USA, Switzerland

4. SWIFT Operating Centres location

- Currently, SWIFT has operating centres (OPCs) in the Netherlands, Switzerland and the US, where message data is stored.

5. Duration for which SWIFT keep data

- SWIFT offers different financial messaging services, including but not limited to FIN, FINplus, FINCopy, FINInform, InterAct, FileAct, SWIFT WebAccess, MI Channel, SWIFTNet Instant and SWIFTNet Copy.
- Some services offer archival of messages, others do not. The archival periods, if any, for the different services are set forth in the Service Documentation.

6. Role of SWIFT in relation to financial sanctions

- SWIFT does not monitor or control the messages that users send through its system.
- All decisions on the legitimacy of financial transactions under applicable regulations, such as sanctions regulations, rest with the financial institutions handling them, and their competent international and national authorities.
- As far as financial sanctions are concerned, the focus of SWIFT is to help its users in meeting their responsibilities to comply with national and international regulations.

SWIFT and sanctions

and Sweden), as well as the European Central Bank, with its lead overseer being the National Bank of Belgium.

- In 2012, this framework was reviewed and the SWIFT Oversight Forum was established, in which the G-10 central banks are joined by other central banks from major economies: Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabian, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey.
- The SWIFT Oversight Forum provides a setting for the G-10 central banks to share information on SWIFT oversight activities with a wider group of central banks.
- SWIFT is committed to open, constructive and regular dialogue with oversight authorities, as well as with individual jurisdictions.

7. SWIFT services complying sanctions

- In 2010, SWIFT introduced changes to its cover payment messages to allow financial institutions to include underlying customer information in cover payment transactions.
- SWIFT has a wide and growing range of financial crime compliance tools, including sanctions screening and sanctions testing services.

8. Countries excluded from SWIFT

- Certain Iranian banks were ousted from the system in 2018 despite resistance from several countries in Europe.



1. Why in News

India and France are close to concluding a deal, likely in the next couple of months, for the joint development of a 125KN engine for the indigenous fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) under development, according to defence officials.

2. About Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

- The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is an Indian programme to develop fifth generation fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy.
- The design of the aircraft is carried out by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), an aircraft design and development agency constituted under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is expected to be produced by a public-private joint venture between the DRDO, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and French engine maker Safran.
- The programme has an aim to start production by 2028. The development cost is estimated to be around ₹15,000 crore.
- AMCA will be a single-seat, twin-engine, stealth all-weather swing-role fighter aircraft. Two variants of AMCA will be produced in a phased production model. AMCA Mark 1 will come equipped with fifth generation technologies and Mark 2 will have the incremental sixth generation technology upgrades.
- The initial design of the AMCA started way back in 2009 and is envisaged as a twin engine stealth aircraft with internal weapons bay and Diverterless Supersonic Intake. It will be a 25 tonne aircraft with internal carriage of 1,500 kg of payload and 5,500 kg external payload with 6,500 kg of internal fuel.
- The configuration has been frozen, Preliminary Service Quality Requirements (PSQR) are finalised and the preliminary design review is

3. About Stealth aircraft

- Stealth aircraft are designed to avoid detection using a variety of technologies that reduce reflection/emission of radar, infrared, visible light, radio frequency (RF) spectrum, and audio, collectively known as stealth technology.
- No aircraft is totally invisible to radar, stealth aircraft make it more difficult for conventional radar to detect or track the aircraft effectively.
- It increases the odds of an aircraft successfully avoiding detection by enemy radar and/or avoiding being successfully targeted by radar guided weapons.

- Stealth is the combination of passive low observable (LO) features and active emitters such as low-probability-of-intercept radars, radios and laser designators.

4. Advantages of Stealth Technology

- Efficiency can be increased while in a war zone when stealth vehicles are used in place of conventional vehicles, providing long term fiscal savings.
- Strikes from a stealth fighter aircraft prevent enemies from initiating attacks and as enemies are unable to locate them stealth weapons are utilized as intimidation fleets.
- Decline in casualty rates is achievable using stealth technology in warfare.

5. Disadvantages of Stealth Technology

- Compared to conventional aircrafts, stealth aircrafts are less agile and lack efficient maneuverability.
- Stealth aircraft have lower payload or carrying capacity than the conventional aircraft.
- The biggest disadvantage of a stealth aircraft is its high cost.

6. Way forward:

- Once the agreement is concluded with France, development of the aircraft as well as the engine should progress parallelly to meet the timelines.
- The manufacturing and production of the aircraft should be planned through a Special Purpose Vehicle, which will also involve private industry.
- AMCA would ensure India's entry into the elite club of countries with fifth-generation stealth warplanes.

Indigenous Stealth Fighter

complete. The Critical Design Review (CDR) is expected later this year with the roll out planned in 2024 and first flight planned in 2025.

- The AMCA will have stealth and non-stealth configurations, and would be developed in two phases — an AMCA MK1, and an AMCA Mk2.
- Simultaneously, the project for the development of a twin engine deck-based fighter jet meant to fly from the Navy's aircraft carriers is also making progress.
- The AMCA is intended to perform a multitude of missions including air superiority, ground-strike, Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) and electronic warfare (EW) missions.
- The AMCA design is optimised for low radar cross section and super-cruise capability.



MCQs Based on Environment and Ecology

- Q1. Eutrophication causes decrease in
(a) Dissolved nitrogen
(b) Dissolved salts
(c) Dissolved oxygen
(d) All of these
- Q2. A high BOD value in aquatic environment is indicative of-
(a) A pollution free system
(b) A highly polluted system due to excess of nutrients
(c) A highly polluted system due to abundant heterotrophs
(d) A highly pure water with abundance of autotrophs
- Q3. The Ecological pyramid that is always upright
(a) Pyramid of energy
(b) Pyramid of biomass
(c) Pyramid of number
(d) Population Pyramid
- Q4. "Green house effect" with respect to global warming refers to-
(a) Cooling & moist condition
(b) Warming effect
(c) Increased rainfall & greenery
(d) Increase of desertification of Sahara
- Q5. In India, tropical rain forest occurs in-
(a) Punjab
(b) Andaman & Nicobar
(c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Haryana
- Q6. Atmospheric ozone layer which protect us from UV-B & C is getting depleted most by addition of-
(a) Chlorofluorocarbon
(b) Carbon monoxide
(c) Carbon dioxide
(d) Sulphur dioxide
- Q7. In which of the following biome the maximum plant diversity is found ?
(a) Tropical evergreen forests
(b) Tropical moist deciduous forests
(c) Tropical dry deciduous forests
(d) Temperate moist forests
- Q8. Which among the following is a water borne disease?
(a) Smallpox
(b) Meningitis
(c) Malaria
(d) Cholera
- Q9. The term 'dead' with respect to a water body refers to:
(a) The inability of a water body to sustain aquatic life
(b) The ability of a water body to sustain aquatic life
(c) The inability of a water body to flow
(d) The heating or cooling of a water body
- Q10. Which one of the following is not normally a pollutant?
(a) Carbon monoxide
(b) Carbon dioxide
(c) Hydrocarbons
(d) Sulphur dioxide
- Q11. Ultraviolet radiation from sunlight causes the reaction that produces
(a) Fluorides
(b) Ozone
(c) Carbon monoxide
(d) Sulphur dioxide
- Q12. DDT is a
(a) Green house gas
(b) Persistent Organic Pollutant
(c) Degradable pollutant
(d) None of these
- Q13. Decomposition of domestic wastes under natural processes is called
(a) Industrial pollution
(b) Thermal pollution
(c) Biodegradable pollution
(d) Nonbiodegradable pollution
- Q14. Eutrophication is often seen in
(a) Mountains
(b) Deserts
(c) Fresh water lakes
(d) Ocean

Q15. Fish die in water polluted by sewage due to

- (a) Pathogens
- (b) Reduction in O₂
- (c) Clogging of gills by silt
- (d) Foul smell

Q16. Fluoride pollution mainly affects

- (a) Brain
- (b) Teeth
- (c) Heart
- (d) Kidney

Q17. Gas leaked during Bhopal tragedy was

- (a) Ethyl isothiocyanate
- (b) Sodium isothiocyanate
- (c) Potassium isothiocyanate
- (d) Methyl isocyanate

Q18. The best way to dispose plant waste is-

- (a) Burning
- (b) Composting
- (c) Dumping in a water body
- (d) Incineration

Q19. Which of the following is a major pollutant causing acid rain?

- (a) Carbon dioxide
- (b) Sulphur dioxide
- (c) Hydrogen peroxide
- (d) Carbon monoxide

Q20. Increase in the concentration of pollutants in higher trophic levels is known as

- (a) Biomagnification
- (b) Biodegradation
- (c) Eutrophication
- (d) Recycling

Answers

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | (c) | 12. | (b) |
| 2. | (b) | 13. | (c) |
| 3. | (a) | 14. | (c) |
| 4. | (b) | 15. | (b) |
| 5. | (b) | 16. | (b) |
| 6. | (a) | 17. | (d) |
| 7. | (a) | 18. | (b) |
| 8. | (d) | 19. | (b) |
| 9. | (a) | 20. | (b) |
| 10. | (b) | | |
| 11. | (b) | | |

NOTES

MCQs Based on Current Affairs

Q1. Which of the following organization have been launched Initiatives named 'UPI123Pay' and 'DigiSathi'?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Ans- a

Q2. What is the objective of the recently launched 'Samarth' campaign?

- a) Promoting Women Entrepreneurship
- b) Arranging livelihood for the disabled
- c) Providing low rate loans to the urban poor
- d) To arrange free education and accommodation for the children of martyr soldiers

Ans- a

Q3. What is the name of India's indigenous 'Automatic Train Protection System'?

- a) Kavach
- b) B. Armor
- c) C. Brahmastra
- d) D. shield

Ans-a

Q4. Recently which of the following statement(s) is/are true regarding the 'Sambhav' and 'Swavalamban' initiatives?

- 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Environment to tackle the issue of plastic waste in India.
 - 2. Their aim is to encourage young entrepreneurs, especially from the aspirational districts of India.
- a) only 1
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) none of these

Ans b

Q5. Which of the following organization publishes the report titled 'World Employment and Social Outlook'?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) United Nations
- c) World Bank

d) International Labor Organization

Ans-d

Q6. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true regarding 'Convention on Cluster Munitions'?

- 1. Under this, cluster weapons have been banned.
 - 2. It has been signed by 152 countries.
 - 3. In the year 2014, India also signed this treaty.
- a) only 1
 - b) only 3
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans- a

Q7. Recently Article 5 of the NATO Charter has been in the news. Which of the following is it related to?

- a) By supplying logistics to member countries during natural calamities
- b) The process of adding new members to the NATO group
- c) from the collective security of the member countries
- d) from the process of expulsion of a member country in case of violation of the NATO Charter

Ans -c

Q8. Swadesh Darshan Puraskar has been instituted by which of the following ministry?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- b) Ministry of Tourism
- c) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Ans b

Q9. Consider the following statements about Govind Ballabh Pant.

- 1. In the year 1921, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
- 2. He was arrested in 1942 for signing the Quit India Resolution.
- 3. The Happy Club was founded by Bharat Ratna Govind Ballabh Pant in 1903.

Which of the above statements are true?

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

Ans-d

Q10. Who among the following is related to the reforms in the Indian Police?

- 1. Ribeiro Committee, 1998
- 2. Padmanabhaiah Committee, 2000
- 3. Malimath Committee, 2005
- 4. Prakash Singh Case, 2007

Choose from the options below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) all of the above

Ans-d

Q11. Which of the following field is related to stack e-portal?

- a) Defense
- b) Education
- c) Skilling
- d) Health

Ans c

Q12. Which statement related to SWIFT is false?

- a) The full name of SWIFT is Society for World-wide Interbank Financial Telecommunication.
- b) SWIFT is a messaging network, which sends messages to banks in a special code form.
- c) It works to manage global transactions.
- d) SWIFT is headquartered in Switzerland.

Ans-d

Q13. Which of the following options is most likely to increase inflation?

- a) Repayment of public debt
- b) Borrowing from the public to finance the budget deficit
- c) Borrowing from banks to meet the budget deficit
- d) Creating new money to finance the budget deficit

Ans:- d

Q14. According to the Economic Survey 2021-22, which country has the largest imports into India?

- a) United States of America
- b) UAE
- c) China
- d) Britain

Ans: c

Q15. With reference to the recently passed GNCTD Amendment Act, consider the following sentences:

- 1. The Act makes it necessary for the Government of Delhi to seek the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor.
- 2. The Act provides that the word "Government" in any law made by the Legislative Assembly shall mean the Cabinet.
- 3. The Act confers wide powers on the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi by declaring him to be the "Government of Delhi".
- 4. The Act gives full statehood to Delhi.

Which of the above option(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans :- c

Q16. Consider the following statements about BRICS:

- 1. The BRICS countries signed a Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA) in 2014 as part of the Fortaleza Declaration at the 6th BRICS Summit.
- 2. The New Development Bank (NDB) was set up during the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014).
- 3. The headquarter of New Development Bank is in Beijing.

Select the correct statements:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All are wrong

Ans: a

Q17 With reference to the India State of Forest Report, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was first published in 1952.
- 2. It is issued by the Forest Survey of India.
- 3. ISFR-2021 reflects an increase of 16 million hect

- ares in forest area between 2019 and 2021.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?
- a) only 1
 - b) only 2
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) only 3

Ans: b

- Q18 'Freedom in the World' report is published by which of the following organization?
- a) Transparency International
 - b) Reporter without border
 - c) Freedom House
 - d) Greenpeace International

Ans: c

- Q19. Which of the following organization established the Technology Development Fund?
- a) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
 - b) DRDO
 - c) ISRO
 - d) Ministry of Textiles

Ans: b

- Q20. With reference to the draft 'India Data Accessibility and Use Policy', consider the following statements:
1. It is issued by the Ministry of Communications.
 2. It proposes to monetize user's personal data.
 3. It suggests setting up of Central India Data Office.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) only 2
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: c

NOTES

Case Study

You are the Chief Secretary of an important state of India. You are continuously receiving complaints from Cabinet Ministers of your state, that their secretary does not counsel them most appropriate advice and also lack proper knowledge of the laws and rules of their departments. They counsel them on the basis of the information, they receive from junior officers of their department some officers also seem influenced by the ideology of any political party.

In initial enquiry you find, that many laws and rules, formed by British Government are still prevalent in each department. Out of these laws and rules most are redundant but they have not been repealed. So officers need to ensure compliance with these laws and rules in the process of decision making.

With your personal experience, you know that it is very difficult to memorise these laws and rules. It requires the investment of a lot of time and energy.

Transfer policy of the Government is also responsible for it. Due to continuous transfer in different departments and short tenures they do not get enough motivation to learn these laws and rules. It exercises a negative impact on administrative efficiency.

(a) Bring out and discuss different issues involved in the above case.

(b) What would you do to solve this problem?

Answer

In the case study, I am Chief Secretary of a particular state and I am supposed to take action on the complaint received from the cabinet minister of the state after finding out the issues involved in it.

Following are the issues involved:

- Issue of inappropriate advice given to the Cabinet Minister.
- Lack of proper knowledge among the officials about the laws and rules of the department.
- Issue of partiality and partisanship due to some employees being influenced by a particular political ideology.
- Prevalence of redundant rules and laws of the colonial era.
- Issue of frequent transfer of officials.

Steps to solve the above-mentioned issues:

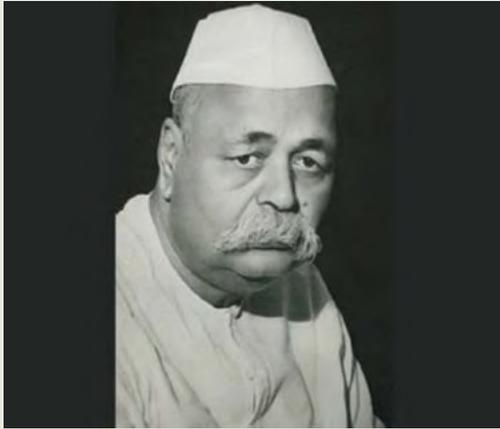
- To ensure that the cabinet minister is counseled with

the right advice, I will call an urgent meeting with the concerned secretary and discuss the matter in detail so that for the time being the cabinet minister gets the right advice.

- I will make arrangements for the short and brief training sessions in which the rules and laws of the concerned department are discussed and explained in a way that the members can easily comprehend and remember the rules and laws.
- A small team of members with impartial and non-partisanship behavior will be formed to ensure that any advice rendered to the cabinet minister is not influenced by any political ideology.
- The issue of the prevalence of redundant rules and laws will be raised to the higher authorities and to those who hold the power to change or strike down such rules and laws and will suggest discontinuing them.
- Will ensure that the transfer of officials is not done frequently based on any irrational reasons.

NOTES

Eminent Personality- Govind Ballabh Pant



Bharat Ratna Govind Ballabh Pant's death anniversary was March 7, 2022. Govind Ballabh Pant was born on 10 September 1887 in Khoont village, Almora, Uttarakhand. He joined Allahabad University in the year 1905 and passed the law examination in 1909. Prior to this, he had formed Happy Club in Almora. Govind Ballabh Pant's father's name was Shri 'Manorath Pant' and his mother's name was Govindi Bai.

Shri Manorath Pant moved to Pauri Garhwal with his wife within three years from the birth of Govind. He stayed in Almora permanently. He was brought up by his aunt 'Dhani Devi'. Govind took education at home till the age of 10 years. In 1897, Govind was admitted to the primary school in the local 'Ramje College'. In 1899, at the age of 12, he was married to 'Ganga Devi', the daughter of 'Pt Baladutt Joshi', at that time he was in class seven. Govind passed the lower middle examination with Sanskrit, Mathematics, English with distinction in the first division. Govind also passed the Inter examination from this school. After this, he took admission in B.A. at Allahabad University with Mathematics, Politics and English Literature as subjects.

He started his career as a lawyer from Kashipur. The Kakori case gave him recognition and prestige. He entered politics in the year 1921 and in the same year he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. In 1914, 'Prem Sabha' and 'Udayraj Hindu High School' was established in Kashipur by Pant with his efforts.

In 1916, Pant was included in the 'Notified Area Com-

mittee' of Kashipur. In the freedom struggles of 1921, 1930, 1932 and 1934, Pant spent almost 7 years in jail. 29 November 1927, while protesting in Lucknow against the Simon Commission, Pant suffered several injuries in the lathi charge of the British, due to which his neck was bowed.

He fought against the coolie forced labour system in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. Under the Coolie Begar Act, the local people had to carry the goods of British officers for free. Pant was against it. He also fought the case of Bismil and Khan in the Kakori case.

He also mediated when there was a difference between Congress and Subhas Chandra Bose. He was arrested for signing the Quit India Resolution of 1942 and spent three years in jail with Nehru at Ahmednagar Fort. Earlier in 1932, Pant also stayed with Nehru in the jails of Bareilly and Dehradun. During that time they became friends.

In the year 1937, Pant became the first Prime Minister of the United Provinces and in 1946 became the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He won from Bareilly Municipality in the 1951 UP assembly elections. On January 10, 1955, he took over as the Home Minister of India. His main contribution as Home Minister was to divide the states on the basis of language and to establish Hindi as the official language of India.

In the year 1957, on Republic Day, the patriot, efficient administrator and speaker Pant ji was honoured with India's highest title 'Bharat Ratna'. Govind Vallabh Pant Ji has also contributed significantly in getting Hindi the status of the official language. Govind Ballabh Pant died on March 7, 1961.

POLITY TERMINOLOGY

Preamble of the Indian Constitution

Background

American Constitution was the first to come up with a Preamble. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by J L Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly.

The Preamble

"We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute

India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, Social, Economic and Political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;

and to promote among them all;

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION".

Elements of the Preamble

- Source of authority: The Preamble states that the Constitution derives its authority from the people of India.
- Nature of Indian State: It declares India to be of a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic and republican state.
- Objectives: It specifies justice, liberty, equality and fraternity as the objectives.
- Date of adoption of the Constitution: It stipulates November 26, 1949, as the date.

Building blocks of the Preamble

- Sovereign :- Free from external control
- Socialist :- Welfare of all, i.e. All equitable distribution of wealth
- Secular :- State has no religion but citizen have.
- Democratic :- Government is representative of people
- Republic :- Head of the state is elected
- Justice :- Fairness
- Liberty :- Freedom
- Equality :- No Discrimination
- Fraternity :- Brotherhood
- Unity :- Oneness
- Integrity :- Emotional Oneness

Preamble as a part of the Constitution

- In the Keshavananda Bharti Vs State of Kerala Case,

1973 Supreme Court (SC) Observed that Preamble is a part of the constitution.

- In the Harihar Yadav Vs State of Jharkhand Case, 2014 SC Observed that Constitution casts a responsibility on the State to sustain social & economic security, for the Preamble is the floodlight illuminating the path to be persuaded by the State to set up a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic.

- Important notes

- a) The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of legislature.
- b) It is non-justiciable, i.e. its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law.

Preamble as Basic Structure

- In the Keshavananda Bharti Case, 1973 & Excel Wear Case, 1979 SC Observed that Objectives specified in the Preamble contain the basic structure of the constitution.

- Basic Structure contains:-

- a) Supremacy of the Constitution.
- b) Republican & Democratic form of Government
- c) Secular character of the Constitution
- d) Separation of Powers between the Legislature, the Executive & the Judiciary
- e) Federal Character of the Constitution.

Interpretation of Preamble

According to Keshvananda Bharti Case, 1973; Chandra Bhawan Boarding Case, 1973; the preamble maybe invoked to determine the ambit of

- a) Fundamental Rights
- b) Directive Principles of State Policy

Social Justice

- The policies that turn a blind eye to deliberate infliction of misery on large segment of population even in its weakest form and content can't be condoned in view of the promise for social, economic and political justice to citizens made by Constitution of India (Nandini Sundar case, 2011).

Amendability of the Preamble

- In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) the SC held that the Preamble can be amended, subject to the condition that no amendment is done to the 'basic features'.

Amendments of the Preamble

- The Preamble has been amended only once by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976. Three new words Socialist, Secular and Integrity were added to the Preamble.



Target IAS Prelims 2022

English Medium

Starts from
16th Feb.
2022



Civil Services, being the most coveted job in India, attracts millions of aspirants from all over the country. However, since the seats are limited, there is also a cut throat competition to succeed in these Examination. Preparation and Razor sharp strategy is the key to success. With this idea and intention, our highly qualified and experienced faculty members have developed distinguished strategy to cover different topics in a well-defined manner. We assist aspirants to develop crystal clear concepts and interdisciplinary approach to crack this coveted exam. Our innovative teaching techniques create a reliable road map to achieve this golden goal. We empower you to fulfill dreams and expectations while nourishing the ingredients of hard-work, determination, confidence with right direction and exam cracking strategy. We work proactively with Aspirants to improve their performance with rapidly changing patterns of UPSC

A student can choose any of the following courses according to his or her requirement.

Target IAS Prelims 2022

Fee: 28,000/-

Objective	Features	Course Content	Faculty Name
<p>The course has been designed to give extensive coverage of all the sections of General Studies including Current Affairs. This program would provide an in-depth understanding of the Dynamic part of General Studies where Expert Faculties would be analyzing the events and developments through live classes and side by side, students would be provided a rich knowledge content pertaining to the Static nature of General Studies through Live / Delayed Live or Recorded classes which they can view unlimited times.</p> <p>The Course would also contain the CSAT part where students would develop a better understanding of various Principles and their applications. Concept building and clarifications would also be a part of the curriculum. Various Techniques would be discussed and taught that would help to solve the questions that come in this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 100 Hrs. of Live Classes which will cover the Dynamic portion of General Studies. * 150 Hrs. of Live / Delayed Live/ Recorded classes which will cover the Static portion of GS which can be viewed by the students according to their ease. * Complete CSAT course content would be covered. * Half an hour of doubt clearing session at the end of all Live classes. * Academic chat support would be provided. * Each class would be of 2 Hours. * Downloadable Study material in PDF format would be provided in the Application. * Course would include 24 Soft Copies of Perfect 7 Magazine worth Rs.2000. * One Online Prelims Test Series worth Rs.2500 	General Studies- Static	
		Indian History+ Art & Culture	Javed Haque
		Geography of India & World	Apurva Mehrotra
		Indian Polity & Governance	Kumud Ranjan
		Economy	Kumar Amit
		General Science	Peeyush
		General Studies- Dynamic (Current Issues & Developments)	
		Indian Polity & Governance	Kumud Ranjan
		Environmental Ecology, Bio-Diversity & Climate Change	Sanjay Singh
		Economy + Budget & Economic Survey	Kumar Amit
		Technology	Q. H. Khan & Peeyush
		Health	Javed Haque
		International Issues	Bharat
		CSAT	
		Maths and Reasoning	Mukesh Singh
		Comprehension	Shweta Singh



General Studies - Target IAS Prelims 2022

Fee: 18,000/-

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		Health	Javed Haque
International Issues	Bharat		

Spotlight Current Affairs - IAS Prelims 2022

Fee: 10,000/-

Objective	Features	Course Content	Faculty Name
<p>The course has been designed to give extensive coverage of the Dynamic part of General Studies. In this course Expert Faculties would be analyzing and explaining in detail, all the current events and developments which are of dynamic nature through live classes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 100 Hrs. of Live Classes which will cover the Dynamic portion of the Current Affairs under GS. * Half an hour of doubt clearing session at the end of all Live classes. * Academic chat support would be provided. * Each class would be of 2 Hours. * Downloadable Study material in PDF format would be provided in the Application. 	General Studies- Dynamic (Current Issues & Developments)	
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UPSC CSAT

Fee: 10,000/-

Objective	Features	Course Content	Faculty Name
<p>The Course is designed to develop a better understanding of various Principles and their applications amongst students. Concept building and clarifications would also be a part of the curriculum. Various Techniques would be discussed and taught that would help to solve the questions that come in this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 150 Hrs. of Live Classes * Half an hour of doubt clearing session at the end of all Live classes. * Academic chat support would be provided. * Each class would be of 2 Hours. * Downloadable Study material in PDF format would be provided in the Application. 	Maths and Reasoning	Mukesh Singh
		Comprehension	Shweta Singh

3 days of additional classes would be provided which would cover Miscellaneous Topics like Sports, Awards, Places, Books and other such important areas.

Attractive Discounts for Dhyeya Students

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- 50% Discount on Current Affairs (Dynamic Portion) for all Dhyeya Students who took admission before 1st April 2020

SYLLABUS OF PRELIMS

Paper I (200 Marks) Duration : 2 Hours

○ Current events of national and international importance.
○ History of India and Indian National Movement.
○ Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
○ Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
○ Economic and Social Development, Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.
○ General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change- that do not require subject specialization.
○ General Science.

Paper II (200 Marks) Duration : 2 Hours

○ Comprehension
○ Interpersonal skills including communication skills;
○ Logical reasoning and analytical ability
○ Decision making and problem solving.
○ General mental ability
○ Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, order of magnitude, etc.) (Class X level),
○ Data Interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc.- Class X level)



Target UPPCS Prelims 2022

English Medium

Starts from
16th Feb.
2022



Civil Services, being the most coveted job in India, attracts millions of aspirants from all over the country. However, since the seats are limited, there is also a cut throat competition to succeed in these Examination. Preparation and Razor sharp strategy is the key to success. With this idea and intention, our highly qualified and experienced faculty members have developed distinguished strategy to cover different topics in a well-defined manner. We assist aspirants to develop crystal clear concepts and interdisciplinary approach to crack this coveted exam. Our innovative teaching techniques create a reliable road map to achieve this golden goal. We empower you to fulfill dreams and expectations while nourishing the ingredients of hard-work, determination, confidence with right direction and exam cracking strategy. We work proactively with Aspirants to improve their performance with rapidly changing patterns of UPPSC

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		International Issues	Bharat Singh
		CSAT	
		Maths and Reasoning	Mukesh Singh
		Comprehension	Shweta Singh
English Language	Athar Abbasi		
General Hindi	Sandeep Sahil		

General Studies - Target UPPCS Prelims 2022

Fee: 18,000/-

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		Health	Javed Haque
		International Issues	Bharat Singh

Spotlight Current Affairs - UPPCS Prelims 2022

Fee: 10,000/-

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		Technology	Q. H. Khan & Peeyush
		Health	Javed Haque
		International Issues	Bharat Singh

UPPCS CSAT

Fee: 10,000/-

Objective	Features	Course Content	Faculty Name
<p>The Course is designed to develop a better understanding of various Principles and their applications amongst students. Concept building and clarifications would also be a part of the curriculum. Various Techniques would be discussed and taught that would help to solve the questions that come in this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 150 Hrs. of Live Classes * Half an hour of doubt clearing session at the end of all Live classes. * Academic chat support would be provided. * Each class would be of 2 Hours. * Downloadable Study material in PDF format would be provided in the Application. 	Maths and Reasoning	Mukesh Singh
		Comprehension	Shweta Singh
		English Language	Athar Abbasi
		General Hindi	Sandeep Sahil

Students who have enrolled for any of the first 3 courses, would be provided additional 10 days of UP Special Classes.

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SYLLABUS OF PRELIMS

Paper I (200 Marks) Duration : 2 Hours	Paper II (200 Marks) Duration : 2 Hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current events of national and international importance. ○ History of India and Indian National Movement. ○ Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World. ○ Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc. ○ Economic and Social Development, Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc. ○ General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization. ○ General Science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comprehension ○ Interpersonal skills including communication skills. ○ Logical reasoning and analytical ability. ○ Decision making and problem solving ○ General mental ability ○ Elementary Mathematics upto Class X level-Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics ○ General English upto Class X level ○ General Hindi upto Class X level

AN INTRODUCTION



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

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

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

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

We feel that despite brilliance and diligence, most of the students are lacking proper guidance and aptitude needed to clear Civil Services Examination. This is why, we at Dhyeya IAS amalgamated the traditional as well as modern approach of teaching by incorporating best educators of the industry ably supported by Academic Associates, Class Notes and printed Study Material, routine as well as surprise Tests. Due to its arduous efforts, Dhyeya IAS is able to carve a niche among all the civil services coaching institutes in India. Access to an institution is as important as the quality of Institution. Our faith in this philosophy made us grow. With 12 Face to Face Centers located in different parts in India, Distance Learning Program, Live Streaming Centers and Residential Academy, we have made truly pan India presence. Ever since the foundation the institute has produced a heavy pool of bureaucrats both at central and state level. Dhyeya IAS not only aims at imparting the content of civil services in best way but also nurturing the aspirants as leaders of tomorrow who have a responsibility of fulfilling the dreams of around 1.4 billion Indians. Dhyeya IAS has guided over 50,000 aspirants with more than 4000 selections in civil services. Our journey is a small contribution for the development of the society and nation by nurturing the potential civil services aspirants.

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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Face to Face Centres

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