

PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 2022 / Issue -1



Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises,
Government of India

MSME
MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम



WHAT IS UGC'S
DUAL DEGREE
PROGRAMME
AND HOW WILL
IT WORK?



- Achieving net-zero targets
- Achieving Social Justice through Health Infrastructure
- Growing Civilization Crisis in India
- New dimensions of India-UK Relations
- UGC allowing Two Degree courses simultaneously for students
- Lessons for MSMEs in the post Covid-19
- Power crisis in India is a serious issue



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1.	May, 2022	08/05/2022	15/05/2022	Last Sunday of every month
2.	June, 2022	12/06/2022	19/06/2022	Last Sunday of every month
3.	July, 2022	10/07/2022	17/07/2022	Last Sunday of every month
4.	August, 2022	14/08/2022	21/08/2022	Last Sunday of every month
5.	September., 2022	11/09/2022	18/09/2022	Last Sunday of every month
6.	October, 2022	09/10/2022	16/10/2022	Last Sunday of every month
7.	November, 2022	13/11/2022	20/11/2022	Last Sunday of every month
8.	December, 2022	11/12/2022	18/12/2022	Last Sunday of every month
9.	January, 2023	08/01/2023	15/01/2023	Last Sunday of every month
10.	February, 2023	12/02/2023	19/02/2023	Last Sunday of every month
11.	March, 2023	12/03/2023	19/03/2023	Last Sunday of every month
12.	April, 2023	09/04/2023	16/04/2023	Last Sunday of every month



These allotted dates are tentative and subject to change under special circumstances.



Director's Message

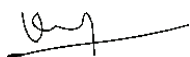


Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh

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

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Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder



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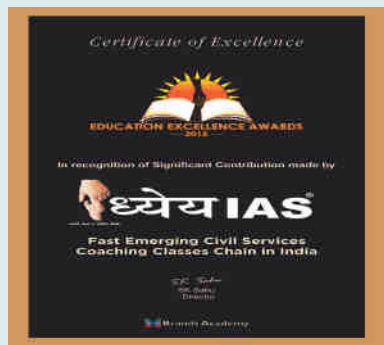
Our brand of education has broad horizons as we believe in exposure. Our students are encouraged to widen their knowledge base and study beyond the confinements of the syllabus. We aim to lend a gentle guiding hand to make our students recognize their inner potential and grow on their own accord into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

Yours very truly,



Q H Khan
Managing Director

PREFACE



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

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

Vinay Kumar Singh
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PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Hindi & English
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Monthly
News Paper



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UGC Allows Two Degree Courses Simultaneously for Students

Why in News

Recently, the University Grant Commission (UGC) has released the guidelines regarding the provision to pursue two regular academic programs simultaneously at the higher education level. These provisions will be applicable from the academic season 2022-23. These provisions are in line with the intentions of the New Education Policy 2020.

Background

- According to the New Education Policy 2020, education should be more experiential, holistic, integrated and flexible. This policy promotes the development of an imaginative and flexible curricular structure to enable the combination of disciplines for study.
- This policy also offers multiple entries and exit points to remove currently rigid boundaries. It also aims to create new possibilities for lifelong learning. It emphasizes the need to facilitate multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal educational modes.

Guidelines

- A student can pursue two full-time academic programs in the physical mode provided that class timings for one program do not overlap with that of another program.
- A student can pursue two academic programs, one in full-time physical mode and another in open and distance learning/online mode.
- A student can also pursue up to

two open and distance learning/online programs simultaneously.

- Degree or diploma programs under open and distance learning/online mode should be pursued with only such Higher Educational Institutions which are recognised by UGC/ statutory Council/Government of India for running such a program.
- These guidelines will become effective from the date of notification by the UGC. No retrospective benefit can be claimed by students who have already done two academic programs simultaneously before the notification of these guidelines.
- The permitted combination of subjects will vary from one institution to another according to the provisions made by the institutions themselves.
- The two programs opted for by the students have to be at the same level either undergraduate level or postgraduate level or diploma level.
- The attendance for different courses will be decided by the institutions themselves.
- Eligibility criteria for each program will be decided based on existing UGC and university norms.
- Students will not be allowed to use credit for one program to fulfil the requirements of another program.

Pursuing Two Regular Courses

The most controversial aspect of these new guidelines is allowing two regular courses simultaneously.

Arguments in Favour

- This provision allows the implemen-

tation of the intent of the New Education Policy 2020.

- The lack of flexibility before the release of this provision was a major bottleneck in advancing toward interdisciplinary research and sharing of knowledge.
- It will personalise and customise education based on the students' abilities and aspirations.
- This provision will also promote co-operation between different universities and colleges.
- This provision will also help in improving the career and job prospects of the students.
- It will remove the hard separation between arts and science, curricular and extracurricular activities and between vocational and academic streams.
- It will eliminate harmful hierarchies among different areas of learning.
- It will offer the students a range of disciplines including sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, languages as well as professional, technical and vocational subjects to make them thoughtful, well rounded and creative individuals.
- This provision provides necessary autonomy to universities and colleges to design their courses according to their educational standards.
- This provision will make sure that there is no overlap between undergraduate, postgraduate or diploma courses.
- Allowing two regular courses at the same time is also in accordance with the International best practices.

- It will help students in switching careers from one discipline to another
- It will also lead to the development of time management skills.
- This provision will also save students' time in terms of years.

Arguments against

- There is no mention of this provision directly in the New Education Policy 2020.
- It will create extra mental stress on the students.
- It can be more expensive for students, putting an unnecessary economic burden on them.
- Achieving specialized knowledge in a single field will be difficult.
- Having a degree in two different streams cannot always be beneficial in the job market.
- Usually, a regular degree is designed in such a way that the holistic and well-rounded development of students occurs. so the use of two degrees simultaneously may be limited.
- This provision may create a scarcity of seats in reputed Higher Education Institutions.
- It may also lead to the capture of seats by students who belong to economically affluent families.
- This provision may also create transport problems for students taking courses in different colleges.
- Usually pursuing one degree takes most of the time of the day, thus the student pursuing two degrees may not do full justice with either of the two degrees.
- Pedagogy will also require suitable changes to meet the demands of a diverse set of students.
- This provision will also create logistic, administrative and academic problems for universities and colleges.
- According to the All India Survey on Higher Education Report 2019-20, the national average college density

in India is 30 per lakh. These limited colleges should be promoted to serve a wider population rather than reserving two seats for one student.

- UGC's Furqan Qamar Committee had also recommended against this provision a decade earlier.

Way forward

- UGC may reduce the duration of the second degree rather than allowing two degrees simultaneously as suggested by its 2004 document for initiation of double/multiple degree programs in engineering disciplines.
- Higher Education Institutions should ensure that applicants who are opting for only one program are given preference.
- Higher Education Institutions should offer only vacant seats to the students to pursue a second degree in physical mode.
- UGC should design training and orientation programs for teachers to help them adapt to the new provision.
- Institutional autonomy should not be hampered in the garb of implementing the new provision.
- Reputed Higher Education Institutions should be promoted to design more online courses so that the demand for a second degree is fulfilled without burdening the existing limited classroom infrastructure.
- Career counselling facilities should be made available to the students pursuing a second degree so that they can choose the degree which complements their first degree in the job market as well as be suitable according to their talent and interest.
- Multiple Intelligence tests should be made available to the students to make them identify the fields where they have a natural advantage.
- Scholarship benefits for students of vulnerable sections should continue even for the second degree.



Conclusion

While the advantages and disadvantages of allowing two regular degrees simultaneously may be debatable, there is no doubt that this step shows the resolve of UGC in migrating toward a more vibrant and competitive higher education atmosphere. While trying to make students more prepared for the demands of the job market, UGC should also ensure that higher education should fulfil the ancient Indian goal of 'Saa Vidya Yaa Vimuktaye' (Education which provides freedom) by developing character, ethical and constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity and spirit of service.

NOTES



Achieving net-zero targets will need orderly fiscal transition

Why in News:

The transition to renewables will add stress on the Centre and States' finances. Imposing higher taxes on demerit goods could be a way out.

Context:

- India's net-zero commitments have made the energy transition from fossil fuel inevitable. It is going to be a complex task with many interlinked moving parts. As India currently gets a large part of its revenue from fossil fuels, fiscal transition will play an important part.

At the 26th Conference of Parties (CoP26), Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a five-fold strategy — termed as the panchamrita — to achieve Net Zero emissions. These five points include:

- India will get its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatt (GW) by 2030
- India will meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
- India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now onwards till 2030.
- By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45 per cent.
- So, by the year 2070, India will achieve the target of Net Zero.
- In a recently published IMF-BU Working Paper, we have studied how governments' (both Centre and State) revenue from coal, oil and natural gas, will be affected over the next two decades as India shifts toward renewable

energy sources. We use the International Energy Associations (IEA) scenarios for India to represent the future states of the world. Under fairly standard assumptions on growth, prices and taxes, there would be continued growth in revenues from fossil fuels till 2040. However, revenues would fall significantly as a share of the gross domestic product (GDP) and overall government budget, which would naturally impose fiscal challenges for both the Central and State governments in the next two decades.

- On examining the revenue from fossil fuels, we found that more than a fifth of the Centre's revenues were from fossil fuels as of 2019 which included both tax (both direct and indirect) and non-tax revenues (including royalties, dividends etc.) paid by public sector undertakings.

- For the State governments, total revenue from fossil fuels was lower at about 8 per cent of total revenue. The combined revenue for both the Centre and States was 13 per cent of the total revenue collected, which translates in to 3.2 per cent of India's GDP. To understand the enormity of the revenue from fossil fuels, this is much higher than India's Defence expenditure, and comparable to the combined education, culture and sports expenditures of both the Centre and States.

- As we start pursuing our net-zero commitments, the first step would be to reduce the use of fossil fuels and consequently this major source of revenues will disappear. As India under-

goes this energy transition, it would be forced to undergo a fiscal transition.

Fiscal transition

- So, how will India cope with fiscal transition? The government may impose additional taxes on coal or something like a carbon tax. Similarly, if current events are any indication, when the government experiences revenue stress, it finds energy to be the easiest source of revenues.

- In our analysis, we calculated revenue from fossil fuels for 2019 and use the same for projections as well. However, if the events post 2019 are any indication, it only reinforces our analysis. During the Covid period, governments' reliance on fossil fuel for revenues — mainly petroleum increased.

- Despite decrease in the international crude oil prices, taxes on petrol/diesel in India were increased leading to decoupling of international and domestic oil prices. According to latest data, the revenue from petroleum was 2.7 per cent of GDP in 2019-20 which increased to 3.4 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 on account of higher excise and VAT.

- Such indirect measures can lead to higher revenues from fossil fuel, but only for a limited period. Over time the revenues from fossil fuel will steadily fall as India shifts to renewable energy sources, ramps down the use of fossil fuels, and as electric vehicles (EVs) increase.

- According to our estimates, if

current economic trends persist, revenues are estimated to fall from 3.2 per cent in 2019 of GDP to 1.8 per cent and 1 per cent in 2030 and 2040 respectively.

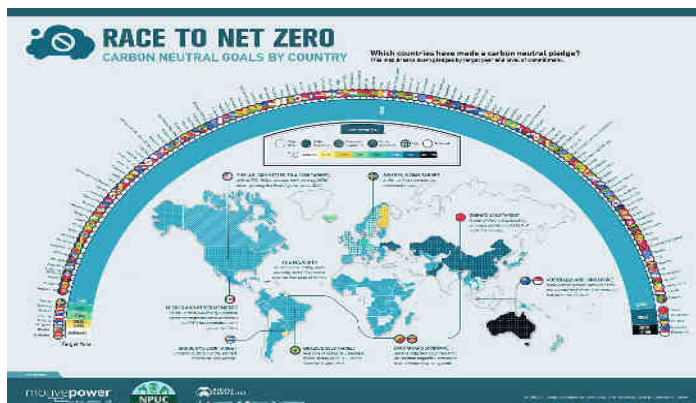
- Fiscal pressures on the Centre and States will make investing in energy infrastructure difficult. On the top of that, a large part of the energy transition may need to be supported through direct or indirect subsidies by concession of excise duty on EVs, concessional GST on electric cars, concessions given under Green Hydrogen Policy etc like the Small wind energy and Hybrid systems programme. The subsidies will add to the Centre and States' fiscal stress. But without these subsidies the energy transition itself may slow down.
- The declining revenue can have political economy ramifications as well. Last year, when GST compensation was paid to state governments, it put stress on certain state's revenue.. Furthermore, under the GST structure, States have limited autonomy to raise taxes, which may exacerbate the issue.
- The Centre in the last few years have started collecting more revenues via cess which is not shared with States, running the risk of straining the center-State relationship.
- The question that arises, is how can India deal with this challenge? The tax-to-GDP ratio in India has been very sticky in the last decade but fortunately, GST revenues are buoyant now.

Solution for climate financing:

- **Role of banks in tackling climate change:** The banking sector has been the backbone of India's commercial activity through its transition into a major economic powerhouse. Its role, therefore, as a major driver in mitigating the impact of climate change cannot be ignored. It is important for

financial institutions to bolster the transition towards net-zero emissions through continued efforts in financing green infrastructure in the country.

- **Green financing:** India's dedicated "Green Finance" sector today is still at a nascent stage. An ongoing study by the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) finds that India could only mobilize ~\$18 billion in climate investments in 2018 compared to the annual requirement of ~\$160 billion. Green bonds - fixed income securities whose proceeds go specifically to low carbon climate resilient projects can be a key source of funding for green initiatives in India.



Way forward:

- Over a period of time, this buoyancy may compensate for the fall in fossil fuel revenues. Also, it is crucial for the government to continue with the formalisation drive to increase the tax base. However, these are long-term processes. In the short run, India would need to increase revenues from some other source like increasing tax on demerit goods like alcohol, tobacco etc. to compensate for the reduction in energy sourced from fossil fuels.

NOTES



Achieving Social Justice Through Health Infrastructure

Context

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister has said that better health facilities are not only limited to the treatment of disease but also encourage social justice.

Introduction

After inaugurating (virtually) a multi-specialty hospital in Bhuj, the Indian Prime Minister has described health services as an important tool in achieving social justice. He said that quality health services are linked to poverty alleviation and promote social justice. Along with this, the Prime Minister emphasized that now health policies are being made by keeping social justice in center.

Status of India's Health Sector

India is a developing country with a large population. Here basic facilities like health and education are still in the stage of development, which often face challenges. The recent pandemic (Corona) also exposed the shortcomings of India's health system. Although the Indian health sector performed well even in such a large population and absence of better health infrastructure. But it was not enough for a problem like Corona. Along with this, many problems like heart attack, diabetes, and leprosy are found in India, which not only affect the health of the people but also give rise to social and economic injustice by increasing inequality among people. The major challenge before the health sector in India is the lack of health infrastruc-

ture in India.

Challenges in front of Indian health infrastructure

- At present there are 541 Medical Colleges all over India with a combined capacity of 80,312 MBBS seats. This is no doubt a large number, but in a large country like India, where a large number of patients come out every year, this number is insufficient. There is only one doctor available for 13000 people in the country, whereas the global ideal ratio is 1:1000.
- Most of the secondary and tertiary health care hospitals are located in Tier-I and Tier-II cities. Along with this, the highly specialized doctors do not want to practice in rural areas. As a result of this, inequality comes between rural and urban areas, which will eventually result in state-wise inequality. States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi have better health facilities, whereas Bihar, Jharkhand, and North Eastern states have fewer health facilities.
- According to a 2017 World Bank report, India has 85.7 physicians per 100,000 people (98 in Pakistan, 100 in Sri Lanka, and 241 in Japan). India has only 53 beds per 100,000 people, while Pakistan has 63, Bangladesh 79.5, and Japan has 1,298.
- The same report also stated that India has 172.7 nurses and midwives per 100,000 people, while Japan has 1,220. According to the report, OOP accounts for 62% of the total health expenditure in India and it is the highest out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure in the world.

- The private sector contributes about 80 percent of the health expenditure in India while the remaining 20 percent is contributed by the public sector. Along with this, the private sector represents 58 percent of hospitals and 81 percent of doctors in India. Since the private sector is driven by a "profit oriented motive", so either it is out of the reach of the poor or after bearing its expenditure, the person becomes financially crippled, which enhanced socio-economic inequality. Along with this, there are many other problems like the cost of health-related education, lack of skills among personnel, lack of suitable health-related machines in remote areas, etc., which weaken the health infrastructure of India.

Efforts done for strengthening health infrastructure

In recent years, several efforts have been made to strengthen the health infrastructure, which are described as follows:

Health budget of India

- Normally India's health budget ranged from 1.3% to 1.5% of GDP. However, to reduce the impact of the Corona period, Rs 2,23,846 crore was allocated in the Union Budget for the financial year 2021-22 for expenditure on the 'Health and Wellness Sector'. This was about 6.43% of the total budget provision..
- In this year (Budget Year 2022-23), a financial allocation of 89,251 crores has been made for the health sector. India's target has been set to spend up

to 2.5% of GDP in the health sector by 2025 (as per health policy)

National Health Policy:-

- This is launched in 2017. This policy includes the broad principles of Professionalism, Integrity, Ethics, Equity, Affordability, Universality, Patient-Centered and Quality of Care, Accountability, and Pluralism.
- The objective of this policy is to achieve universal access to quality health services without financial burden. The policy seeks to increase public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP in a phased manner.

Investment in health infrastructure

- Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission has been launched with an outlay of ₹64,180 crore over a period of five years. The scheme provides for establishment of Critical Care Hospital Blocks in 12 Central Institutes like All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals in 602 districts.
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna Scheme promotes infrastructure in medical education and health service delivery in the inaccessible areas of the country. This year a budgetary allocation of 10000 crores has been made for this scheme.
- Along with these schemes, health services are being improved through investments in schemes like Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Health and Wellness Center, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana, Corona Vaccination, etc., which would be helpful to achieve the ideal social justice.
- During the Corona period, India also received wide support at the international level. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Asian Development Bank jointly provided a

\$2 billion loan to India for vaccination. Along with this, cooperation was also provided by World Bank, World Health Organization.

How social justice can be achieved through health infrastructure?

- Increase in social infrastructure will lead to quality healthcare. Better health is essential for better human resources. Better health increases the productivity of man, so human resources based on the support of better health infrastructure will improve the economic growth of the country as well as its living condition, which will lead to “justice”.
- The participation of women work force (doctors, midwives, nurses) is high in health services. Therefore, an increase in health infrastructure will increase the representation of women which will help establish social justice by reducing gender inequality.
- The establishment of Hospitals or other health service centers lead to indirect employment (like tea, transport, medical stores), which will help in social justice through economic development.
- Quality healthcare Helps in poverty alleviation effort. If the health expenditure of the poor is borne by the government, then not only can the poor invest their money in other useful activities, but their trust in the government also increases. So the chaotic acts (theft, dacoity, robbery) done by

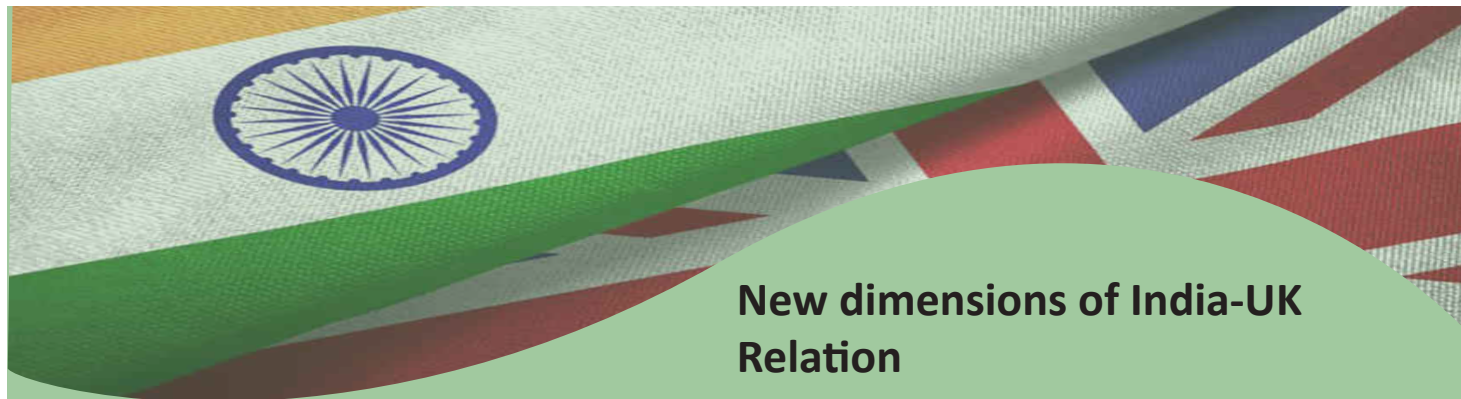
compulsion also decrease. Elsewhere, this situation leads to a step towards social justice.

Conclusion

The concept of social justice is related to social equality and social rights. The main objective of this concept is to end the “exploitation of human beings by human beings” on social grounds (gender, caste, religion, etc.). The importance of social justice is so much that it is considered by socio-political philosophers to be an achievable value. In the preamble of the Indian Constitution, Social justice has been described as one of the objectives of the Constitution and is effectively placed in Part 4 of the Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy). Through effective health infrastructure in the country, not only life expectancy of people is increased but at the same time, their standard of living will also improve that will play an important role in achieving the ideal of social justice in the country. So we can say that a health infrastructure is an important tool in achieving the objective of social justice.

NOTES





New dimensions of India-UK Relation

Context

Recently, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited India. It may be noted that sometime before this British Foreign Secretary Miss Truss had visited India. During the Russia-Ukraine war, these high-level visits have given a new dimension to the relations between India and Britain.

Introduction

The relations between India and Britain are touching new dimensions amidst the challenges posed by the Russia-Ukraine war. In the middle of war, Britain's Foreign Secretary came to India to finalize the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (May 2021) with India. Now the British PM has visited India. It should be noted that India's international stature has increased during this war, this visit of the British Prime Minister is an indicator of that increased stature. During this, India is not only strengthening its international stature but is also strengthening bilateral relations. This was the first visit of the Prime Minister of Britain to India, which he started by paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Sabarmati Ashram. During this visit, many agreements were signed, including free trade agreements, comprehensive strategic agreements, agreements on cyber security, etc.

New dimensions of cooperation between India and Britain:

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** - During this conference, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

(May 2021) was finalized, along with an agreement on the bilateral development of India-UK relations by 2030.

- **Indo-Pacific Region:** - Britain has advocated strong relations between India and Britain in the Indo-Pacific region and has said that bilateral relations will not only bring economic prosperity but will also strengthen the security of the region. The UK has acknowledged being a part of India's Indo-Pacific Maritime Initiative to enhance the security of the region and has pledged to be a partner in South-East Asia's maritime security.

- o It should be noted that in 2021, a joint naval exercise was conducted in the Bay of Bengal between India, Britain, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore.

- **Cyber Security Program:** - Britain has talked about promoting mutual agreement on cyber security and defense trade. During this, a new cyber security program has been announced. The objective of this program is to strengthen the online infrastructure in India and to prepare a framework for joint exercises to enhance cyber security between the two countries.

- **Strategic Tech Dialogue:** During this visit, India and UK have announced the first Strategic Tech Dialogue which will be a ministerial dialogue on innovative technologies.

- **Energy Security:** The UK has announced an investment of £70 million for renewable energy sources in India.

- **Free trade:** Negotiations have been held between India and Britain to take

forward the free trade agreement. It should be noted that the initiative for a free trade agreement between India and Britain has progressed. In this context 26 policy areas will be discussed.

- **Investment**

- o The Prime Minister of India has urged British companies to invest in the National Infrastructure Pipeline and Infrastructure Modernization Plan.

- o The Indian Prime Minister has said that the Global Innovation Partnership will prove to be a very important initiative for India. Under this, India and Britain will make a joint investment of up to \$100 million to promote "Made in India" in third world countries, which will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and help in the mitigation of climate change.

- **Other Points**

- o Britain has appreciated India's "Self-reliant India" plan. Along with this, both countries have agreed to the commitments of Glasgow and in this context, India has invited Britain to join the National Hydrogen Mission.
- o Along with this, India and Britain also held talks regarding the end of the Ukraine war, peaceful and stable Afghanistan, territorial integrity, and counter-terrorism.

Challenges before new relationships

- Although the challenges between India and Britain are negligible at present, the British Secretary, who was on the former visit of the British Prime Minister, expressed concern

over India's relations with Russia. The British Secretary had appealed to India to stop Russia's aggression in this context, s.jaishankar in USA argued against this crude issue by saying that India probably buys less oil from Russia in month than what Europe does in one afternoon.

Importance of Britain to India

- Britain is a significant power in the Indo-Pacific region. The UK Navy has access to Oman, Singapore, Kenya, Bahrain, and the British Indian Ocean region. At present, the world balance of power is shifting from the Atlantic to the Indo-Pacific region where China's aggression already exists. Therefore, India-UK cooperation is important in preventing China's aggression in this area.
- Britain is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. At present, India has good relations with all other permanent countries except China, so in this situation, Britain can help India to get permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.
- Recently there has been an agreement for nuclear submarines in Australia, the UK, and the USA. Potentially such agreements can also be made with India which will be helpful in India's defense and energy security.
- India often urges developed countries to transfer finance and technology in the context of the environment. India can become a leader of developing countries by talking to Britain in this regard.
- At present, India is focusing on bilateral free trade agreements in place of multilateral trade. Britain can become an important ally in this regard.

Importance of India to Britain

- Britain is looking for a big post-Brexit market that can be met through a



bilateral free trade agreement with India.

- Britain was a global power before World War II which has now turned into a regional power. Britain is trying to become a "Global Britain" again, for which it needs India's cooperation.
- India is the world's youngest and largest market. India's purchasing power is increasing continuously, even as it is the third-largest economy in the world based on purchasing power. Therefore, India will prove to be an important ally for Britain's economy and exports.
- British Prime Minister Johnson is acknowledging the importance of India at the global level, as well as all countries are seeking India's role in pacifying the Russo-Ukraine war. In such a situation, Britain wants to make important relations with India.
- India is the most important country in the Indo-Pacific region and currently the balance of power is shifting towards this region. And Britain is looking to increase its role in the Asia Pacific region, so it is looking forward to cooperation from India.

Challenges between the two countries

- Britain had colonized India for centuries and even today people of Indian origin are attacked in Britain. In these situations, there are challenges in the people-to-people contact between In-

dia and Britain.

- In the present time globalization is moving towards its possible end, in such a situation challenges will come before free trade and multilateral trade.
- Western countries are opposing Russia on the Russia-Ukraine issue while India is following the policy of fairness.
- Tension is building between the two countries on environmental issues, and issues of reform of international institutions.

Conclusion

India looks forward to this "meaningful visit" of the British Prime Minister. While Britain also wants to strengthen relations with an important ally like India, India's cooperation after Brexit can strengthen Britain, while Britain can support India in becoming a net security provider in the Asia-Pacific region. Thus both the countries are important to each other. However, looking at the current situation, it can be said that India is emerging as a leader, in such a situation Britain can become an important ally for India.

NOTES



Power crisis in India is a serious issue

Why in News?

Despite high coal production, thermal power plants in India are suffering from shortages.

Context:

- Several States across the country are expected to face coal shortages, a scenario that leads to power shortages in the coming weeks with India entering the peak power demand season from April to October. Experts predict that high global thermal coal prices and below normal imports will further exacerbate the crisis.
- In fact, coal supply shortage is playing out at a time when power demand is rising and is expected to surpass the July 2021 peak power demand of over 200 gigawatts (GW). The daily peak power demand for Q4 FY22 averaged at 187 gigawatts (GW). During April 1-12, the average daily peak demand was more than 194 GW.
- Prices in spot markets are also at multi-year highs. The market clearing price (MCP) at the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) in FY22 stood at around ₹4.4 per kilowatt hour (kWh), which is the highest in the last 10 years.
- Coal is the most important and abundant fossil fuel in India. It accounts for 55% of the country's energy needs. The country's industrial heritage was built upon indigenous coal.
- Today, India has the fifth largest coal reserves in the world.
- India is the second largest producer of coal in the world, after China.

What is causing this crisis?

- Depleting coal supplies at thermal power plants, the mainstay of India's power sector, has resulted in this crisis.
- Coal-based power generation, with a capacity of around 210 gigawatts (GW) of the total 396 GW, accounts for about 53 per cent of India's total power capacity as on March 2022.
- Experts predict that depleted coal supplies at power plants will lead to power outages, a scenario that played out in September-October 2021. Due to high demand and interruption in coal supply (mainly due to heavy rains), the coal stock at power plants fell sharply leading to power outages in several States. With concerted efforts of the government, the stocks rose to levels which is sufficient for an average of 10 days at 85 per cent of the plant load factor (PLF), or simply put, capacity.

How critical is the coal shortage?

- The situation at thermal power plants is deteriorating consistently and had reached critical levels. For perspective, as per the National Power Portal, 11 imported coal-based (ICB) power plants had critical stocks, as on April 13. Similarly, 79 domestic coal-based power plants were facing critical stocks of the key commodity on the same day. Again, on April 13, of the total 173 coal-based power plants, the total stocks available were 23.17 million tonnes (MT) against a daily requirement of 2.76 MT. The stocks at this level will last for less than nine days.

Why is this crisis recurring every year?

- Power plants in India having low supplies of coal is not a new phenomenon. The shortage occurs almost every year and the government, despite its various measures, has not succeeded in overcoming the problem.
- At the heart of the issue is the lack of planning and coordination between various ministries involved in the process — Power Ministry, Coal Ministry and Railways.
- While the Coal Ministry blames the Indian Railways for non-availability of adequate rakes, the Railways has pointed out the mismanagement in loading and unloading of rakes by the Coal India (CIL).
- Despite high coal production and despatch by CIL and other PSU miners, the supply at power plants has still not gone above 15 days in the last six months and lack of coordination and planning is to be blamed for this.

What steps has the government taken to tackle this problem?

- To begin with, the government has issued revised coal stocking norms, which mandate the power plants to maintain sufficient stocks at all times; if necessary, through imports for blending to meet any contingent situation.
- Besides, an Inter-Ministerial Sub Group with senior officials from Ministries of Power, Coal, Railways, CEA, CIL and SCCL meet regularly to take various operational decisions to

enhance supply of coal to thermal power plants

- Power Ministry has advised power plants to import about 36 MT coal for blending during 2022-23 with a view to build sufficient coal stock at Power Plants. The Ministry also has a Core Management Team (CMT) to ensure close monitoring of coal stocks at thermal power plants (TPPs) and operational decisions are being taken in CMT to augment supply of sufficient quantity of coal to the TPPs.

Why is Coal a necessary evil for India?

- Coal is the most important and abundant fossil fuel in India. It accounts for 55% of the country's energy needs. The country's industrial heritage was built upon indigenous coal.
- The limited reserve potentiality of petroleum & natural gas, eco-conservation restriction on hydel projects and geo-political perception of nuclear power, coal will continue to occupy centre-stage of India's energy scenario.
- Coal demand is driven by the rising population, expanding economy and a quest for improved quality of life.
- Currently, India doesn't have a feasible replacement of Coal Based Thermal Energy in near future.

What are the reasons highlighted in the Editorial for Coal demand-supply mismatches?

1. Demand for power has soared:

- o For instance, New Delhi's peak power demand touched 5,460 megawatts (MW) recently, the highest ever in April's first fortnight.
- o The national capital's peak power demand had not crossed this mark in either 2021 or in the previous year.
- o Several states, including Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, and Maharashtra, are facing power outages.
- o The coal stock with power gener-

ation companies (gencos) is not adequate to meet the rising demand.

2. Lack of coal availability in stock:

- o Normally, a power plant must maintain 26 days of coal stock.
- o However, at present, several power plants are reporting critical levels of coal stock.
- o Data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) shows that 97 power plants out of the 173 have critical levels of coal inventory.
- o These have an average of 28% of the stock compared to the normal scenario.

3. Poor logistic facilities and Covid-19 worsen the financial sheet:

- o The lack of railway rakes to transport coal is also a major problem.
- o The state power distribution companies (discoms) have also not been able to clear their dues to power generation companies.
- o The covid-19 pandemic has now weakened the finances of many states, raising doubts about the ability of state-owned discoms to clear their dues.

4. Other factors quoted for coal shortage:

- o The stagnation of production by Coal India Ltd (CIL) after the bumper production in FY15 and FY16.
- o In FY22, however, the production rose 4.4% to 622.6 million tonnes.
- o Former coal secretary Anil Swarup has pointed to the tussle between the Centre and non-Bharatiya Janata Party coal-rich states, which can delay environment and land acquisition clearances.
- o High dues of discoms towards gencos and the eventual delay in gencos paying CIL has complicated the scenario.

Do you know about the Coal Reserves in India?

- Coal deposits spread over 27



major coalfields, are mainly confined to eastern and south-central parts of the country.

- The Coal resources of India are available in older Gondwana Formations of peninsular India and younger tertiary formations of north-eastern region.
- The lignite reserves stand at a level around 36 billion tonnes, of which 90% occur in the southern State of Tamil Nadu.
- Top 5 States in terms of total coal reserves in India are: Jharkhand > Odisha > Chhattisgarh > West Bengal > Madhya Pradesh.

Way Forward:

- With temperatures likely to continue rising to a peak at the end of June or beginning of July, electricity demand would further accelerate over the next two to four months.
- Given the plummeting coal stocks, the grid is unlikely to be able to serve higher loads between May and August, making load-shedding and other power cuts more or less inevitable during any period of unusually hot weather. In this scenario government has to take step for tackle the power crisis in India's states.

MSME

The growth engine of New India

Lessons for MSMEs in Post COVID-19 World

Why in News

Medium Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) had been adversely affected by COVID-19 and have been struggling to recover since then. According to a recent survey in the National Capital Region and Uttarakhand, the turnover of around 90% of small firms had declined in the financial year 2020-21.

Medium Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs)- Definition

MSMEs related to manufacturing and service sectors have been defined based on the criteria of investment and turnover.

- Medium Enterprises- Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.50 crore and Annual Turnover: Not more than Rs. 250 crore.
- Small Enterprises- Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.10 crore and Annual Turnover: Not more than Rs. 50 crore.
- Micro Enterprises- Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.1 crore and Annual Turnover: Not more than Rs. 5 crore.

Characteristics of MSMEs

MSMEs are usually run from a single business establishment by the sole trader, partnership or small company. They have limited geographical distribution, product range as well as market share. Their customer base is small and the likelihood of business failure is very high. They have a proportionally high compliance cost burden in comparison to large firms. They have lim-

ited regulatory and marketplace information. They also have less access to technical and legal experts and their training capabilities are limited.

Importance of MSMEs in India

MSMEs are critical for achieving the overall objective of economic development. They are significant contributors in terms of industrial output, employment generation and the share in gross domestic product and export. They provide entrepreneurial opportunities to vulnerable sections such as SC/STs and women. This sector is also important in promoting balanced regional development and bridging the rural-urban divide. This sector also plays a role in promoting and preserving traditional artisanal industries in India.

Reasons for Backwardness of MSMEs in India

Despite the significant contribution of the MSME sector toward the Indian economy, their condition is still backward due to the following reasons

- There are infrastructure bottlenecks, especially for Micro Enterprises. They are inadequately equipped with necessary support systems such as formalisation, technology adoption, capacity building, backward and forward linkages etc. This condition adversely affects their competitiveness.
- Their access to credit and risk capital is limited. Funds at a reasonable cost can increase their competitiveness but credit disbursal to them has remained sluggish in recent periods

due to difficulty in assessing their creditworthiness as well as their inability to take advantage of most of the government schemes.

- They often face the problem of delayed payments affecting their cash flow and working capital availability. Delay in the realisation of such receivables increases their operating cycle and reduces their ability to procure new orders or fulfil the existing ones.

Problems Faced by MSMEs during COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, MSMEs faced restrictions on the economic activities and mobilities due to lockdown imposed by the government and health precautions taken by employees and employers. They also faced a decrease in demand due to limited capital availability with the public and firms. There were also shortages of raw materials and restrictions on trade. Payment delays and labour shortage also affected their working cycle.

Hurdles in Recovery

Even after a resurgence in economic activities, MSMEs are still facing business uncertainties. These uncertainties make them hesitant to avail the financial assistance available under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package. There is also a limited supply of skilled workers due to migration during the COVID-19 period. Their cost of production has also increased due to inflation-related to raw materials. The legacy issue of delayed payments, reduced demand



and supply chain disruption is still affecting them.

Lessons for MSMEs

Some of the firms managed to successfully run their business during the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer lessons for other firms.

Firstly, firms which operated in some key sectors such as human health activities, manufacture of pharmaceutical, medicinal, chemical and botanical products, food and beverage services and manufacture of apparel maintained their business activities.

Secondly, firms which quickly adopted e-commerce activities in addition to their brick and mortar model also ensured their sustainability and even profitability.

Thirdly, firms that switched their business activities towards the products and services which have the demand thrived. Firms related to the production of masks, sanitisers, and home delivery of products are the major examples.

Fourthly, firms which had their saving to invest in the areas that offered new opportunities showed resilience in adverse times. Thus, sound financial management was a key factor.

Fifthly, firms who used their human resources smartly maintained their business activities in the times of the Gig economy.

Sixthly, firms which expanded and maintained their presence on online platforms showed growth, as online

activities were not hindered during the COVID-19 pandemic. These firms adopted newer ways of business and marketing such as search engine optimization, digital marketing, social media campaigns etc.

Government Measures to Promote Growth in MSME Sector in Aftermath of COVID-19

The government has also tried to lend a helping hand to the MSME sector to make them profitable after COVID-19 struggles. It has started some of the new schemes for MSMEs.

- Emergency Credit line Guarantee Scheme provides additional credit at low interest to MSMEs thereby enabling them to meet their working capital needs. This scheme is limited to MSMEs that have existing debts or loans on their balance sheet.
- The government also disallowed global tenders for procurement of up to 200 crores to help the indigenous firms, especially from the MSME sector.
- The government has also established a Fund of Funds which provides equity funding to address the need of MSMEs having growth potential.
- The government has reclassified MSMEs thus bringing some of the firms which were earlier out of the MSME net into it.
- The Credit Guarantee Trust Fund scheme was introduced by the MSME ministry with the Small Industry Development Bank of India to help MSMEs. The trust guarantees credit on their behalf in place of collateral.
- Every Central ministry or department or Public Sector Unit (PSU) has set an annual procurement goal from the MSME sector as a minimum of 25% of total annual purchases.
- MSMEs have also been provided with the benefit of a one per cent interest rate rebate on the overdraft

which can help them secure loans at lower costs growing their profit.

Way Forward

There should be a provision of emergency funds for small businesses which should be mandatory from the beginning of the business. This fund should be used to meet the financial needs of small firms during uncertain situations. The contribution of each firm in this corpus should be linked to their turnover. Government can make it more attractive by contributing a fraction of their contributions.

There Should also be an insurance scheme for small businesses which can help them during adverse times. As there are more than 6 million MSMEs in the country, there is a huge market potential for insurance players. The government may encourage the firms by paying an initial premium or a fraction of the premium on behalf of MSMEs.

Conclusion

These suggestions, if framed and implemented effectively, will help MSMEs during adverse times and boost their confidence during normal business times.

NOTES



Growing Civilization Crisis in India

Why in News

Recently, there has been an incident of lizard rape in Ratnagiri Maharashtra. It shows the growth of the civilizational crisis in India.

Background

A Bengal Monitor Lizard (Lizard) was raped by 4 people in Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. This is not the first incident. Before this, a pregnant elephant in Kerala was fed pineapple stuffed with firecrackers, due to which she died. Such incidents are a blot on the so-called “civilized modern educated society”.

Culture of Symbiotic Relationship between Humans and Animals in India

Traditionally Animals have been part of Indian culture. They have been venerated as a symbol of Gods. They have been companions for the tribals for a long time. They have been also used for entertainment in the village fairs. They have been used as an advantage in the wars such as elephants were crucial in winning the wars. Wildlife tourism has been popular since traditional times.

Reasons for Recent Trends of Ill-treatment with Animals

- The relationship between humans and animals has been commercialized. Animals are seen as means for earning money and the animals who don't have earning potential are ill-treated.
- The ancient value of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (Whole earth is

our family) is increasingly deteriorating which is adversely affecting the relationship between animals and humans.

- The fundamental duty of having compassion for living creatures has been lacking in Indian citizens. This ill-treatment points toward a growing civilizational crisis in India.

Elements of the Crisis in Indian Society

Modern Indian society is plagued by many evils which are giving rise to a civilizational crisis in India.

Historical Elements:-

The civilized Indian society of the Vedic period faced many challenges with time. The caste system was born in the later Vedic period. Due to the importance of Tantra Vidya in the feudal Rajput era, evils like animal sacrifice and male sacrifice (especially in tribes), patriarchy, and sati became a strong part of the society. Diversity increased in India during the Mughal rule which gave rise to a social power struggle. As a result of all this, the fabric of Indian society weakened and it had to face cultural defeat from the European powers that had entered the modern period. Due to European powers, problems like communalism arose in India.

Mob Lynching:-

Mob lynching refers to the killing by a mob. There is a long series from the Dadri mob lynching in 2015 to the Palghar mob lynching (2020), in which

someone has been murdered by the mob just because of suspicion.

Gender discrimination:

Modern India also suffers from the problem of gender discrimination. Even today, Indian women have to face many problems like the dowry system, forced marriage, rape, public humiliation, and harassment at the workplace. India ranked 140th out of 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report-2021. This data points toward the poor condition of women in Indian society.

Caste conflict:

Even in the present times, the caste problems in India are such that the Scheduled Castes have to struggle even for their essential needs like water. This problem is also a challenge for modern civilization.

Terrorism, Naxalism and Organized Crime:

Terrorism and organized crime are governed by fear and trade in fear. Many wounds like the Mumbai attack, Pulwama, and Pathankot are inflicted on society. Naxalism is born on social, and economic inequalities.

Regionalistic tendencies:

The society which had once accepted the shakas, Kushanas, suffers from conflict based on region, language, and dialect. In Maharashtra, the people of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are treated as second-class citizens and misbehaved with them. The people of

the northern state have to face difficulties in the southern states. People of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and the North-Eastern region have to face a trust deficit, not only from a social point of view but also as a threat to national unity.

Communalism

Communalism is a major problem in India. Communalism is a kind of moral, mental, and religious disease, whose treatment is not possible. As the culmination of communalism, India has seen a great tragedy of the partition of the nation. Even at present, communal tension is at its peak in Delhi (Jahangirpur), Rajasthan, Maharashtra to Madhya Pradesh.

Human-animal conflict:-

Acts committed by the people living in the society such as rape of lizard, treatment of female elephant in Kerala, the killing of animals, hunting done for mere entertainment, the use of animals in the circus, Jalikattu or the orthodox Bakrid are symbols of human atrocities on innocent animals.

Causes of the Crisis:-

- Prolonged colonial rule is responsible for communalism, and caste problems in India, which has weakened the elements of Indian culture.
- Power is not only for political positions but also for economic and social values. For example, till some time ago, the upper castes were dominant in the norms of society, but gradually the other backward classes and scheduled caste people are continuously developing and trying to make an impact on the society, in such a situation the struggle between these two classes is inevitable. The same situation prevails on the issue of women's empowerment.
- Vote bank politics in a democra



-cy has become common in modern times. Political parties use people for their benefit in the name of caste, and religion, when these political parties are in power then they formulate policies for a particular class, this situation works not to connect the society but to break it. The caste problem, the condition of communalism is the result of this.

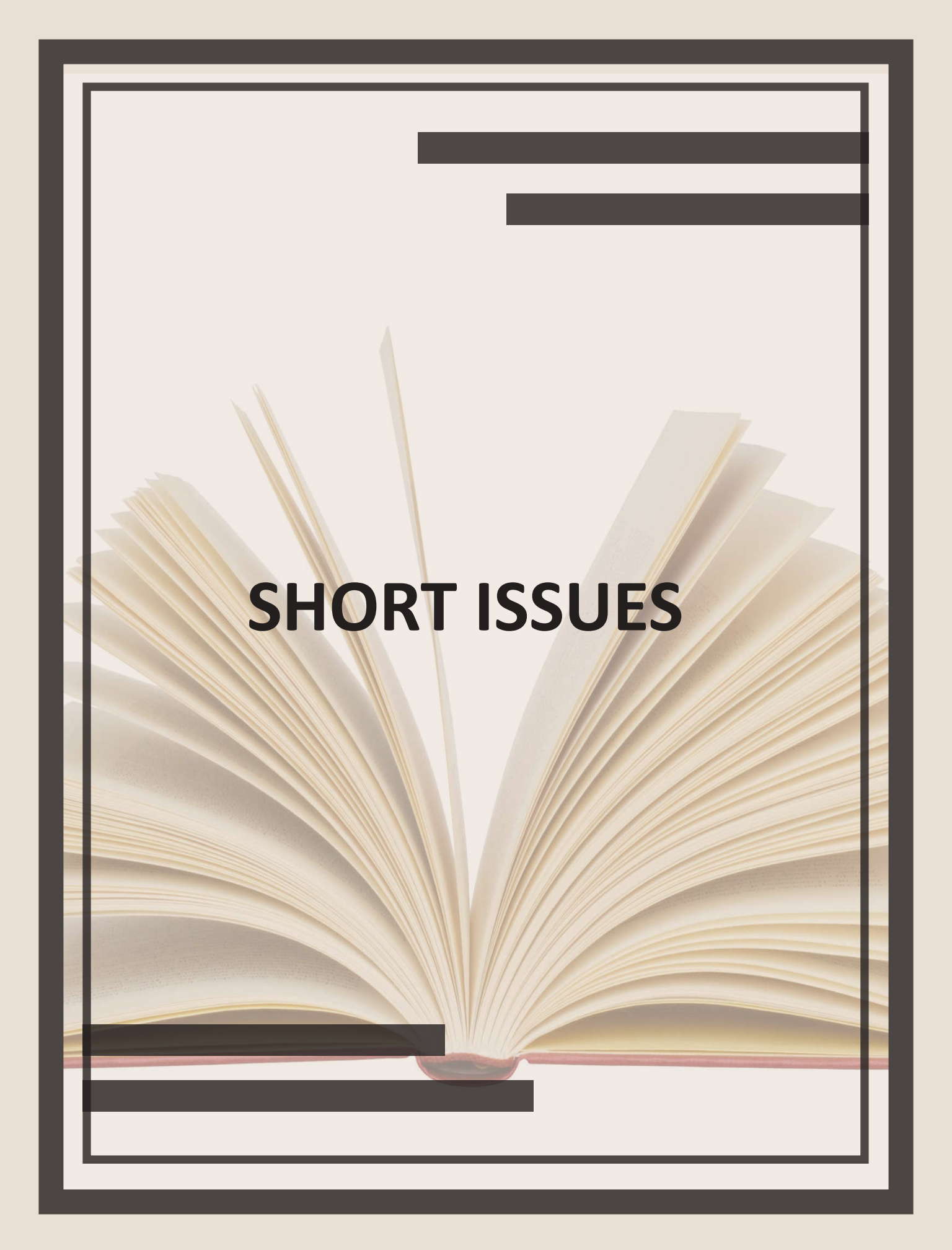
- India is a country full of diversity in itself. A country where ethnic and religious diversity is very high and religion plays an important role in the life of common people. In such a situation, diversity also encourages conflict somewhere.
- The basic principle of any religion is peace, not violence. But due to the wrong interpretation by the religious leaders and others, the public has become more violent. This is the root cause of communalism.
- When cultural import and export started due to capitalism and globalization, at that time concepts like nuclear family, alcoholism, harm to natural elements, and economic inequality were born.
- India has completed more than 70 years of democracy but it's still a young democracy. Due to this neither the feudal powers have been completely defeated nor the democratic dimensions like equality, justice, rights, and freedom have got a lot of strength. Due to which tension has arisen in the Indian society, this con-

flict between democracy and feudalism is also somewhat responsible for the crisis of civilization.

Conclusion:-

These four accused have been arrested under the Wildlife Protection Act. But this situation is leaving a big question for the society of India. The end of this civilizational crisis is extremely important. The civilization of India has seen a period of upheaval since ancient times, but it still has not deviated from its basic principles. The Indus Valley Civilization's fire-worship, water purity, and nature worship are still present in some form or the other. Problems arising out of capitalism can be eliminated by a self-reliant India plan. Therefore, undoubtedly the Indian people can end this civilizational crisis. India will undoubtedly move towards becoming a world leader by ending this crisis.

NOTES



SHORT ISSUES

NATIONAL

1 Some YouTube channels blocked under IT Rules, 2021

Recently, Utilizing the emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting issued directions for blocking of sixteen (16) YouTube based news channels and one (1) Facebook account.

The blocked social media accounts include six Pakistan based and ten India based YouTube news channels, having a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore. It was observed that these channels were used to spread fake news over social media on matters related to national security, India's foreign relations, communal harmony in the country, and public order. None of the digital news publishers had furnished information to the Ministry as required under rule 18 of the IT Rules, 2021.

The content published by some of the India based YouTube channels referred to a community as terrorists, and incited hatred among the members of various religious communities. Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony, and disturb public order. Multiple Indian YouTube channels were observed to publish unverified news and videos having the potential to create panic among various sections of the society. Examples include false claims related to announcement of a pan-India lockdown due to COVID-19 thereby threatening the migrant workers, and fabricated claims alleging threats to certain religious communities. Such content was observed to be detrimental to public order in the country.

YouTube channels based in Pakistan were found to have been used in a coordinated manner to post fake news about India on various subjects such as the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir, and India's foreign relations in the light of situation in Ukraine, etc. The content of these channels was observed to be completely false and sensitive from the perspective of national security, sovereignty and integrity of India and India's friendly relations with foreign States.

On 23rd April 2022, the Ministry had also advised private TV news channels against making false claims and using scandalous headlines. Government of India remains committed to ensure a safe and secure information environment in India across print, television and online media.

2 Mission Antyodaya

Why in News?

Recently some shortcomings have been found in the implementation of Mission Antyodaya by the Government of India.

What is Mission Antyodaya?

The main objective of 'Mission Antyodaya' is to ensure optimum use of resources through the convergence of various schemes that address multiple deprivations of poverty.

Gram panchayat is made the hub of the development plan under this mission. This planning process is inspired by the people's plan of Kerala.

Under this mission, an annual survey

is done to assess the various development gaps at the gram panchayat level, by collecting data regarding the 29 subjects assigned to panchayats by the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

The idea of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is to identify the gaps in basic needs at the local level and integrate resources of various schemes, self-help groups, and voluntary organisations for financing & managing these needs.

Issues regarding Mission Antyodaya-

The Mission Antyodaya survey of

2019-20 for the first time collected data which highlighted infrastructural gaps in 2.67 lakh gram panchayats, comprising 6.48 lakh villages with a 1.03 billion population.

The maximum score value assigned was 100 while no State in India falls in the top score bracket of 90 to 100. 1,484-gram panchayats fall in the bottom bracket.

Even in the score range of 80 to 90, 10 States and all Union Territories do not appear. The total number of gram panchayats for all the 18 States that have reported adds up only to 260, constituting only 0.10% of the total 2,67,466 gram panchayats in the country.

Kerala tops the ranking but accounts for only 34.69% of gram panchayats of the State; the corresponding all-India average is as low as 1.09%. Even for Gujarat which comes next to Kerala gram panchayats in this bracket are only 11.28%.

The composite index data are also not encouraging although only 15-gram panchayats in the country fall in the bottom range below 10 scores.

All the gram panchayats in Kerala are above this and stand out in contrast to the rest of the States. While in the country as a whole only 7.37% have a composite index in the 70-100 bracket, Gujarat which tops the list has

20.5% in the range, followed by Kerala (19.77%) and Karnataka (17.68%). The gap report and the composite index show in unmistakable terms that building economic development and social justice remains a distant goal.

Way Forward-

The scope to reduce the growing rural-urban disparities is tremendous & also the possibilities of realising universal primary health care, literacy, and drinking water supply are immense. But there is no serious effort to converge resources (the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the National Rural

Livelihood Mission, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc.).

Another lapse is the failure to deploy the data to fulfil India's goal of fiscal federalism. The constitutional goal of planning and implementing economic development and social justice can be achieved only through strong policy.

The Indian Constitution mandates local governments to prepare and implement plans for economic development and social justice through Articles 243G and 243W, these goals can be realised through effective implementation of Mission Antyodaya.

INTERNATIONAL

1 Nepal foreign exchange currency reserves

Context-

Nepal is running low on foreign currency reserves needed to import medicines, oil products, cars and a range of other items, and will run out in seven months if things don't improve.

The central bank has increased interest rates, hoping it will discourage people from buying imports and help extend the foreign reserves.

Reasons behind low foreign exchange reserves-

Nepal has restricted imports of non-essential goods – including cars, cosmetics and gold – after its foreign currency reserves dropped. Nepal Rastra Bank, foreign currency reserves fell by more than 16% to 1.17tn Nepali rupees (\$9.59bn; £7.36bn) in the seven months to the middle of February. Nepal's main sources of foreign currency are tourism, remittances from

overseas workers and foreign aid.

Over the same period, the amount of money sent to Nepal by people working abroad fell by almost 5%.

Government debt in Nepal has risen to more than 43% of its gross domestic product, as officials increased spending to help cushion the economic impact of pandemic. Nepal has seen a decline in forex reserves due to the surging imports, declining inflows of remittance and meagre earnings from tourism and exports.

Normally, hundreds of thousands of foreign tourists visit Nepal every year. However, the number declined sharply due to restrictions imposed during the coronavirus pandemic.

The dwindling foreign currency reserve is partly because of the considerable decline in foreign tourists due to the pandemic and the decrease

in the inflow of remittance in recent times. The rising prices for oil in the international market due to the Russia-Ukraine war have exerted extra pressure on the foreign currency reserves of the country.

Role of the energy sector in the current economic situation of Nepal-

- Nepal's main supplier of energy is the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
- Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) pays IOC in two installments every month, on the 8th and the 23rd.
- The NOC has been in crisis for months as high global prices deteriorated the company's savings, making it approach the government for a lifeline.

The baffling situation for Nepal-

- In order to increase foreign exchange reserves, the country has to control imports of products

- which yield them highest amount of tax revenue.
- The country's major source of revenue is Luxury items.
- If revenue decreases, an economic crisis could be in a way for the

country.

2

UK court issues order to extradite Assange to US

Context-

A U.K. court on Wednesday issued a formal order to extradite WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the U.S. to face trial over the publication of secret files relating to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Assange was last month denied permission to appeal to the UK Supreme Court against moves to extradite him to the US, where he could face a lifetime in prison.

Background of the news-

Julian Assange is wanted to face trial for violating the US Espionage Act by publishing military and diplomatic files in 2010.

He could face up to 175 years in jail if found guilty, although the exact sentence is difficult to estimate.

He has been held on remand at a top-security jail in southeast London since 2019 for jumping bail in a previous case accusing him of sexual assault in Sweden.

That case was dropped but he was not released from prison after serving time for breaching bail on the grounds he was a flight risk in the US extradition case.

The US has asked British authorities to extradite Assange so he can stand trial over a trove of secret diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks published online in 2010. He faces 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse.

What has happened so far?

In January last year, a British district

court rejected a US extradition request on the grounds that Assange was likely to kill himself under harsh US prison conditions.

But the US government appealed, providing assurances that the WikiLeaks founder would receive appropriate care and would not be kept in solitary confinement. In December, the High Court sided with the US, finding that promises from American authorities were sufficient to ensure Assange would be treated humanely.

US Espionage Act –

The Espionage Act of 1917 prohibited obtaining information, recording pictures, or copying descriptions of any information relating to the national defense with intent or reason to believe that the information may be used for the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation.

The act also created criminal penalties for anyone obstructing enlistment in the armed forces or causing insubordination or disloyalty in military or naval forces.

What is Extradition?

- Extradition is an action wherein one jurisdiction delivers a person accused or convicted of committing a crime in another jurisdiction, over to the other's law enforcement. It is a cooperative law enforcement procedure between the two jurisdictions and depends on the arrangements made between them. In addition to legal aspects of the process, extradition

also involves the physical transfer of custody of the person being extradited to the legal authority of the requesting jurisdiction.

- The process by which one state, upon the request of another, effects the return of a person for trial for a crime punishable by the laws of the requesting state and committed outside the state of refuge. Extraditable persons include those charged with a crime but not yet tried, those tried and convicted who have escaped custody, and those convicted in absentia.

India's Extradition Law-

- In India, the extradition of a fugitive from India to a foreign country or vice versa is covered by the provisions of the Extradition Act, 1962 which forms the extant legislative basis for this area of law.
- The act lays down the first principles of extradition law. The obligation to extradite springs out of treaties/arrangements/conventions entered into by India with other countries.
- Under Section 3 of the Extradition Act, a notification can be issued by the Government of India extending the provisions of the Act to the countries notified. Therefore, for a comprehensive understanding of the law of Extradition, one has to read the Extradition Act in conjunction with specific treaties.

ENVIRONMENT

1

Green Agriculture Project

Why in News

Green Agriculture Project is being Run in Desert National Park, Rajasthan. Under this project, the Develop Grasslands Action Plan for each village is being prepared with the involvement of the local rural community. There is a strong focus on making the project result-oriented.

Basics

- The Government of India has launched this project in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- It is being assisted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- Ministries involved are the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change (MOEFCC).
- It is a seven-year-long project that started in 2018.
- It is being run in high-conservation-value landscapes of 5 states
 1. Madhya Pradesh- Chambal landscape
 2. Mizoram- Dampa landscape
 3. Odisha- Similipal landscape
 4. Rajasthan- Desert National Park landscape
 5. Uttarakhand- Corbett-Rajaji landscape
- The project seeks to mainstream biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management.

Negative impacts of the agriculture sector on the environment in India

- There is an increasing loss of agro-biodiversity in India due to the loss of

habitats and over-exploitation.

- The agriculture sector is the major land and water user in India. Removing or burning of crop residue, reduced manuring, intensive cropping, imbalanced and excessive application of fertilisers and pesticides are resulting in a decline in soil fertility in many areas. Extensive irrigation schemes are resulting in declining quality and quantity of both ground and surface water resources.
 - The expansion and intensification of agriculture are creating pressure on natural ecosystems and wild species.
 - The agriculture practices inside and outside protected areas are also a threat to protected areas and connectivity between them.
 - Agriculture is the third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. The main greenhouse gases emitted by the agricultural sector are Methane and Nitrous oxide.
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- It is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
 - It is headquartered in Rome.
 - It is composed of 195 members including 194 countries and the European Union.

Global environment facility (GEF)

- It was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- Through its strategic investment, the GEF works with partners to tackle the planet's biggest environmental issues.
- It is a unique partnership of 18

agencies including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs.

- It is a financial mechanism for 5 major international environmental conventions.

1. The Minamata Convention on Mercury
2. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
3. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
4. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
5. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Desert National Park

- It is located in North-Western India in the Thar Desert.
- The Aravali hills mark the easternmost boundary limit of this desert while the Western limit is defined by the plains of Indus.
- The Great Rann of Kuchh forms a boundary in the south while its northern limits are formed by the Sub-Himalayan plains.
- The vegetation of a major part of the arid region of Desert National Park falls under thorn forest type.
- It is an important site for the long term survival of Globally Threatened Great Indian Bustard and other endemic fauna and flora.

2**Cherry Blossom**

Recently a new species of Sakura, also known as Cherry Blossom, has been discovered in India. This new species has been found in the Indian state of Manipur. Cherry Blossom or Sakura is the national flower of Japan.

With the discovery of its new species in Manipur, India has become the 28th country to be included in the Sakura Map. This means that this flower is found in 28 countries including India. This new species of cherry blossom discovered in Manipur has been named after Professor Dr Dinabandhu Sahoo, a botanist, University of Delhi. Its scientific name is *Prunus Dinaband-*

huana because in 2016 Dr. Sahu had planned to organize India's first cherry blossom festival in Shillong. Dr. Sahu was the first Indian student to visit Antarctica.

In countries like Japan, cherry blossoms appear in the spring. The scientific name of the Japanese cherry blossom tree is '*Prunus yedoensis*', which is commonly known as 'Somei Yoshima'.

The scientific name of Cherry Blossom is *Prunus cerasoides* in North-East India mainly in Shillong. It is also known as Wild Himalayan Cherry and blos-

soms in autumn.

Its fruits are edible, but during the blossom season these trees are filled with light pink and white flowers.

The Cherry Blossom Festival, known in Japan as the Sakura Festival, is held every year in April. Australia, Korea, China, America and some other countries celebrate the festival which helps in creating a positive impact on the local economy. Alone Washington-DC through the Cherry Blossom Festival earns about \$126 million each year from tourists.

SCIENCE AND TECH**1****Electric Scooters**

Electric vehicles have emerged as climate-sensitive and eco-friendly options to replace the major cause of urban air pollution. That is traditional or fossil-fuel-based transport vehicles. But this option has been proved fatal to many families who opted for this eco-friendly option. Many cases of electric vehicles catching fires have been reported in the last two heated March-April months. These vehicles were manufactured by Old Electric, Okinawa, Pure EV and Jitendra EV.

Possible Reasons:

The involved manufacturing companies have said they are investigating the possible reason behind the fires. But it is anticipated that weather con-

ditions are extremely severe nowadays, which can be the prominent reason why the electric scooters are catching fire.

As extreme temperature makes the batteries overheat which leads to fire incidents.

Concerns for future

The viability of ecosystem friendly replacements like EVs, and other Lithium-ion battery installed electric products like mobile phones, laptops, and solar power backup storage, have come into the scope of doubt.

- The fire incident of EVs and the number of people who died would decrease the confidence of customers in electric scooter safety mechanisms.

- The another allied concern with EVs is their expensive prices which makes them unaffordable for many households.

- It would have adverse effects on free demands of fossil fuel (Petrol/diesel) based vehicles as people would prefer these vehicles over EVs which would again make the city pollution (urban Air pollution) severe.

Response of Companies

Many electric companies like Pure EV, Okinawa, Jitendra EV and Boom motors have initiated a recall of many scooter batches.

- They also said the battery pack already complies with and it tested for AIS (Automotive Industry Standard) 156.

- AIS 156 is the latest proposed standard for India.
- This standard prescribes the safety requirements with respect to the electric power train of motor vehicles and the Rechargeable Electric Energy Storage System (REESS) of category L vehicles (L-category-2W, 3W and quad cycles)

Government Response

The Ministry of Road Transport and

highways has ordered an investigation into these fire incidents by the Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety and also Mr Nitin Gadkari's Stringent statement against 'electric manufacturers' companies to be bound to face consequences if found "negligent in their process".

Way forward

The matter of fires among electric scooters has to be dealt with seri-

ously as the temperature of the environment is bound to increase due to global warming.

And if future EVs would not be resilient to extreme weather then the objectives of EV adoption would become fatal and problems of urban air pollution and GHG emission may become more severe.

2 India's Green Hydrogen Report

Why in News?

Recently, India's Green Hydrogen Policy was released. It has addressed several critical challenges such as open access, waiver of inter-state transmission charges, banking, time-bound clearances and is expected to further boost India's energy transition.

Relevance of Hydrogen as a fuel for India-

India's per capita energy consumption is about one-third of the global average and one-twelfth of the U.S. The volatility in prices as seen during the Russia-Ukraine crisis could pose a serious threat to our energy security. Hydrogen is touted as India's gateway to energy independence. Hydrogen has a multifaceted role be it energy storage, long-haul transport, or decarbonisation of the industrial sector.

It will complement and accelerate renewables into India's clean energy transition, thereby supporting India's ambitious plan to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Hydrogen has a major role to play in the decarbonisation of India's transport sector.

In the industrial segment, hydrogen can also de-carbonise sectors such as

iron and steel, aluminium, copper etc. It is a huge prospect to produce fuels such as methanol, synthetic kerosene and green ammonia.

Hydrogen fulfils the three Es of India's energy road map — Energy security, Energy sustainability and Energy access.

Challenges in adopting Hydrogen as a fuel-

India's hydrogen consumption was around 7 Mt in 2020 and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has anticipated it to increase to about 28 Mt in 2050. Hence would require suitable production capacity.

Apart from the ever-increasing electricity demand, the high cost of hydrogen manufacturing and water scarcity could also pose a challenge.

Production of 1 kg of hydrogen by electrolysis requires around nine litres of water.

Five-step strategy

On the demand side, a five-step strategy should be devised.

1) To create an initial demand, mature industries such as refining and fertilisers should be incentivised.

2) Industries manufacturing low emission hydrogen-based products like

green steel and green cement need to be incentivised by government policies.

3) Blending hydrogen with natural gas can act as a big booster shot which can be facilitated by framing blending mandates and regulations and promoting H-CNG stations.

4) Further, to promote FCEVs, hydrogen fuel stations may be planned on dedicated corridors where long-distance trucking is widespread.

5) The concept of carbon tariffs needs to be introduced on the lines of European countries.

On the supply side, a five-step strategy should be devised-

1) Investment in Research & Development should be accelerated to bring its cost at par with fossil fuels.

2) Sustainable Alternative towards the Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme with a target to produce 15 MMT of compressed biogas could be leveraged by exploring biogas conversion into hydrogen.

3) To commercialise and scale-up nascent technologies, a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) & Priority Sector Lending (PSL) schemes can be introduced for hydrogen-based projects.

4) The thrust should be on reducing

the cost of electrolyzers by implementing the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

Way Forward-

Hydrogen could completely transform India's energy ecosystem by shifting its

trajectory from an energy importer to a dominant exporter over the next few decades. India could export to projected future import centres like Japan & South Korea.

In COP 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a clarion call of pan-

chamrit (five goals), with an ambitious target to achieve Net Zero by 2070. Hydrogen will certainly play a decisive role in India's Net Zero ambition and in making India 'Aatma Nirbhar in energy'.

3**WARM VACCINES IN INDIA****Why in News?**

A 'warm' vaccine is being developed by the Bengaluru-based Mynvax laboratories, a company incubated at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc).

What are Warm Vaccines?

A warm vaccine is a heat-tolerant vaccine which can maintain its efficacy even at room temperature & does not require cold storage facilities.

About Mynvax Vaccine-

The warm vaccine being developed by the Bengaluru-based Mynvax laboratories for Covid 19 named Mynvax is unique among existing vaccines as it can be stored at 37 degrees Celsius for four weeks and at 100 degrees Celsius for up to 90 minutes.

In a report by BioSpectrum, data shows that all formulations of Mynvax result in antibodies capable of consistent and effective neutralisation of the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.

Benefits of Warm Vaccines-**Increased Distribution:-**

With India's high temperatures, far-flung remote areas and limited capabilities in such rural areas a vaccine that is tolerant of warm temperatures could help increase access of the jabs to the public.

It can be particularly helpful for mass

vaccination campaigns where hundreds of thousands of vaccine doses need to be transported to several vaccination points within a short period. Less Pressure on Healthcare Workers & Infrastructure-

India's cold storage capacity is one of the world's largest but it primarily keeps fresh food, medicinal products, flowers, chemicals & vaccines for infants only.

Much of the capacity for keeping vaccines does not meet international hygiene standards.

It could prove to be a boon for the millions of frontline and healthcare workers involved in all parts of the vaccine drive.

Prolonged Efficacy

Vaccines can readily lose their efficacy when exposed to higher temperatures, which is why they must be safeguarded from accidental freezing during transport as well as interruptions in the cold chain caused by excessive heat.

Issues Regarding Warm vaccines-

Developing thermos table vaccines is not a priority or a core requirement for high-income countries due to their high income & well-developed infrastructure, as a result, the developing & underdeveloped countries that have the real requirement for such vaccines would be left behind.

There are concerns about the efficacy of warm vaccines in comparison to normal or cold vaccines.

Way Forward-

The development of warm vaccines can prove to be a game-changer for developing countries like India as these vaccines can be utilized for other diseases as well. In a country like India having a warm temperate climate in most of the regions, having a large rural population & land area, concerns regarding accessibility & efficacy are huge. The warm vaccines can act as a panacea for such problems in India.

NOTES

ECONOMY

1 Cardless Cash Withdrawals at ATM

Why in News?

RBI recently has announced cardless cash withdrawals at ATMs across the country. These withdrawals are to be authenticated via UPI.

How will this system work?

- Cardless cash withdrawals are to be authenticated via UPI.
- ATMs are expected to show an option for withdrawing cash using UPI.
- Once an user selects this option, they can input the amount to be withdrawn.
- A QR code will be generated on the ATM. Users will then need to scan that code via their UPI app, and enter password to withdraw cash from the ATM.
- Until now, only fund transfers between accounts were enabled via UPI. With this option, consumers can take cash out from ATMs without a card.

Benefits of cardless cash withdrawals at ATMs

1. Enhance security

- According to the RBI Governor, cardless cash withdrawals will enhance security of cash withdrawal transactions. Besides, it would help prevent frauds like card skimming and card cloning.

2. Enable users to take cash from all banks's ATM

- Currently, only existing customers of a few banks are allowed to withdraw cash without cards, and from specific bank's ATM networks.
- However, RBI's move to allow in-

teroperability in cardless withdrawals will enable users to take cash from any all banks' ATM.

3. Invite more Players into the Payment ecosystem

- RBI's move will invite more players into the payment ecosystem in India to innovate and solve further problems of customers.

Limitations and Challenges of Cardless Cash Withdrawal Feature

1. Transaction limit

- This feature has certain withdrawal limits, and the transaction is charged.
- HDFC Bank customers are allowed to withdraw up to ₹10,000 per day and ₹25,000 per month using the cardless cash method. And these withdrawals also have a service fee of ₹25 per transaction.

- At the moment, it is not clear whether UPI-based cash withdrawals will have the same restrictions and service fee.

2. Scalability

- Scalability of this feature might be a challenge as it has to be seen how many banks quickly roll it out to their customers.

3. Now Mobiles can become Target

- In cardless withdrawal, the security vulnerability of a card is minimised, but the risk will soon transfer to a mobile-enabled feature.
- The mobile can now become epicentre of transactions, making it the next target for the fraudsters.

Future of Debit Cards

- Issuing cards will not be stopped, as they have several other utilities beyond cash withdrawals.
- They can be used at a restaurant, shop, or for payments in a foreign country.
- Debit card is a much evolved financial product and has already gone through a lot of iterations to its perfection.
- In its further evolution, we are seeing new use cases for debit cards like having standing instructions or EMI payments.

Conclusion

- There is still a lot of time for UPI to come to the level of sophistication of a debit card.
- Moreover, the debit card will continue to serve some segments of the economy which are not comfortable with pure digital payment solutions like UPI or who want to have higher transaction limits.

2 IMF Cuts India's Growth Forecast to 8.2%

Why in News

According to the World Economic Outlook April report, India's economy is estimated to grow by 8.2% in the current fiscal year (2022-23), sharply slower than the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) earlier forecast of 9%. Global growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1 per cent in 2021 to 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 2023.

Highlights of the report

- India will retain its tag as the fastest growing major global economy. Although India's growth is slowing as the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine weighs heavily on prices and disruption of supply chains. Additionally, Net Oil Importers such as India face weaker domestic demand and lower net exports as higher oil prices are expected to weigh on private consumption and investment.
- Economic damage from the Ukraine-Russia conflict will contribute to a significant slowdown in global growth in 2022. A severe double-digit drop in GDP for Ukraine and a large contraction in Russia are more than likely along with worldwide spillovers through commodity markets, trade, and financial channels. Even as the war reduces growth, it will add to inflation. Elevated inflation will complicate the trade-offs central banks face between containing price pressures and safeguarding growth. Interest rates are expected to rise as central banks tighten policy, exerting pressure on emerging markets and developing economies. Moreover, many countries have limited fiscal policy space to cushion the impact of the war on their economies. The invasion

has contributed to economic fragmentation as a significant number of countries sever commercial ties with Russia and risk derailing the post-pandemic recovery. It also threatens the rules-based frameworks that have facilitated greater global economic integration and helped lift millions out of poverty. In addition, the conflict adds to the economic strains wrought by the pandemic.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s. 44 founding member countries sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation. Today, its membership embraces 190 countries, with staff drawn from 150 nations.
- At the top of its organisational structure is the Board of Governors. The day-to-day work of the IMF is overseen by its 24-member Executive Board, which represents the entire membership and is supported by IMF staff. The Managing Director is the head of the IMF staff and Chair of the Executive Board. She/he is assisted by four Deputy Managing Directors.
- The IMF's resources mainly come from the money that countries pay as their capital subscription (quotas) when they become members. Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy. Countries can then borrow from this pool when they fall into financial difficulty.
- The IMF provides loans—including emergency loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems. The

aim is to help them rebuild their international reserves, stabilise their currencies, continue paying for imports, and restore conditions for strong economic growth while correcting underlying problems.

- Headquarter- Washington D.C.
- Reports Published-
 1. World Economic Outlook
 2. Global Financial Stability Report
 3. Fiscal Monitor

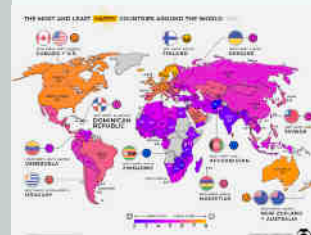
NOTES

NEWS OF NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

1. World Happiness Report 2022 released

The 10th edition of the World Happiness Report has been released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Like the last 5 years, Finland has topped the list this year as well. It is followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands respectively. In 2022, India ranked 136 out of 146 countries. According to the UN World Happiness Report 2021, India was ranked 139th out of 149 countries. This year's list ranked Afghanistan as the most unhappy nation, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana, respectively. The World Happiness Report ranks countries on the basis of several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy etc.

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Switzerland
5	Netherlands
136	India



2. Joint military exercise Lamitiye 2022 concluded

A joint military exercise between the army of India and Seychelles, Lamitiye was conducted from 22nd to 31st March at the Seychelles Defense Academy (SDA). Its main objective is to share experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in semi-urban environment. Soldiers of 2/3 Gorkha Rifles Group participated in the exercise from the Indian side. The aim of this exercise is to strengthen the bilateral military ties between the two countries. The word Lamitiye means friendship. India and Seychelles have been conducting military exercises of Lamitiye biennially since 2001. The first such event was held in Seychelles in 2001.



3. Kerala to introduce carbon-neutral farming practices at select locations

Kerala will become the first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral farming practices at select locations. For this purpose, the Government of Kerala has made a provision of Rs.6 crore in the budget for 2022-23. In the first phase carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms, while in the second phase model carbon-neutral farms will be set up in all 140 assembly constituencies. Steps are being taken to convert the state seed farm at Aluva into a carbon neutral farm.





4. China develop a laser weapon to destroy space satellites

Chinese researchers have developed a microwave machine called the “Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)” that is capable of jamming or destroying space satellites. The RKA has the capability to generate 5-MW wave bursts in the KA-band. The KA-band is a part of the electromagnetic spectrum that can be used for both civilian and military purposes. The RKA can engage targets from the ground but can be used by satellites. However, China has denied that the RKA is a directed energy weapon (DEW). Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) use concentrated electromagnetic energy rather than kinetic energy to damage or destroy enemy equipment or personnel.

5. Neeraj Chopra honored with Sportsman of the Year

Recently Sportstar Aces Awards 2022 has been announced. Athlete and Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra was awarded the Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field). He was also awarded the Sportstar of the Year (Male) award. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu was given the ‘Sportstar of the Year (Female)’ award. Boxer Lovlina Borgohain was awarded the “Sports Woman of the Year” in the individual sports category, Savita was awarded the “Sports Woman of the Year” in the team sports category and Avni Lekhara was awarded the “Parathlete of the Year” award in the women’s category. At the same time, the women’s hockey team has been selected for the ‘Breakthrough Performance of the Year’ award.



6. Nagaland Assembly Successfully Implements National e-Vidhan Project

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly has recently fully implemented the National e-Vidhan Project. The Nagaland Legislative Assembly is now the first state assembly to become completely paperless. With the implementation of the project, members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly will now use electronic devices to participate in the proceedings of the House. The National e-Vidhan Application (NEVA) will help the Speaker of the House in the conduct of legislative business. It has been deployed on NIC Cloud Meghraj.

National e-Vidhan Application (NEVA) Program :-

The main objective of the Neva program developed on the theme of ‘One Nation-One Application’ is to bring all the state legislatures of India on a single platform. The funding for the implementation of this program is divided by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 90:10.

7. Lakshya Sen finished runner-up in All England Championship

Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen lost to world number one Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the final of the All England Championship. Viktor Axelsen defeated Lakshya Sen 21-10, 21-15 in the men's singles final of the All England Open Badminton Championships in Birmingham. He is the 5th Indian player to reach the final of the All England Championship. Prakash Nath first reached the final of this prestigious championship in 1947. This was followed by Prakash Padukone in 1980 and then Pullela Gopichand in 2001. After this Sania Nehwal reached the final in 2015. Lakshya Sen recently became the first Indian to win a silver medal at the Badminton World Federation Superseries 300 German Open 2022.



8. Tamil musical instrument Narasimhapettai Nagaswaram given GI tag

Narasimhapettai Nagaswaram, a traditional wind instrument of Tamil Nadu, has been accorded GI tag. This instrument is made by rural artisans of Kumbakonam. The application for grant of GE tag to Narasimhapettai Nagaswaram was made in January 2014. Based on which the registration certificate has been issued by the GI Registry. Nagaswaram used by artists is also known as Pari Nageshwaram. The main part of Narasimhapettai Nagaswaram is made from the traditional wood "Acha" or Hardwickia binata. Hardwickia binata is a tree also known as Indian black wood. The special thing about the yantra is that wood from some parts of old houses is used to make it. The yantra is cylindrical and measures two and a half feet in length.



9. World air quality report released

Recently Swiss based air quality technology company IQAir released its latest World Air Quality Report. According to the report, New Delhi was the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth year in a row. While Dhaka was the second most polluted capital city in the world with PM 2.5 level of 78.1. The report says that India's air pollution will worsen in 2021. Its average air pollution level of PM 2.5 was at 58.1 micrograms per cubic metre. Globally, Delhi was ranked fourth in terms of air pollution. The most polluted place in the world is Bhiwadi in Rajasthan while Ghaziabad of Uttar Pradesh is in second place. An analysis of the data reveals that ten of the top 15 most polluted cities in the world are in India. While 63 out of the 100 most polluted cities are Indian cities. The report claimed that except Chennai, all six metro cities recorded an increase in air pollution (PM 2.5) levels last year. Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2021 with an average PM2.5 level of 76.9 micrograms per cubic metre. Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2018, 2019 and 2020. At the same time, Chad, Pakistan, Tajikistan and India are also included in the world's five most polluted countries. According to the report, no country managed to meet the WHO's air quality standard (PM 2.5 level of 5 micrograms per cubic meter) in 2021.

2021 World Air Quality Report visualization framework

World PM2.5 levels based on 2017 WHO guidelines and where to go

Region	PM2.5 level	Color	WHO level
South Asia	78.1	Red	5
South East Asia	76.9	Red	5
East Asia	76.9	Red	5
South America	76.9	Red	5
Europe	76.9	Red	5
North America	76.9	Red	5
Africa	76.9	Red	5
Oceania	76.9	Red	5
Antarctica	76.9	Red	5



10. Rating agency Fitch slashes India's growth forecast for the next financial year

Rating agency Fitch has slashed India's growth forecast for the next financial year. In its latest estimate, Fitch has said that the Indian economy will grow at 8.5% in the financial year 2022-2023. It had earlier projected a growth of 10.3% for the Indian economy by Fitch in the fiscal year 2022-2023. Rating agency Fitch said high energy prices (due to the Russia-Ukraine war) and rising inflation have posed challenges to the Indian economy. At the same time, Fitch has revised its GDP growth forecast by 0.6% to 8.7% for the current fiscal. Fitch has also lowered its estimate of world GDP by 0.7% to 3.5%. Last week, the global rating agency Moody's also reduced India's growth forecast for the 2022 calendar year from 9.5% to 9.1%.

11. Indian Constitution translated into Ol Chiki script

Professor Sripati Tudu has translated the Constitution of India into the Ol Chiki script for the first time. Ol Chiki script is also known as Ol Siki, Ol and Santali alphabet. Sripati Tudu is an assistant professor of Santhali language at Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University in Purulia, West Bengal. He started this initiative to make the constitution more accessible to the people who know the Santhali language. According to the 2011 Census of India, about 70 lakh people speak Santhali across India. Santhal tribe is the third largest tribe of India and they mainly live in Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam etc. Santhali was added to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India in 2003 through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act. Taurian Publications, a Kolkata-based publisher, has published a translation of the Constitution in the Ol Chiki script.



12. Deepika Padukone to be part of Cannes Film Festival jury



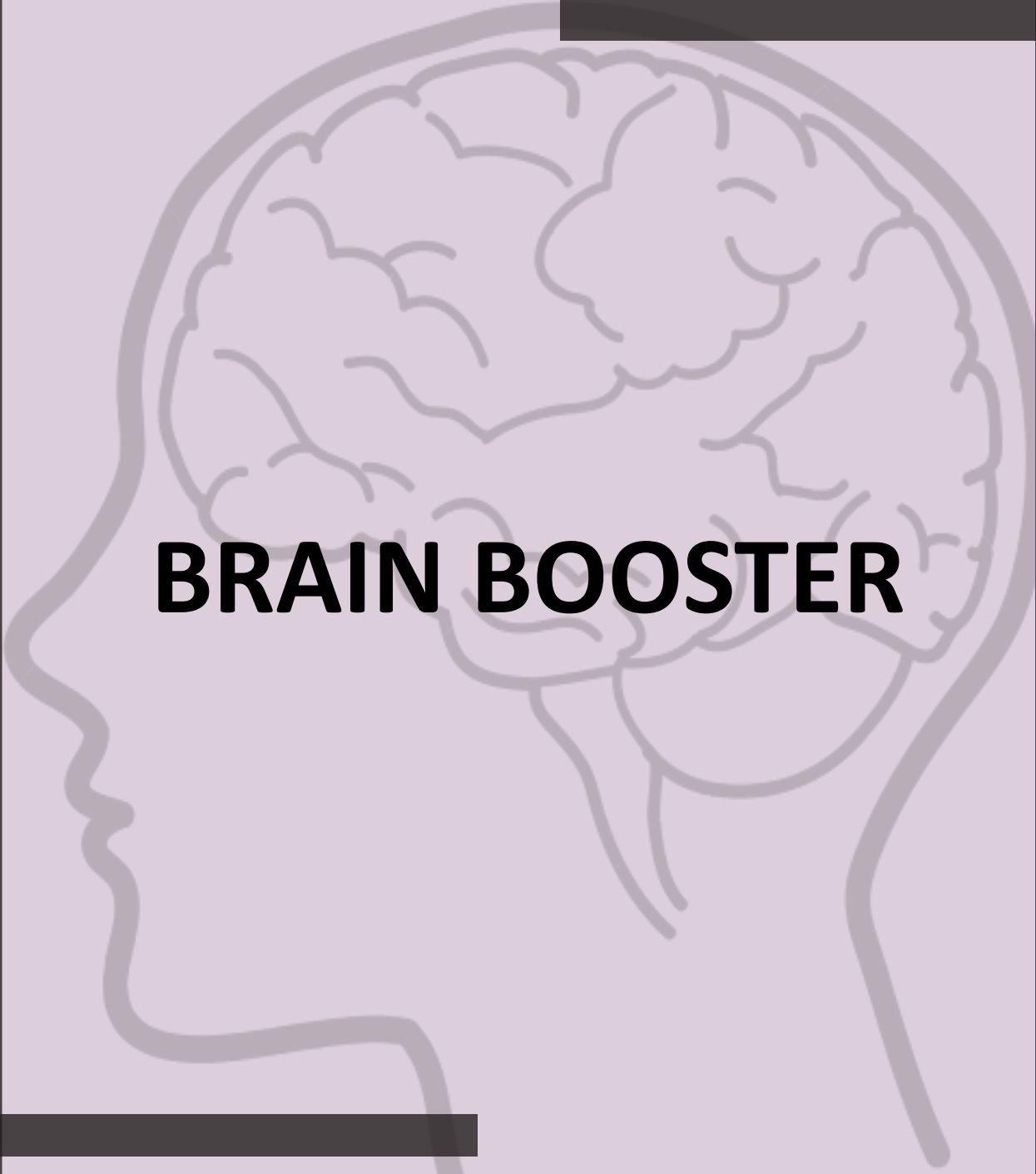
- Indian actress Deepika Padukone will be part of the 2022 Cannes Film Festival jury.
- The jury consists of five men and four women.
- French actor Vincent Lindon will lead the jury at the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.
- The jury will announce this year's winners on May 28.
- **About Cannes Film Festival :-**

It was established on 20 September 1946.

- o It is an annual film festival held every year in Cannes, France.
- o It showcases new films of all genres including documentaries from around the world.

Current Affairs at a Glance

- Pankaj Advani has won the title of 19th Asian Billiards Championship 2022. This is his eighth Asian billiards title. This year the Asian Billiards Championship was held in Doha, Qatar.
- Mukesh Ambani has been named the richest person in India and Asia in the Hurun Global Rich List of 2022, while he has been ranked in the top 10 in the Global Rich List. Indian businessman Gautam Adani has got 12th place in this list.
- Kuwait recently recorded a temperature of 53.2 °C (127.7 °F), making it one of the hottest places in the world.
- Serdar Berdimuhamedon has been elected President of Turkmenistan. He will replace his father Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov.
- Indian economist Jayati Ghosh became a member of the 12-member High Level Advisory Board of the United Nations on Multilateralism. She is also a member of the United Nations High Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation organized 'Wings India 2022' from 24 to 27 March 2022 in Hyderabad. The theme of the event was "India@75: New Horizons for the Aviation Industry".
- The Maldivian government honored Suresh Raina with the 'Sports Icon' award. He was nominated along with 16 international players including cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya, Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell etc.
- American mathematician Dennis P. Sullivan has won the Abel Prize for 2022. Sullivan has been awarded the prize for his contributions to topology and its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects. Topology is a branch of mathematics. It deals with the properties of surfaces that do not change when they are deformed. Topologically, a circle and a square are identical.
- Maharashtra's Jiya Rai suffering from Autistic Spectrum Disorder has become the youngest and fastest female swimmer in the world to swim across the Palk Strait. She swam from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu.
- Exercise Suraksha Kavach 2 has been conducted by the Indian Army's Agnibaaz Division between the Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune.
- Army of India and Uzbekistan participated in the third edition of joint exercise 'Dustlik'. This joint military exercise was organized in Yangiariq.



BRAIN BOOSTER

1. Why In news

Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches across Delhi and Gurgaon in connection with its money laundering probe into the alleged manipulation of the National Stock Exchange.

2. About Enforcement Directorate

- Directorate of Enforcement is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, which enforces the following laws:-
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) - A Civil Law, with officers empowered to conduct investigations into suspected contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Laws and Regulations, adjudicate, contraventions, and impose penalties on those adjudged to have contravened the law.
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) - A Criminal Law, with the officers empowered to conduct investigations to trace assets derived out of the proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach/ confiscate the same, and to arrest and prosecute the offenders found to be involved in Money Laundering.

3. Money Laundering

- Illegal arms sales, smuggling, and other organized crime, including drug trafficking and prostitution rings, can generate huge amounts of money.
- The money so generated is tainted and is in the nature of 'dirty money'.
- Money Laundering is the process of conversion of such proceeds of crime, the 'dirty money', to make it appear as 'legitimate' money.

4. ED's Power Source

- The PMLA was brought in to prevent parking of money outside India and to trace out the layering and the trail of money.
- The ED got its power to investigate under Sections 48 and 49 of the Act.
- In case of money being laundered abroad, the PMLA court has the right to send a letter of rogatory.
- The said government can then share the documents and evidence needed by the agency.

5. ED stepping-in

- Whenever any offence is registered by a local police station, which has generated proceeds of crime over and above ₹1 crore, the ED steps in.
- The ED can also carry out search (property) and seizure (money/documents) if it suspects money has been laundered.

6. Agencies administering PMLA

- The Directorate of Enforcement in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance is responsible for investigating the cases of offence of money laundering under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
- Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND) under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance is the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions to enforcement agencies and foreign FIUs.

7. UN Conventions against money-laundering

India is signatory to the following UN Conventions, which deal with Anti Money Laundering / Countering the Financing of Terrorism :

- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999);
- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000);
- UN Convention against Corruption (2003)

8. Roles and functions of the ED

- The ED carries out search (property) and seizure (money/documents) after it has decided that the money has been laundered, under Section 16 (power of survey) and Section 17 (search and seizure) of the PMLA. On



ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

the basis of that, the authorities will decide if arrest is needed as per Section 19 (power of arrest).

- Under Section 50 (powers of authorities regarding summons, production of documents and to give evidence etc), the ED can also directly carry out search and seizure without calling the person for questioning.
- If the person is arrested, the ED gets 60 days to file the prosecution complaint (chargesheet) as the punishment under PMLA doesn't go beyond seven years.

1. Why in News:

China's government, on April 19, said that it had signed a security deal with the Solomon Islands. The pact, signed by the two foreign ministers, Wang Yi and Jeremiah Manele, paves the way for China to deploy security forces in the Pacific island nation.

2. About Solomon Islands

- The Solomon Islands is part of the ethnically Melanesian group of islands in the Pacific Ocean and lies between Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.
- The islands were controlled by the British Empire.
- The islands became independent in 1978 to become a constitutional monarchy under the British Crown, with a parliamentary system of government.
- Solomon Islands inability to manage its domestic ethnic conflicts led to close security relations with Australia.

3. About security agreement

- The final agreement has not been made public, though it is thought to be along the lines of a draft that was leaked.
- According to the document "Solomon Islands may, according to its own needs, request China to send police, armed police, military personnel and other law enforcement and armed forces to Solomon Islands to assist in maintaining social order, protecting people's lives and property, providing humanitarian assistance, carrying out disaster response, or providing assistance on other tasks agreed upon by the parties."
- It added that "China may, according to its own needs and with the consent of Solomon Islands, make ship visits, carry out logistical

4. Response from other countries

- Given its close proximity to the Solomon Islands, Australia has expressed concern, and is "deeply disappointed" and "concerned about the lack of transparency with which this agreement has been developed, noting its potential to undermine stability in our region".

- The White House is concerned about the potential regional security implications of the accord, establishment of a de- facto permanent military presence, power-projection capabilities, or a military installation.

5. China's Interest in Solomon Islands

- The Pacific islands are among the few regions in the world where China has competition from Taiwan for diplomatic recognition.
- Any country which has to officially establish relations with China will have to break diplomatic ties with Taiwan.
- The Solomon Islands was one among the six Pacific island states which had official bilateral relations with Taiwan.
- In 2019, the Solomon Islands along with Kiribati, switched allegiance to China.
- The small Pacific Island states act as potential vote banks for mobilising support for the great powers in international forums like the United Nations.
- These Island states have disproportionately large maritime Exclusive Economic Zones (rich in minerals & other resources) when compared to their small sizes.
- This is also the reason why these 'small island states' are seen also called as 'big ocean states'.
- Solomon Islands have significant reserves of timber, mineral resources, along with fisheries.
- They are strategically located for China to insert itself between America's military bases in the Pacific Islands and Australia.
- This is especially significant in the current scenario, given the emergence of the AUKUS to counter China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific region.



China Solomon Island Security pact

replenishment in, and have stopover and transition in Solomon Islands."

- The agreement also include,
 - a) How requests for Chinese security deployment may be sent,
 - b) Confidentiality to prevent either side from making the arrangements public to a third party, and
 - c) The duration of the agreement, which will run for five years and may be extended.

1. Why in News:

The state-run Oil India Limited (OIL) had been hit by a major cyberattack that has compromised some of the servers of the company. The ransomware attack had hit the company's headquarters in Assam.

2. Need of a cyber-Security strategy

- As per American cyber-security firm Palo Alto Networks' 2021 report, Maharashtra was the most targeted State in India - facing 42% of all ransomware attacks.
- The report stated that India is among the more economically profitable regions for hacker groups and hence these hackers ask Indian firms to pay a ransom, usually using cryptocurrencies, in order to regain access to the data.
- One in four Indian organisations suffered a ransomware attack in 2021. Indian organisations witnessed a 218% increase in ransomware — higher than the global average of 21%.

4. Suggestions from DSCI report

- Budgetary provisions: A minimum allocation of 0.25% of the annual budget, which can be raised up to 1% has been recommended to be set aside for cyber security.
- Research, innovation, skill-building and technology development: The report suggests investing in modernisation and digitisation of ICTs, setting up a short and long term agenda for cyber security via outcome-based programs and providing investments in deep-tech cyber security innovation.

- A national framework: should be devised in collaboration with institutions like the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and ISEA (Information Security Education and Awareness) to provide global professional certifications in security.
- Crisis management: For adequate preparation to handle crisis, the DSCI recommends holding cybersecurity drills which include real-life scenarios with their ramifications.
- Cyber insurance: The DSCI recommends developing cyber insurance products for critical information infrastructure and to quantify the risks involving them.
- Cyber diplomacy: The government should promote brand India as a responsible player in cyber security and also create 'cyber envoys' for the key countries/regions.
- Cybercrime investigation: The report recommends charting a five-year roadmap factoring possible technology transformation, setting up exclusive courts to deal with cybercrimes and remove backlog of cybercrimes by increasing centres providing opinion related to digital evidence under section 79A of the IT act.



NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY

3. About National Cyber Security Strategy

Conceptualised by the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), the 22page report focuses on 21 areas to ensure a safe, secure, trusted, resilient, and vibrant cyberspace for India.

The main sectors of focus of the report are:-

- Large scale digitisation of public services: There needs to be a focus on security in the early stages of design in all digitisation initiatives and for developing institutional capability for assessment, evaluation, certification, and rating of core devices.
- Supply chain security: There should be robust monitoring and mapping of the supply chain of the Integrated

circuits (ICT) and electronics products. Product testing and certification needs to be scaled up, and the country's semiconductor design capabilities must be leveraged globally.

- Critical information infrastructure protection: The supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) security should be integrated with enterprise security. A repository of vulnerabilities should also be maintained.
- Digital payments: There should be mapping and modelling of devices and platform deployed, transacting entities, payment flows, interfaces and data exchange as well as threat research and sharing of threat intelligence.

5. Way Forward

The Centre has formulated a draft National Cyber Security Strategy 2021 which holistically looks at addressing the issues of security of national cyberspace. It added that it had no plans as of yet to coordinate with other countries to develop a global legal framework on cyber terrorism.

- State-level cyber security: State-level cyber-security policies and guidelines for security architecture, operations, and governance need to be developed.

1. Why In news

Russia's Eastern Military District informed the world about conducting military drills on the Kuril islands with more than 3,000 troops and hundreds of pieces of army equipment in the last week of March 2020. Japan described the Kuril Islands (Northern Territories) as being under Russia's "illegal occupation" on April 22, 2022.

2. Location of Kuril Islands

- These are a set of four islands situated between the Sea of Okhotsk and the north Pacific Ocean near the north of Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hokkaido.
- Both Moscow and Tokyo claim sovereignty over them.
- The islands have been under Russian control since the end of World War II.
- Tokyo claims that the disputed islands have been part of Japan since the early 19th century.

3. Importance of the islands

- The South Kurils are of significant strategic importance to Russia owing to their location.
- The strait between Kunashir and Iturup does not freeze over in winter.
- Control of the islands ensures Russia has year-round access to the Pacific Ocean for its Pacific Fleet of warships and submarines based in Vladivostok.

4. Reason for dispute

- Japan claims sovereignty over the islands by treaties of
 - ☐ Shimoda Treaty, 1855,
 - ☐ Treaty of St. Petersburg, 1875
 - ☐ Portsmouth Treaty, 1905
- Russia, claims sovereignty over the islands by treaties of
 - ☐ Yalta Agreement, 1945

5. Efforts for solution

- Since 1991, there have been many attempts to resolve the dispute and sign a peace treaty.
- The most recent attempt was under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when joint economic development of the disputed islands was explored.
- In fact, both countries had agreed to have bilateral negotiations based on the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration.

6. What next

- Japan's attempt to improve ties with Russia was driven by its need to diversify energy sources and Russia by its need to diversify its basket of buyers and bring in foreign investments.
- The April 22 statement will further damage relations between the two countries.
- Japan has a fear of Russia-China alliance as Japan has territorial disputes and an uneasy history with China.
- Japan might see it as a good opportunity to further isolate Russia and paint it as a "habitual offender" of international law.
- Tokyo might have a feeling that the invasion of Ukraine proves that getting back the Kuril Islands is a lost cause.
- Japan's policy shift on the Kuril Islands will only embitter bilateral relations with Russia.
- It will advance the possibility of two neighbours, China and Russia, coming together against Japan.

Kuril Islands

- ☐ Potsdam Declaration, 1945
- ☐ San Francisco Treaty, 1951
- According to Russia, Under the Article 2 of San Francisco treaty, Japan had "renounced all right, title and claim to the Kuril Islands."
- Japan argues that the San Francisco Treaty cannot be used here as the Soviet Union never signed the peace treaty.
- Japan and Russia are technically still at war because they have not signed a peace treaty after World War II.

1. Why in News:

According to Reuters, India has urged its States to step up coal imports for the next 3 years to build up inventories and satisfy demand.

2. The current Status

- In April, coal stocks in more than 100 thermal power plants in India fell below the critical mark (less than 25% of the required stock) while it was less than 10% in over 50 plants across India.
- The coal inventories are at the lowest pre-summer levels, in at least nine years and electricity demand is seen rising at the fastest in almost four decades.

3. About coal crisis

- According to Minister for Coal and Mines, Pralhad Joshi, Coal accounts for 55% of the country's energy needs.
- The India Energy Outlook 2021 report energy use in India has doubled since 2000, with 80% of demand still being met by coal, oil and solid biomass.
- The country had experienced a similar situation last October, but the coal stock situation is more worrisome now because demand for power will be high due to summer.
- The energy demand will go up as urbanisation and the population increase.
- The IEA estimates that despite the shock from COVID-19, India's demand is expected to grow by almost 5% a year till 2040.

4. About consumption pattern

- Coal is abundantly available, has shorter gestation periods and coal-based plants have lower capital costs than hydel and nuclear plants, therefore, making it the most viable enabler of energy security in the country.
- The conventional resource's capacity addition is further helped by the increased participation of the private sector in power generation.
- In Washington recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India's move away from coal will be hampered by the war in Ukraine.

5. India's stand on renewable energy sources

- The report of the Central Electricity Authority on optimal generation capacity mix for 2029-30 estimates that the share of renewable energy in the gross electricity generation is expected to be around 40% by that financial year.
- A total of 152.90 GW of renewable energy capacity has been installed in the country as on February 28, as per government figures.
- This includes 50.78 GW from solar power, 40.13 GW from wind power, 10.63 GW from bio-power, 4.84 GW from small hydel power and 46.52 GW from large hydel power.
- In accordance with the Prime Minister's announcement at, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aspires to install 500 GW of electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

6. Challenges

- The capacity of a plant does not necessarily translate into the actual power it generates for the grid, some of it is lost owing to external factors such as heat or transmission losses.
- This applies for both renewable and conventional sources.
- Solar and wind energy are variable resources with 'variability' being particularly exposed during periods of peak demand.
- Use of renewable energy would essentially require a balancing act.

Coal Dilemma of India

7. About transmission and storage

- Transmission and storage are central to addressing variability issues.
- They help cope with the 'duck curve' power demand among consumers in India.
- Resembling a duck, the curve is a graphical representation exhibiting the difference between the demand and availability of energy through the day.
- With both wind and solar being variable sources — it becomes imperative to establish a complementing model.

1. Why in News:

With global wheat prices at historic highs in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, India is trying to export wheat to nations that have officially asked for it and capture a share of the global market. World Trade Organization rules may prove to be a hurdle to India's plan to export wheat from state-owned stocks.

2. Status of India's wheat stock

- India expects to produce 112 million tonnes of wheat in the current crop year.
- The government requires 24-26 million tonnes a year for its food security programmes.
- Wheat exports in the 2021-2022 financial year were estimated at 7.85 million tonnes, a quadrupling from 2.1 million tonnes in the previous year.
- Exports this fiscal are expected to be almost 10 million tonnes worth \$3 billion.

3. Expected new markets for India

- Apart from Egypt and Jordan, countries in East Africa are also likely to source the foodgrain from India.
- India has sent out dossiers to over 20 countries and talks are on at different levels with all these countries.
- The aim is to reach early resolution on the Pest Risk Analysis by each of these countries so that exports can take off.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Ministry of Agriculture are also sending delegations to several countries to resolve market issues, if any.

4. Steps taken to facilitate exports

- The Commerce Ministry has put in place an internal mechanism to facilitate wheat exports and get the paperwork ready for the related sanitary and phytosanitary applications to help facilitate shipments.
- Wheat is going in full vessel loads and needs to be transported to the ports from the growing areas.
- The railways is providing rakes on priority to move the wheat.

5. Norms to approve Indian wheat by buyer countries

- Countries that have not previously imported wheat from India insist on the completion of the Pest Risk Analysis to provide market access.
- There are also other different standards that the buyers share with their sellers here.
- While, at present, Indian suppliers are able to meet these criteria, Indian authorities are working closely to step in and negotiate resolution if any "unreasonable" standards are stipulated.

6. WTO's position

- WTO rules make it difficult for a country to export grains from official stocks if they have been procured from farmers at fixed prices, which in India's case, is the minimum support price mandated by the Centre.
- This restriction is a major reason why India's major farm produce such as wheat, rice and pulses have not been exported to their fullest potential.
- Exporting wheat from India is only the latest in a series of confrontations over farm exports that developing nations have had with richer economies.

India's desire to boost wheat exports

7. Future outlook

- The government is optimistic about the long-term export opportunities not only for wheat, but for all cereals including millets and super foods.
- Trade sources say if Indian wheat prices remain competitive and geopolitical and weather conditions stay favourable, the scope is good for wheat exports.
- India has won the confidence of markets such as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- It needs to establish itself in the new markets too and the government should facilitate it.



1. Why In news

In April, 2022 Tamil Nadu government issued a policy note which stated that the State government should claim compensation from the Centre in case of privatisation of an airport or transfer of its assets to a third party. The governments of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand supported the policy.

2. Privatisation of airports

- 2003 marks the beginning of privatisation of airports in India with a proposal to upgrade Mumbai and Delhi airport in public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- The Manmohan Singh government also proposed the privatisation of a few airports, but couldn't implement it.
- In 2019, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Guwahati airports were leased through the PPP model.
- In 2021, the Centre unveiled its plan to further monetise 25 airports managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) over five years under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).
- Tamil Nadu's 4 airports Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) are in the foray.

3. Tamil Nadu's proposal

- Under NMP, the Centre has earmarked four airports for privatisation in Tamil Nadu.
- The centre has requested the State to acquire 64.57 acres of patta land for Chennai airport.
- The Tamil Nadu government presented a policy note in the Assembly on April 19.
- The note states: that AAI is actively pursuing the policy of privatisation of airports.

4. Point of view of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

- Chhattisgarh government said when the Centre and State come together for an earning project, the government's capital is present as a shareholder in terms of the land.
- When that project is sold to a third entity which is a private party, then the assets of the company, which include apart from the infrastructure, the land also. So, the State government should be given the value of the land."

- In the joint venture investment from centre is in the form of infrastructure whereas for State government its in the form of land.
- So, in every such venture, the value of the land should be given to the State government if and when it is sold to a third party which is a private player.
- Jharkhand government has backed the proposal by stating "Land belongs to the State. But if the Centre is handing it over to private parties, revenue should be shared with the State government".

5. Centre's stand

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation is yet to officially comment on the matter.
- Officials were quoted as saying in a news agency report that a decision regarding the matter will be taken at the higher levels of the government.

- The value of land, at an appropriate stage, should be converted into equity of the State government in the airport's special purpose vehicle or an appropriate revenue sharing arrangement should be arrived at before the airport is transferred to a private party.



Revenue sharing in Privatised Airports

- Therefore, if the state government acquires and transfers the lands to the AAI for free of cost and then the land is transferred to a third party.
- In that case the value realised/ revenue accrued, must be proportionately shared with the State government reflecting the huge investment in land being made by the State government.

MCQs Based on Environment and Ecology

Q1. With reference to 'Keibullamjao National Park', consider the following statements:

1. It is only floating park in the world, located in Manipur, and an integral part of Loktak Lake
2. Brow-antlered deer or sangai is found in this national park
3. The threats to the park are due to the permanent flooding of the park

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Which of the following are e-wastes?

1. Brominated flame retardants
2. Barium
3. Beryllium
4. Hexavalent chromium
5. Chlorofluorocarbons
6. Zinc
7. Cadmium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 only
(c) 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Q3. A Food chain

- (a) Is found within the populations of a species
(b) Illustrates the numbers of each organism which are eaten by others
(c) Illustrates the order in which a chain of organisms feed upon each other
(d) None of these

Q4. With reference to 'significance of wetlands', Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Wetlands are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic eco-systems
2. They keep the water table high and relatively stable
3. They mitigate floods and trap suspended solids and attached nutrients
4. Wetlands are important feeding and breeding areas for wildlife

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q5. The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve was included in the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Consider the following statements regarding this:

1. Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is located in the Western Ghats
2. It is a unique genetic reservoir of cultivated plants
3. It is spread across the three states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. India and the US launched the Fulbright- Kalam Climate Fellowship. With reference to this fellowship, consider the following statements:

1. Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships are offered for Postdoctoral Research only
2. This fellowship programme will enable Indian research scholars to work with American institutions in the field of climate change

3. The fellowship will be operated by the bi-national US-India Educational Foundation (USIEF)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q7. Green accounting is

- (a) A type of accounting that attempts to factor environmental costs into the financial results of operations
(b) A measure of economic gain from carbon credit
(c) A type of accounting that attempts to measure environmental gain as compared to previous financial year
(d) All of the above

Q8. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is

- (a) A global program that provides funding and technical assistance to non-governmental organizations and other private sector partners to protect critical ecosystems
(b) A global partnership fund formed by Paris climatic deal for funding critical Eco infrastructures in developing countries
(c) An independently operating financial organization that provides grants to governments for projects related to biodiversity and climate change
(d) All of the above

- Q9.** Medini Puraskar is given
- to industrial units for adoption and use of clean technologies
 - to Indian and foreign authors to encourage the biodiversity conservation writings
 - annually for significant contribution in the field of wildlife conservation
 - to Indian authors each year to encourage original works in Hindi on environment and its related subjects

- Q10.** Consider the following statements regarding 'Food Web':
- Food Web shows the interactions and interconnections among the different food chains of a community
 - Another name for food web is a consumer-resource system
 - Food web does not have trophic levels and positions
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

- Q11.** Tropical rainforests
- Exhibit a vast diversity in plant and animal species
 - Are among the most threatened ecosystems globally
 - Are located mostly around and near the equator
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

- Q12.** Coral reefs are
- Underwater structures made from calcium carbonate secreted by corals
 - Often called "rainforests of the sea"
 - Deliver ecosystem services to tourism, fisheries and shoreline protection
 - Found in the deep sea nearby continental shelves
- Which of the features given above is are correct?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, 3 and 4

- Q13.** The gradual and fairly predictable change in the species composition of a given area is called
- Ecological niche
 - Ecological succession
 - Ecological balance

- ecological change

- Q14.** Consider the following statements:
- Biomagnification refers to increase in concentration of the toxicant at successive trophic levels
 - Bioaccumulation refers to the accumulation of a toxic chemical in the tissue of a particular organism
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - 1 and 2 both
 - Neither 1 nor 2

- Q15.** Consider the following statements regarding 'BirdLife International':
- It is the Second world's largest partnership of conservation organisations after IPCC
 - It is a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity
 - BirdLife International is the official Red List authority for birds, for the IUCN
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

- Q16.** The Montreaux Record highlights
- Specific wetland of international importance
 - Wetlands under the Ramsar convention
 - The wetlands which are facing immediate challenges.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

- Q17.** With reference to 'The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes', consider the following statements:
- It is managed by the World Bank
 - It seeks to promote reduced greenhouse gas emissions
 - It is a bilateral fund, supported by India and USA governments
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q18. With reference to 'hotspots of biodiversity', consider the following statements:

1. Areas which exhibit high species richness as well as high species endemism are called hotspots of biodiversity
2. A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographic region with a significant reservoir of biodiversity that is free from threat from humans

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q19. Which of the following Ramsar site in India is not correctly matched with its location?

- (a) Kanjli Wetland - Punjab
(b) Rudrasagar lake - Tripura
(c) Hokersar Wetland - Jammu & Kashmir
(d) DiporBil - West Bengal

Q20. With reference to 'Cartagena Protocol', which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) The Cartagena Protocol is on Biosafety
(b) It is an international agreement as a supplement to the Convention on Biological Diversity
(c) Cartagena Protocol is silent on defining the 'living modified organism'
(d) It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by genetically modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology

Q21. Consider the following:

1. Botanical gardens
2. Biosphere reserves
3. Wildlife safari parks
4. Wildlife sanctuaries
5. Sacred groves
6. Gene banks
7. Wildlife Corridors

Which of the above are examples of Ex-situ conservation?

- (a) 2, 3 and 4 only
(b) 2, 4 and 5 Only
(c) 1, 3, 6 and 7 only
(d) 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only

Q22. National Mission for a Green India aims at-

1. Enhancing quality of forest cover and improving eco-system services
2. Agroforestry and social-forestry
3. Restoration of wetlands
4. Improvement of livelihood of forest dependent community

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q23. Consider the following statements:

1. Blue-baby syndrome is a neurological syndrome caused by severe mercury poisoning
2. Minimata disease begins when large amounts of nitrates in water are ingested by an infant

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q24. Recently union government re-classified industries on four-colour scheme based on pollution potential. Which of the following is/are feature(s) of 'white category industries'?

1. It contains 6 industrial sectors which are practical-ly polluting
2. There shall be no necessity of obtaining the consent to operate for this category of industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q25. Which of the following statements is correct regarding 'carbon sink'?

- (a) Carbon sinks are natural systems that suck up and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
(b) The main natural carbon sinks are plants, the ocean and soil
(c) Both of the above
(d) None of the above

Q26. Consider the following statements regarding 'Carbon credit':

1. It is financial instrument that represents a tonne of carbon dioxide
 2. Carbon credits originate from a range of emission reduction activities
 3. Carbon credits discourage developed countries industrial activities
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

- Q27.** Which of the following statements is not correct?
- (a) A carbon tax is a tax levied on the carbon content of fuels
(b) India supports carbon tax concept universally
(c) Carbon taxes offer a potentially, cost-effective means of reducing green house gas emissions.
(d) None

- Q28.** Consider the following statements:
1. The term ecosystem was coined by Sir Arthur Tansley
 2. Ecosystem is a self-regulating and self-sustaining structural and functional unit of the biosphere
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 both
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

- Q29.** Silent valley National Park is located in:
- (a) Kerala
(b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Karnataka
(d) Andhra Pradesh

- Q30.** Consider the following statements:
1. Biogas refers to a gas produced by the biological breakdown of organic matter in the presence of oxygen
 2. Biogas originates from biogenic material and is a type of biofuel
 3. In India biogas produced from the anaerobic digestion of manure in small-scale digestion facilities
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answers

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

MCQs Based on Current Affairs

Q.1 Which country has been ranked fourth in the World Happiness Report released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network?

- a) Netherlands
- b) Denmark
- c) Switzerland
- d) Iceland

Answer :- c

Q.2 Lamitiye is a biennial military exercise between which two countries?

- a) India- Maldives
- b) India- Seychelles
- c) India- Mauritius
- d) India- Bangladesh

Answer:- b

Q.3 With reference to the Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA) developed by China, consider the following statements:

1. The RKA has the capability to generate 10-MW wave bursts in the KA-band.
2. RKA can target any satellite from the ground.
3. The KA-band is a part of the electromagnetic spectrum that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

Select the correct statement(s) with the help of the codes given.

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: - d

Q.4 Which Indian female player has been awarded the 'Sportstar of the Year (Female)' award?

- a) Mirabai Chanu
- b) Mary Kom
- c) Sania Nehwal
- d) Geeta Phogat

Answer :- a

Q.5 Recently, the Legislative Assembly of which state has fully implemented the National e-Vidhan Project?

- a) Assam
- b) Madhya Pradesh

- c) Nagaland
- d) Karnataka

Answer :- c

Q.6 With reference to Narasimhapettai Nagaswaram, a traditional wind instrument, consider the following statements:

1. Recently the wind instrument Narasimhapettai Nagaswaram has been given GI tag.
2. This instrument is made by rural artisans of Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.
3. This instrument is made from the traditional wood "Acha" or Hardwickia binata.

Select the correct statement(s) with the help of the codes given.

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

Answer :- d

Q.7 Which of the following state will introduce carbon-neutral farming practices?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer :- b

Q.8 With reference to IQAir's World Air Quality Report, consider the following statements:

1. According to the report, New Delhi was the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth year in a row.
2. Globally, Delhi was ranked fourth in terms of air pollution.
3. The most polluted place in the world is Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

Select the correct statement(s) with the help of the codes given.

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

Answer :- c

Q.9 Rating agency Fitch has reduced India's growth rate forecast for the next financial year to how much?

- a) 8.5
- b) 10.3
- c) 8.4
- d) 7.8

Answer :- a

Q.10 With reference to the Abel Prize, consider the following statements:

1. The Able Prize for the year 2022 has been given to British citizen Dennis P. Sullivan.
2. The Abel Prize is given for distinguished contribution in the field of physics.

Select the correct statement(s) with the help of the codes given.

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

Answer :- d

Q.11 Jiya Rai of Maharashtra, who is suffering from Autistic Spectrum Disorder, has crossed which strait recently?

- a) English Channel
- b) Palk Strait
- c) Malacca Strait
- d) Sunda Strait

Answer :- b

Q.12 With reference to UPI, consider the following statements.

1. UPI withdraws and deposits money directly from the bank account.
2. The transaction charges levied in UPI are completely dependent on individual banks.
3. UPI or Unified Payments Interface is a real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India.

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

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

Answer d

Q.13. Consider the following statements:

1. In the Paris Climate Agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed commitment to India's

net zero carbon emission target by 2070.

2. Net zero commitment is part of the Panchamrita strategy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q14. Consider the following statements:

1. Coal-based power generation accounts for about 80 percent of India's total power capacity as of March 2022.

2. India is the largest producer of coal in the world. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Paper IV Case Study

You are a district magistrate posted in a remote district of Tamil Nadu. Government of India is working on a project to establish a huge nuclear power plant in your district. It will help to meet rising needs of electricity and create necessary infrastructure to support foreign investment. It is obvious that it will boost industrialisation and create large numbers of employment.

Project has been developed using barren lands quite away from population. It is based on energy efficient technology. It will have little effect on environment unlike thermal power plants, which create a lot of air pollution. Appropriate safeguards have been taken to check nuclear radiations.

As soon as media reported about the project, a popular N.G.O. started protest in your district. It spread rumours about nuclear radiations and declared project, a threat for the environment and health of people. It circulated several videos of nuclear power plant's explosions (occurred in past) in social media and asked government to cancel this project. Several people joined the protest and it transformed into a huge movement.

In the mean time Intelligence agencies have reported that, this N.G.O. received huge funds from Government of foreign countries to check development activities, in India.

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

(b) Now, what would be your course of action?

Answer

(a): In the given case study I am D.M. posted in Tamil Nadu. I have to convince people about safety of nuclear reactor. Values like trust, sustainable development, objectivity and patriotism are involved in the case

Ethical Issues :

In the given case study an N.G.O. exploits democratic framework of country for its vested interest. It confused people about safety measures of a nuclear power plant and created breach of trust between public and government. The NGO provoked public for protest. Irony

of the situation is that, public is protesting to check its own development. NGO misuses fundamental rights 19(1) freedom of speech and expression, freedom to form association and right to protest, against his own country. It also shows meanness of foreign countries who neither provide necessary technology nor funds to developing countries, in their fight to curb pollution and global warming but indulge in such heinous acts to check their development. Actually these countries fear that India can use its nuclear reactor for enrichment of uranium to make atom bomb.

Answer (b): My course of action :

Firstly I will request government to ask Enforcement Directorate to investigate accounts and financial transaction of the NGO. Next I will collaborate with electronic and print media, to educate public about latest technology which minimise risk substantially. We will help them to understand, need of development along with conservation of nature. We will also inform them about developed countries (like France) who produce more than 90% of their electricity using nuclear power. We will broadcast programs based on comparative study of thermal power plant and nuclear power plant. It will help them to realise various benefits of nuclear energy over fossil fuels.

After that we will shoot a video about safeguards taken in the nuclear power plant, with comments of scientists and experts and circulate them in social media. It will convince people about their safety. After some time Enforcement Directorate will publish its report and expose hidden motive of the NGO. It will completely solve the problem.

Eminent Personality: Pandita Ramabai



The period from 1850 to 1900 is considered to be a period of social and cultural renaissance in Indian history. At this time many intellectuals raised their strong voice against the religious and social evils spread in India. One of those intellectuals was Pandita Ramabai, who is also called India's first feminist.

Pandita Ramabai was born on 23 April 1858 in Maharashtra. Her father's name was Anant Shastri Dongre and her mother's name was Lakshmibai. Ramabai's childhood name was Rama Dongre. Impressed by her knowledge, Keshav Chandra Sen gave her the title of Pandita. Once there was a severe famine in Maharashtra due to which Rama's parents and younger sister died. After this, she moved to Kolkata with her brother. Here the fame of his knowledge spread greatly, due to which the University of Kolkata gave him the titles of Pandita and Saraswati.

Later, Pandita Ramabai married a lawyer, Vipin Bihari Medhavi. A few days later her husband died. After which she devoted her life to women's education, child marriage and the welfare of widows. Pandita Ramabai founded the Arya Mahila Samaj in Pune and became involved in missionary activities. She started criticizing the traditions and beliefs of the masculine and Brahminical society with arguments and started questioning the low status of women.

In the year 1882, the British Government constituted a commission for modern education in India, in which Pandita Ramabai took an active role and presented a report. In this report, she stressed the need for women teachers, women doctors and women engineers. Accepting her

recommendations, the British government honoured her with the title of 'Kaiser-e-Hind'. During her stay in Britain, Pandita Ramabai wrote the book 'The High Caste Hindu Women' in which she discussed in detail the ill effects of being a Hindu woman.

It is said that when Swami Vivekananda gave his lecture at the World Conference of Religions in Chicago, many women led by Ramabai protested against him, raising the question that if Hinduism is so great, why is the condition of Indian women so pathetic? Along with this, the absence of women issues in Swami Vivekananda's speech was also raised by Pandita Ramabai. Swami Vivekananda and Pandita Ramabai had differences of opinion on many points. However, both were very clear about their views on the immediate issues. While Swami Vivekananda was giving a logical explanation of religion, Pandita Ramabai was advocating for women's rights.

As a result of the efforts of Pandita Ramabai, the 'Ramabai Association' was established in America, whose purpose was to collect resources for the widow ashram running in India. Later she returned to India and established 'Sharda Sadan' dedicated to widows. Along with this, she established a women's ashram named 'Kripa Sadan' to support women. This great woman, who raised her voice against women's rights and the social evils of India throughout her life, died on April 5, 1922.

In view of the struggle of her life, a crater of the planet Venus was named Ramabai Medhavi. Along with this, Feast Day is celebrated by the European Church on 5 April in her memory. A postage stamp in the memory of Ramabai was also issued by the Government of India in 1989.

Key Terminology of Medieval History

Chhatra :- Royal umbrella.

Choudhary:- A category of headmen of the villages.

Chaul :- Desert.

Chungi-e-Galla :- Taxes on grains.

Jagir:- A piece of land given by the state to the royal officials in exchange for salary etc.

Jahandar- Sultan.

Jamaatkhana :- The hut or khankah of Sufi mystics.

Jamad Archana :- A place to store wardrobe or clothes.

Jasoos :- spy

Jeetal :- Copper coins of Delhi Sultanate.

Jaziya:- It has two meanings. Firstly - According to some contemporary sources of the Delhi Sultanate, all taxes collected in addition to land revenue or rent were jizya. Secondly, the annual tax to be collected from non-Muslims or infidels in the form of person tax, according to the rule of Shariat.

Jaziya-e-Tambool :- Tax on betel leaves.

Jabita:- Secular rules or laws made by the state.

Zakat:- A fixed amount of charity for the Muslims. Every Muslim was to donate two and a half percent of the total income, including income earned from unutilized or unplanned capital, as Zakat.

Zamindari:- Privately owned ancestral or hereditary land.

Zababit:- State Laws.

Daroga :- In-charge of the local office.

Darul Adal- Delhi's market of cloth and other items, but it literally means the place of justice.

Darul Mulk :- Capital

Daulatkhanah :- Palace of Sultan Iltutmish

Dawatdar:- The one who keeps the royal medicine.

Ghammar:- Zamindar or land owner.

Dirham Buyinggan :- Slaves of low cost.

Diwan :- Office of the Central Secretary.

Diwan-i-Arz :- Office of the Ministry of War

Diwan-i-Insha :- Office of the Chief Secretary.

Diwan-i-Riyasat :- Office of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Diwan-i-Vizarat :- Office of the Wazir.

Diwan-ul-Mustakhraj :- Office of tax or revenue collection.

Durbar: The royal court.

Naib-i-Arz:- Minister of War or Deputy Minister of Military Department.

Naib-i-Barbek :- Assistant to the barbek (officer in charge of the royal court).

Noyan:- Mongol title or honorific address meaning chief or high official.

Naib-i-Ghibat :- The guardian of the Sultan who looked after the affairs of the Sultan in his absence.

Naib-e-Lashkar :- Sultan's assistant minister to the army, Sultan's military assistant.

Naib-i-Mamlaqat:- Rajpratinidhi or representative of the Sultan for the entire Sultanate.

Jillullah-filarz :- "The God or the shadow of Allah on earth" title adopted by some sultans

Tanka:- Silver coin of the Sultanate period.

Tahkimat-i-Mujaddid: A new or innovative royal order.

Taluk:- District.

Tota:- The measure of two and a half mishkal.

Tuman :- A detachment of ten thousand soldiers.

Thana:- Police Station.

Dabir :- Secretary.

Dabir-i-Mumalik:- Chief secretary in charge of the entire state or sultanate.

Dadbek :- Officer in charge of justice.

Dadbeki:- Penalty recovered by judicial officers or magistrates.

Nabat :- Plant, vegetable or herb.

Nadim:- A person appointed to entertain the court or the Sultan but who was not given any administrative work.

Daag :- Daag, a royal identification mark applied on the tail of a horse.

Dalal-e-Bazarha :- Brokers of the market.

Daroga:- A petty officer in charge of the local office.

Naib-i-Mulk :- The royal representative of the Sultanate.

Naib-i-Waqil :- A lawyer's assistant or a person representing judicial matters before the Sultan.

Naib-Wazir :- Sub-Vazir.

Nayak:- A high officer of the army or a merchant.

Naqib:- Manager of the palace and court.

Naubat:- Drum playing on the Naubatkhana outside the palace of the Sultan and high officials.

Nabisandas :- Clerk.

Nayabat or Khwajgi :- Assistant and Controller.

Nazir :- Superintendent, Inspector.

Nirakh-i-Bar-Avard :- Theory of Cost of Production.

Noyan :- Mongol title or honorific address meaning chief or high official.

Paybos :- Kissing Feet

Payak :- Maintainer, Servant

Patwari :- A small employee keeping records of village land.

Pyada: Foot soldiers.

Farman: A royal order or ordinance.

Farman Deh :- The person giving orders.

Farman-Sabaa :- The person giving orders.

Farashkhana :- A room (or place) for carpeting.

Farsakh :- Measurement of distance of 18,000 feet.

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