

PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

November:2021/Issue-2

IMPORTANT ARTICLES

- Strong preparations of India on green hydrogen
- Efforts of the Indian Government towards Cultural mapping of villages
- Role of India in establishing climate justice
- India-ASEAN Summit
- Present Kashmir and its Future
- Drug Abuse and Trafficking
- Need for protection of Symbols of cultural pride and heritage in India



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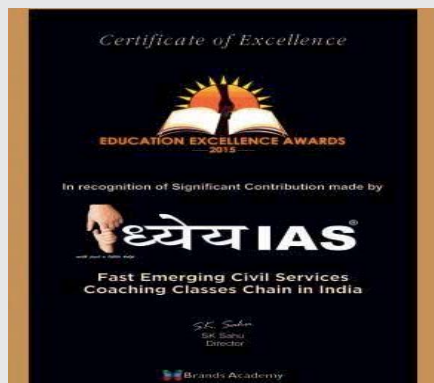
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Current Affairs has an important role in the examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions. It is necessary for the candidate to have knowledge of relevant information on issues of national and international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

Brain boosters and 7 themes based graphics are being presented in a concise form to enhance the conceptual understanding of the students. Apart from this, updated information on Global Initiatives, Global Institutions, Structure of Organizations, Functioning, Important Reports, and Indices will be included in this magazine, which is asked prominently in the Civil Services Examination. We are starting a new section named Global Institutions Tracker, which will comprise the news related to all the international institutions like UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, IUCN, IPCC, UNFCCC etc. because 2 to 3 questions in civil services exam from this section are always asked in form of global initiatives and campaigns.

To give emphasis on facts and analysis, keeping in view the trends of new nature of questions in Preliminary and Main Examination of Civil Services, an inclusive magazine is being provided to the students so that they can give the right direction to their preparation by understanding the new requirements of Civil Services Examination. We hope that Perfect 7 in its new form will prove to be very useful. Your suggestions are always welcome.

Vinay Kumar Singh
Editor
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Editor	• Vinay Kumar Singh
Managing Director	• Q.H. Khan
Co-Editor	• Gautam Tiwari
Sub-Editor	• Ashutosh Mishra
	• Saurabh Chakraborty
Editorial Support	• Manish Singh
	• Gaurav
	• Shivangi Verma
Lead Writer	• Vivek Ojha
Chief Reviewers	• A.K. Srivastava
	• Vineet Anurag
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PERFECT 7

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

1 Role of India in establishing climate justice

- Context
- Introduction
- Causes of climate injustice on a global scale
- The difference in the concept of responsibility
- Differences in the concept of consumption
- Effects of Climate Change
- India's role in establishing climate justice
- Proposal for global movement
- Calls for global cooperation
- Some more efforts by India
- Conclusion

Context-

Recently Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has left for Glasgow to attend the COP-26 conference. The Glasgow Conference is being considered extremely important from the point of view of global climate change. India has made it clear that India's policy will be on the establishment of climate justice, for which India will keep the issue of transfer of finance and technology from developed countries to developing countries.

Introduction:-

Presently the world is suffering from very serious problems as a result of the climate crisis. In the conditions of the present world, inequality is seen on a large scale where we find that if the cause of the climate crisis in front of the present world is in the industrial revolution, which has benefited the countries of the western world but due to the effects of the climate crisis, the island countries and Developing countries suffer the most. justice is related to the establishment of ideals like equality and liberty. But this disparity on the issue of climate proves that climate injustice is well established on a global scale.

Causes of climate injustice on a global scale-

Westernized climate change:

This climate crisis has arisen as a result of the industrial revolution that took place in the world in the 18th century. This industrial revolution was started by countries like Britain, France but now it is affecting the whole world. The Western world has been the main beneficiary of the Industrial Revolution, but ASEAN countries, small island countries like the Maldives, and developing countries like the Sub-Saharan region, India are most vulnerable to climate change.

Environmental reform as a barrier to economic growth-

- The countries responsible for Climate Change have now achieved a high level of technological advancement and their economies are dependent on industries and services. Whereas there are many countries including India, the Sub-Saharan region, ASEAN countries whose economy has not been fully developed and there is scope for economic growth.

- To accelerate economic growth, environmental regulations have to be made flexible, which will lead



to global warming and climate change. Most of the impact of climate change will be on the countries with an agricultural economy because the cropping pattern will be affected by climate change. This repetition is an indicator of climate injustice.

The difference in the concept of responsibility:-

- Although the countries of the West consider climate change a problem, but they do not consider themselves responsible for it. They pressurize developing countries to adhere to environmental conventions, which will affect the economic development of developing countries.
- On the other hand, developing countries say that only the countries that take advantage of the industrial revolution are responsible for climate change, so their responsibility is also more. The non-acceptance of the responsibility of the developed countries shows climate injustice.



Differences in the concept of consumption:-

- The per capita carbon emissions of the United States is 15.24 metric tons, while that of India is 1.8 metric tons. America has the highest per capita carbon emission in the world. But China (10.6 billion metric tons), the US (5.01 billion metric tons) and India (2.65 billion metric tons) top the gross domestic carbon emission.
- All developed countries, including the US, want to set the standard for gross domestic carbon consumption, while the developing ones accept per capita carbon emissions as the standard. This concept of developed countries is against the principle of “every person has equal rights on earth”. which shows climate injustice.

Effects of Climate Change:-

- Developed countries are not more vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to better mitigation technology, higher economic growth, and availability of capital. At the same time, developing and poor countries facing the problems of poverty, hunger, inequality, and energy crisis are more vulnerable to climate change. This situation also reflects climate injustice.

This issue of climate injustice is being opposed by India and India is leading the developing countries. India supports the principle of “justice for all”, so India is trying to establish climate justice.

Proposal for global movement-

India has proposed the One World Movement. The Indian Prime Minister said that the word LIFE, Lifestyle for

Environment, should form the basis of this movement.

India's role in establishing climate justice-

India at Glasgow Conference

Panchamrita Principle:

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

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

Need for improvement in procedure:

India has objected that in the present world the issue of climate change has only been discussed. The provision of finance and technology transfer proved to be a mere sham. It is time to work on adaptation to climate change.

Calls for global cooperation-

In the Glasgow conference, the Prime Minister has appealed for global cooperation, he has said that developing countries are keener on climate change and farmers are being affected the most by this, so developing and backward countries should get global cooperation.

In this context, the Prime Minister has emphasized free technology and finance transfer. India has launched the Coalition for Disaster Resistance Infrastructural Initiative and urged the world to join the initiative.

Other points-

- Apart from this, the Prime Minister has told the relevance of the mantra of

“Sangachdhvam Samvidhvam San Vo Manansi Jaantam”.

- The Prime Minister has highlighted the benefits of adaptation derived from projects such as Ujjwala, from tap to water, the Swachh Bharat Mission in India.
- He had pointed out the need to live in harmony with nature in the traditional community and the need for adaptation policies to be appropriately placed and integrated into the school curriculum.

Some more efforts by India:-

- India has supported the concept of ‘shared but differentiated responsibility’ in the Kyoto Protocol. In which the emphasis has been laid on the responsibility of the developed and developing countries according to their contribution.
- Climate policy has been given an important place by India while deciding its policy at the international level.
- Under the Paris Agreement, India set itself a climate mitigation goal and worked on various plans to reach that goal.
- India has set a target to meet 50% of its energy requirement from renewable energy sources. Which is a model for other developing countries.
- The concept of the International Solar Alliance has been brought by India in collaboration with France, in which the goal of meeting the energy requirement through solar energy has been set, this concept can reduce the climate crisis in the island and developing countries and also their economic development. could be carried out.
- India is giving importance to environmental projects like electric vehicles, solar parks, and the run of the river at the domestic level.

Conclusion:-

India's push for the Paris Agreement, despite opposition from the US, is a demonstration of India's commitment to establishing climate justice. The Indian Prime Minister said that the Paris summit for him is not a summit but a sentiment

and a commitment. At present, India's role on the issue of climate change has increased from regional to global and

India will be presenting its policies in terms of equitable distribution of carbon space, technical and financial support for

climate mitigation at the Glasgow conference, will try to install it.



2 Drug Abuse and Trafficking

- **Why in News**
- **Background**
- **Cause of Drug Abuse**
- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985**
- **Regulatory bodies for drug control**
- **Reasons behind increase in drug use**
- **The relationship between illegal trade and terrorism**
- **Efforts to control drugs internationally**
- **Suggestion**

Why in News?

Incidents of drug use at parties in Goa have come to the notice of the investigating agencies.

Background-

According to the report, 'The World Drug Report-2021' published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), there has been a 22 percent increase in the number of people using drugs between 2010-2019. Drugs are being used by approximately 275 million people around the world. Globally, over 36 million people have been diagnosed with disorders caused by drug usage. Drug usage problems are increasing globally, especially among adults under the age of 30.

According to the report published by AIIMS in 2019, the usage of alcohol as a drug is more in India. According to the survey conducted in the year 2018, cannabis and opium were used by about 50 million Indians. According to an estimate, about 8.5 lakh people use injection drugs. States like Punjab, Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh have more than 50% of drug cases. The highest percentage of alcohol consumption among children was found in Punjab followed by West Bengal and

Uttar Pradesh respectively.

Cause of Drug Abuse:

Rapid economic social changes like urbanization, modernization have increased social insecurity. Due to unemployment, loneliness, change in cultural values among youth (promoting drug culture through films, help in social acceptance) there has been an increase in the trend towards drug use. Ineffective policing, increasing scope of technology, ineffective control, easy availability of drugs are also promoting drug addiction among youth.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985-

This Act prohibits the production, sale, purchase, transport, storage, and/or consumption of any narcotic substance or psychotropic substance by any person. This Act is applicable in India as well as to all Indian citizens resident outside India and also to all persons on ships and aircraft registered in India. This law has been amended three times in 1988, 2001 and 2014. Under section 20 of this Act provides punishment for using drugs as well as producing, making, possessing, selling, buying, importing or exporting drugs from one State to another. Under section 20 (a), any person found

to be in possession of a small quantity of a prohibited drug can be punished with imprisonment of six months or a fine of ten thousand rupees or both. Under section 20 (b), if a person is found to be in possession of a prohibited intoxicant in more than a small prescribed quantity, then such person can be jailed for up to 10 years and fined up to Rs 1 lakh.

Those persons who are dependent on drugs are legally exempted under section 64. Along with this, it has also been recommended in the law to provide treatment facilities to such persons under section 71.

Police can also take action under this act. Apart from this, there are separate narcotics departments in the center and the states.

Regulatory bodies for drug control:

The Narcotic Control Bureau has been created in March 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Narcotic Substances Act, 1985.

Work -

1. To coordinate between various Central and State agencies which are active in the enforcement of drug laws.
2. To assist states in their drug law

enforcement efforts, collecting and exchanging information.

3. Preparation of National Drug Enforcement Statistics.

4. To establish liaison with international agencies like UNDCP, INCB, INTERPOL, Customs Coordination Council, RILO, etc.

Reasons behind increase in drug use:

Access to drugs is also easier with online sales. Major drug markets on the dark web are about \$315 million a year now. During the periods of 2011 to 2020, Asian countries, mainly China and India are associated with shipments of drugs that are sold in 19 major darknet markets.

This is also partly driven by the increased use of technology and cryptocurrency payments, which do not come under the regular financial system.

Sellers try to mislead law enforcement agencies by advertising and marketing their products as 'research chemicals' or 'custom synthesis'.

Illegal Drugs Trade Route in India:

India is located between the two largest opium producing regions of the world, the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan-Pakistan and Iran) in the west and the Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Laos and Thailand) in the east.

The relationship between illegal trade and terrorism:

Terrorists use organized crime to finance their organizations. Terrorists collect money through organized crimes like drug smuggling, extortion, arms smuggling, distribution of counterfeit notes, money laundering, hawala trade etc. Organized criminals and terrorists both often operate in areas with little government control, weak administrative structures and open international borders. Terrorists send their members to different countries by using organized crime networks to cross the international border, in return the terrorists provide them security in their controlled areas. Organized crime and terrorist organizations thrive by taking advantage of weak administration and law and order. They are mutually interdependent.

Although this mutual relationship is more commonly seen in developing and less developed countries, but not in developed countries. The Taliban in Afghanistan was financed by smuggling of opium and heroin, which gave the Taliban access to modern weapons.

International Efforts to control drug menace:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)- It was established in the year 1997 and it was renamed as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the year 2002.

It was established an amalgamation with the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the United Nations Department of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CPCJD) and it works towards drug control and crime prevention.

Other efforts related to this-

'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' is observed every year on 26 June.

1. Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs, 1961

2. Convention on Psychotropic Substance-1971

3. Convention on Illicit Traffic on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988

India is a signatory country to the above three and has also implemented the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

Suggestion-

1. Addiction should be seen as a disease, not as a character trait. Instead of considering drug use as a social stigma, there should be empathy for their pain and help them come out of it. Tracing, tracking and continuous counseling and rehabilitation centers should be arranged.

2. Social awareness should be spread against organized crime because the Drug trade nourished illegal arms/human trafficking, terrorism. There is a need for proper coordination between different agencies of different states. At the

same time, the role of civil society, NGOs, religious leaders become important in educating society.

3. Mental illness should be taken seriously in India. Chapters on drug addiction, its effects and de-addiction should also be included in the education curriculum. Proper counseling may be another option.

4. The business of illegal trade in India is being encouraged from across the border. There is a need for a strict vigil on the border and also control over those who provide financial support to illegal trade.

NOTES

3 Strong preparations of India on green hydrogen

- Why in News
- Background
- The objective of National Hydrogen Energy Mission
- The increasing importance of hydrogen energy
- India's largest Green Hydrogen Plant Build by GAIL
- Hydrogen Energy Classification
- Conclusion

Why in News?

India is engaged in the well-planned preparation of energy security. India has increased research and development work in search of fossil fuels alternatives. Along with promoting solar, wind, tidal energy, India has now made a strategy to make hydrogen, which is called the future fuel, an option for its energy security. Energy Scientists of India are working on that how India can use hydrogen as clean energy. In recent times, the Government of India has given increased emphasis on the production of green hydrogen.

Background-

Before knowing what the Indian government is doing for the development of green hydrogen and other forms of hydrogen, it would be better to know what commitment has been shown in the budget 2021-22 of the Government of India for the development of hydrogen economy. Considering the prospects of the hydrogen economy in India, the Indian Finance Minister has announced an increase in capital for Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Society Agency Limited (IREDA) in the Budget of 2021-22. It has been said in the budget that to further boost the non-conventional energy sector, additional capital of Rs. 1,000 crore will be provided to Solar Energy

Corporation of India and Rs 1,500 crore to Indian Renewable Energy Development Society Agency Limited.

The Finance Minister, in the budget speech 2021-22, has proposed to launch a National Hydrogen Mission to generate hydrogen from green energy sources. The Prime Minister, while addressing the 3rd RE-Investment Summit in November 2020, announced plans to launch a comprehensive National Hydrogen Energy Mission. Now hydrogen energy mission has been proposed to be started in 2021-22 to generate hydrogen from green energy sources.

The objective of National Hydrogen Energy Mission-

The objective of the proposed National Hydrogen Energy Mission is to determine the vision, intention and direction of the Government of India for hydrogen energy and to formulate a strategy and give suggestions for the same. It aims to develop India as a global hub for manufacturing of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies across the value chain.

A framework will be developed to support manufacturing through 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives. This will provide the necessary flexibility in the environment of technology. The Government of India will provide the facility to create demand in the identified areas. Areas suitable for the use of green hydrogen include

fertilizers, steel, petrol chemicals, etc. The major activities under the mission include expanding and building infrastructure.

It includes creating a robust framework for goal-oriented research and development, facilitating policy, standards and regulations for hydrogen technologies.

The increasing importance of hydrogen energy

The International Renewable Energy Agency said in its 'World Energy Transition Outlook report' that by the year 2050, the share of hydrogen in the total energy mix will be up to 12%. The agency also suggested that about 66% of this usable hydrogen should be obtained from water rather than from natural gas. The potential energy of hydrogen is very high and the emission of harmful gases from it is almost zero. Green hydrogen can prove to be a good option for use in the fields of industrial processing, production of chemicals, iron and steel, food and semiconductors and refining plants. In order to reduce the dependence on petroleum products, the world community should explore the possibilities of innovation together in the field of green hydrogen.

India's largest Green Hydrogen Plant Build by GAIL:

State-owned GAIL India Limited has decided to build India's largest Green Hydrogen Plant. GAIL now wants to link

its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel. GAIL has said that India's largest green hydrogen plant will be installed in the next 12 to 14 months. For this, GAIL has also seen 2-3 places, which includes Vijaypur in Madhya Pradesh. This will be a 10 MW plant. In July this year, it was reported that Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) would set up the country's first green hydrogen plant at its Mathura refinery to meet the growing demand for clean energy in the future. This is not the largest plant in the country, but the first such plant in the country. National Thermal Power Cooperation has also announced to set up a 5 MW Green Hydrogen Plant. NTPC is making efforts to replace conventional energy in a gas grid with Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, and Green Methanol etc. India has also done other important work in recent times related to the development of the production of hydrogen energy. In April 2021, experts from India and Japan discussed the possibilities and innovative technology of de-carbonization hydrogen in a webinar. To explore possibilities in the areas of hydrogen-based technology and its related innovations, problems and solutions, etc. also discussed. This shows India's interest in clean energy. It was said in this meeting that ammonia could be a potential hydrogen carrier because of its high hydrogen density. The emission of carbon dioxide is not possible when ammonia is ignited directly. The heat released when ammonia burn is 1.3 times greater than that of liquid hydrogen.

Hydrogen Energy Classification

At present, clean energy companies are testing 7 types of hydrogen.

- **First, Brown hydrogen-** This type of hydrogen is produced using brown coal where the emissions are released into the atmosphere. It is produced by the process of gasification while black hydrogen can be produced from black coal.
- **Second, Gray Hydrogen** It is produced from natural gas or methane and the process by which it is produced is called



steam reforming. The emissions related to this are released into the atmosphere and this emission is in very small amounts.

- **Third, Blue Hydrogen** This type of hydrogen is produced from natural gas, where emissions are captured using carbon capture and storage, and blue hydrogen is also produced through the process of steam reforming.

- **Fourth, Green Hydrogen** It is also called clean hydrogen. It is produced from clean energy obtained from renewable energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy. It mainly uses the process of electrolysis.

- **Fifth, Pink Hydrogen-** Like green hydrogen, it is produced through the electrolysis of water. The only difference is that Pink Hydrogen is powered by nuclear energy rather than renewable energy sources. The extreme temperatures of nuclear reactors are used.

- **Sixth, Yellow Hydrogen** The production of yellow hydrogen is made possible through the process of electrolysis of water using solar power.

- **Seventh, Turquoise Hydrogen** In this, turquoise-colored hydrogen is produced through the process of methane pyrolysis. Solid carbon is produced by methane pyrolysis.

Conclusion-

Overall, it can be said that hydrogen gas is a fuel that has wide capabilities. But due to its high ignition potential, its safe handling is an important issue. Hydrogen gas is the most beneficial side

of the hydrogen energy system, which is produced from renewable energy sources and not from fossil fuels. It can be safely stored and this energy source is cleaner than conventional energy. Like solar energy, it will depend on never-ending energy sources.

NOTES

4 Present Kashmir & Its Future

- Why in News
- Background
- Importance of Jammu and Kashmir
- Pre-independence Status of Kashmir
- Issues at the time of Independence
- Accession to India and Pakistan
- Foreign interference in Kashmir
- Massacre of Kashmiri Pandits
- Abolition of Article 370
- What were the provisions in Article 35(A)
- Present Situation

Why in News?

In the last few days, there has been a sharp increase in the cases of targeted killings (in which people of a particular religion or a particular area are killed) of ordinary citizens of other states.

Background-

Kashmir has been an important part of India since ancient times. Indus Valley Civilization site Manda is located in Jammu and Kashmir. During the reign of the Kushan king Kanishka, the fourth Buddhist council was organized in Kundalavan (Jammu and Kashmir). Information about the history of Kashmir is found in 'Rajatarangani' composed by Kalhan. Till 1330, Kashmir was ruled by Hindu rulers. After that, Shah Mir conquered Kashmir and established his dynasty. Being ruled by rulers of different religions, a mixed culture developed in Kashmir. Kashmir Valley developed as Muslim majority, Jammu Hindu-Sikh majority and Ladakh as Buddhist majority region.

Importance of Jammu and Kashmir-

1. Geo-strategic Importance-

Jammu and Kashmir is sharing border with Pakistan and Ladakh with China, which is important from the security point of view. Due to border disputes, after independence, India has fought wars with these countries. The region has remote hills, snowy peaks, passes, rivers and valleys where monitoring is challenging

task. Pakistan-sponsored terrorism adds to the challenges.

2. Economic importance –

Natural beauty such as snow valleys, beautiful lakes of Srinagar, Shikara, saffron and flower beds, temperate grasslands (marg) are major tourist destinations. Religious places like Amarnath, Vaishno Devi and Chirag-e-Sharif attract tourists. Crops of economic importance like Jafran (Saffron) and Apple are cultivated. The rivers of the Indus river system are important for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation.

3. Cultural Importance -

Religious places like Amarnath, Vaishno Devi and Chirag-e-Sharif reflect India's composite culture, which can establish India as a model of secular state across the world.

Pre-independence Status of Kashmir-

After the First Anglo-Sikh War, according to the Treaty of Amritsar, the British recognized Raja Gulab Singh as the ruler of Kashmir in exchange for 75 lakh rupees. The Dogra dynasty ruled till 1947 (India's independence), but the policy of the British had given freedom to the princely states to merge with India or Pakistan or else these princely states should maintain their independent existence.

The Hari Singh, then king of Kashmir, wanted to make Kashmir a country

like Switzerland, so he expressed his unwillingness to merge with India or Pakistan.

Issues at the time of Independence-

Since Kashmir was a Muslim majority state, according to the two-nation theory – Pakistan wanted to dominate it. Kashmir was an economically, socially and politically important region where all the possibilities of development were present. Raja Harisingh made a 'standing agreement' with both India and Pakistan to maintain the status quo. There was a clear demand from the Indian leaders that the voice of people of Jammu and Kashmir should be heard through a referendum. Independent existence of Kashmir was not possible due to threats from Pakistan.

Pakistan and the Accession to India -

Pakistan violated the agreement and sent its army in civilian disguise to Kashmir. They committed horrific crimes and bloodshed in the valley. Raja Harisingh appealed to Mountbatten for help. India placed the condition of signing the Instrument of Accession, in which it was said that a referendum should be held in Kashmir after the establishment of peace. The type of instrument of accession that India had made with other princely states, the same accession instrument was also signed with Raja Hari Singh. After the agreement,

India sent its army to Kashmir and the first war between Pakistan and India took place. Indian Army liberated a large part of Kashmir from tribal invaders but the tribal invaders of Pakistan had illegally possessed one-third part which is today called Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK).

Foreign interference in Kashmir-

During the Cold War of 1979, Soviet forces entered Afghanistan and intervened in its internal affairs. In response, students from Afghanistan formed an organization called Taliban, which was trained by the Pakistani army. Taliban fighters were fighting against Soviet forces, so modern equipment was provided by the US to the Taliban. Pakistan misused US aid and uses this for the development of its Kashmir agenda instead of Afghanistan. Terrorists were sent on a large scale to Kashmir which increased the terrorist activities in the Kashmir Valley.

Massacre of Kashmiri Pandits-

In 1989, radical Islamic elements under religious frenzy, carried out large-scale sponsored and targeted violence in the Kashmir Valley. Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits were brutally murdered. Lakhs of Kashmiri Pandits were forced to live as refugees in other states of India.

Abolition of Article 370-

In 1954, Kashmir was given special protection under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. This temporary provision was nullified by the Indian Parliament on 5 August 2019. Due to which Article 35(A) became ineffective automatically.

What were the provisions in Article 35(A)?

This article empowered Jammu and Kashmir State to define permanent residents of this state and issue permanent residence certificates to them. This article did not allow residents of other states to work or own property in Jammu and Kashmir.

a) No law of the Indian Parliament was applicable in the territory of Jammu and Kashmir without the permission of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

b) Right to information, right to education, special provisions related to Scheduled Castes/Tribes were not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir. In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the concentration of power was highest in the Kashmir Valley so economic development and the distribution of state resources were centered in the Kashmir Valley.

Present Situation-

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been divided into two union territories since 5 August 2019 (Article 370 nullified). Local elections were conducted at both the places in which public participation was seen on a large scale. According to the data of the Ministry of Home Affairs, there has been a decrease of up to 33% in terrorist incidents in Kashmir since 2019. Army had carried out large scale operations against terrorists. Under the developmental works, the facility of health insurance has been made available to every citizen of the state under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

The work of promoting the trade has been done by giving GI tag to Kashmiri saffron. After the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Pakistan's morale is high and it is engaged in sending weapons by drone and terrorists to Kashmir.

Targeted killings by terrorists are posing a threat and challenge to social harmony. Targeted killings of Hindus, Sikhs and citizens of other states have raised doubts on the home coming of the Kashmiri pandits. To save social harmony in Kashmir, India will have to take immediate action to stop these killings. The local aid 'sleeper cell' getting to the terrorists will have to be abolished. For the development of Jammu and Kashmir, there is a need to conduct elections of state assembly along with the election of the local constitutional bodies, as well as vigorous efforts will have to be made to establish peace.

NOTES



5 Efforts of the Indian Government towards Cultural mapping of villages

- Why in News
- What is Cultural Mapping
- Benefits of Cultural Mapping
- How will cultural mapping be conducted
- Road Map for next five years
- Other efforts for cultural conservation

Why in News?

The Indian government is celebrating its 75th year of independence in form of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Along with this, work is being done to strengthen the National Mission of Cultural Mapping of the country so that a new direction can be given to the national and international identity of a united and culturally rich India.

What is Cultural Mapping?

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has initiated the "National Mission on Cultural Mapping" (NMCM) to understand and address the need to preserve the Indian art and cultural heritage. Through NMCM we have tried to create an integrated database for essential planning, sustainable economic development and conservation of scattered and lost art forms. This database will be in form of a portal that comprises various art forms, individual artists, a community of artists, cultural organizations, cultural venues and facilities, creative cultural industries, festivals and events, heritage properties, landmarks, etc.

In the year 2017, the 'Ministry of Culture' had launched the 'National Mission on Cultural Mapping' to preserve India's rich art and cultural heritage. Now it is being operated by 'Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts' (IGNCA). This includes data mapping, demography, formalization of processes and bringing

all cultural activities under one umbrella for better results. This campaign was started under the mission of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. Now it is being operated by 'Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts' (IGNCA). Cultural mapping of Indian villages has a special emphasis on the conservation of cultural assets and resources which include a wide variety of art forms, individual artists, artist communities, cultural organizations, venues and facilities, creative cultural industries, festivals and events, heritage properties and landmarks.

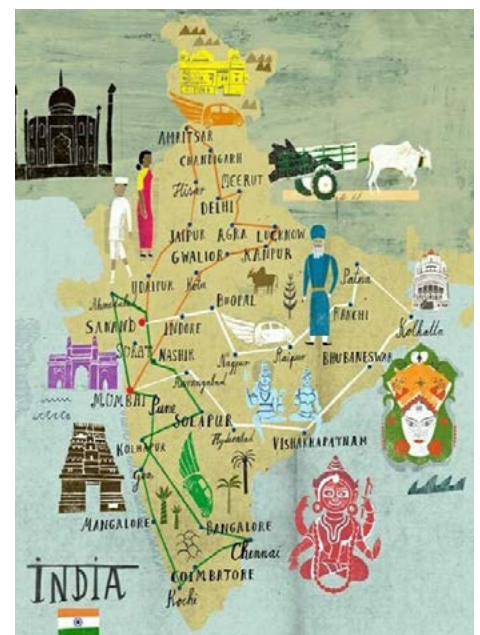
Benefits of Cultural Mapping:

Cultural Map of India and its cultural mapping is an important initiative through which the work of identification and protection of cultural heritage will be easy. So for effective implementation of the National Mission on Cultural Mapping, this responsibility has now been given to the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, which is starting experimental trials related to cultural mapping in 75 villages of India from October 2021.

How will cultural mapping be conducted?

Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, has clarified that under the Cultural Mapping Project, a database related to

the mapping of folk arts and heritage of villages will be created and this project will go on for the next 5 years. For the smooth completion of the project, a team of volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, people associated with the National Service Scheme, students of sociology and social work will be sent to the village and they will collect data related to the different types of art forms and heritage related to the village. Similarly, one village is being selected in each state and each Union territory. Such villages are also being selected which were part of our freedom movement. Presently a budget of 89 crores has been approved for this project.



Road Map for next five years:

IGNCA aims to carry out complete cultural mapping of 5000 villages of India by FY 2021-22. This is a 5-year project on which the Ministry of Culture has started working rapidly. Under this cultural mapping mission, a comprehensive database of artists, art forms and other resources is being created. According to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, so far 14.53 lakh artists have been registered on the portal of the National Mission on Cultural Mapping.

Other efforts for cultural conservation:

Apart from the Cultural Mapping Mission, the Government of India has taken more positive steps for the protection of the cultural heritage of India and has started the "Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan" project in this context. With the help of the Ministry of Culture

and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Ministry of Tourism has launched the "Adopt a Heritage" project to provide world-class tourism facilities at various natural/cultural heritage sites, monuments and other tourist places. In this project, there is a provision to hand over heritage sites/monuments and other tourist places to the private sector, public sector companies and individuals so that various tourism facilities can be developed.

MoUs have been signed to develop tourism facilities at the following sites:

- The area around the Gangotri temple and the Gomukh route, Uttarakhand
- Mount Stoke Kangri Marg, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir
- Red Fort, New Delhi
- Gandikota Fort, Andhra Pradesh
- Surajkund, Haryana
- Jantar Mantar Delhi
- Qutub Minar, Delhi

- Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra
- Leh Fort, Jammu and Kashmir
- Hampi (Hazara Ram Temple), Karnataka

Apart from this, in the budget of the financial year 2021-22, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India has announced aid in setting up a Tribal Museum in Ranchi (Jharkhand). In June 2021, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism inaugurated the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) of the Central Region in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh in which the efforts of CCRT to link education with culture through training programs, making cultural ambassadors, provide scholarships and fellowships to talented children and young artists who create traditional art forms and creative knowledge fields are praiseworthy. This decision was taken with the intention to bring the rural and tribal communities into the mainstream.



6

India-ASEAN Summit

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context • Syllabus affiliation • Introduction • What is ASEAN • Important facts of the 18th summit between India and ASEAN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The foundation of India-ASEAN relations • India-ASEAN Cooperation Strategic Cooperation • Cooperation on the issue of climate change • Where improvement is needed • Conclusion |
|--|---|

Context-

Recently, the 18th summit between India and ASEAN was organized. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing the conference virtually, has described ASEAN as an important ally of India. India and ASEAN can be important allies of each other in the latest power equations of the current global order.

Introduction:

India and ASEAN are important powers of the Indo-Pacific region and the Indo-Pacific region is becoming the center of power of the present world. In such a situation, both India and ASEAN are important to each other. In his address at the 18th Summit between India and ASEAN, the Indian Prime Minister, while stating the importance of ASEAN for India, has described both of them as historical partners and current allies of

each other. The Prime Minister said that the unity and centrality of ASEAN is very important for India. India and ASEAN have been important allies of each other during the crises of the Corona period. It is worth noting that in 2022, 30 years of India and ASEAN relations are going to be completed.

What is ASEAN?

- ASEAN is a regional organization of countries in Southeast Asia. Its full name is the Association of South-East Asian Nations.
- It was established in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Subsequently, Brunei (1984), Vietnam (1995), Laos and Myanmar (1997), and Cambodia (1999) joined this organization.
- Its motto is - 'One Vision, One Identity, One Community.'
- ASEAN is headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The ASEAN Community consists of three pillars:

- ASEAN Political-Security Community
- ASEAN Economic Community
- ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Important facts about the 18th summit between India and ASEAN:

- The 18th ASEAN-India summit focused on the corona pandemic, international development, businesses, and other issues.
- The conference reviewed the status of the strategic partnership, discussed key areas including health, trade and commerce, connectivity, education, and culture.
- India described the unity and centrality of ASEAN as important for the "Act East" and the 'Comprehensive Indo-Pacific Vision'. Cooperation will be established between the ASEAN Outlook for the Indo-Pacific Vision and the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) of India.
- During the conference, the shared culture, values, food habits of India-ASEAN were discussed. For this, the Prime Minister announced India's support for the establishment of the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List.
- In this conference the mutual cooperation of both the countries was marked during the Corona crisis.
- India has talked about celebrating the year 2022 (on completion of 30 years of India-ASEAN relations) as the year of India-ASEAN friendship.

dia-ASEAN friendship.

The foundation of India-ASEAN relations-**Shared history:**

The relations between India and ASEAN go back more than thousands of years. The extent of the Chola Empire extended to the Southeast Asian countries. Southeast Asian countries also share a history of colonial crises with India. The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar was exiled to Rangoon, which is located in Myanmar. Until 1935, Myanmar was a part of India. Thus there is a shared historical heritage between India and ASEAN.

Common Culture:-

Elements of Indian culture are found in Southeast Asian countries like Cambodia, Malaysia. The first AD excavations of Pyu settlements in present-day Myanmar have yielded evidence of the earliest Southeast Asian contacts with India. There is evidence of architecture, coins, statues of Hindu deities and Buddhas, and other earlier forms of epigraphy. Apart from the famous temples of Cambodia such as Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm, Central Thailand has remnants of Buddhism along with Vaishnava and Shaiva traditions. In the Khorat Plateau of Thailand, there are Sanskrit inscriptions from the 6th century AD. All these elements show that a common culture has developed between India and the ASEAN countries, which provides the basis for the present relations.

Shared geography:

India and ASEAN are part of the Indo-Pacific region, which has become the center of power projection at present. Both these powers hold important strategic, political, and economic importance in the region. Being surrounded by sea, possibilities and challenges in their coast-powers can become each other's allies in disaster management and the blue economy.

Common challenges:

Along with the shared history and culture, the challenges of these two countries are also almost the same. Which are as follows-

- Inequality is common in these two areas.
- Both are exploring new economic possibilities after the effects of the coronavirus.
- China's aggression is a matter of concern for both the powers.
- Climate change as a product of the Industrial Revolution is a matter of concern for both of these powers because both of them will be affected by the rising sea, a consequence of the climate change.
- At present, global powers including America, Europe are becoming active in the Indo-Pacific region.

**India-ASEAN Cooperation****Strategic Cooperation:**

- China is constantly encroaching upon the maritime borders of Southeast Asian countries including Vietnam and the combined power of ASEAN countries is unable to stop China. ASEAN countries see India as a net security provider due to China's increasingly aggressive attitude.
- ASEAN countries are located as a bridge between India and other quad countries (the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean). Their cooperation extends India's reach to the entire Indo-Pacific region.
- The Strait of Malacca, an important choke point of the world, is present in

this area.

Financial Cooperation:-

- ASEAN is India's fourth-largest trading partner while India is its seventh largest trading partner for ASEAN. This cooperation is very important because of the post-corona economic recovery.
- ASEAN is currently a fast-growing region India has invested heavily in this region.
- India has a Free Economic Trade Agreement with Thailand and Singapore. A huge amount of investment has been made by these countries in India.

Cooperation on Infrastructure:-

- The intensity of economic potential can be increased with the help of infrastructure. India is supporting the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Transit and Transport Project.
- The Ganga-Mekong project is being completed in India and Myanmar.
- Cooperation with ASEAN countries plays an important role in the development of India's North-East region. Several skill development centers have been opened by Singapore in Assam located in the North-East.

Cooperation on the issue of climate change:-

- India and ASEAN jointly consider the current climate change to be a by-product of the Industrial Revolution.
- Both bodies hold the Western world responsible for global climate change and favor the transfer of technology and finance from the West.
- Both recognize the importance of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- ASEAN can play an important role in the International Solar Alliance. This can also solve the energy crisis of ASEAN countries.

People to People Cooperation:-

- The number of residents of Indian origin in ASEAN is very high. ASEAN-India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is organized

to commemorate this. This cooperation between the people of both the powers enhances mutual trust between them.

Scope of improvement-**RCEP Issue:-**

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a free trade agreement proposed by ASEAN, in which Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Japan, South Korea were expected to join in addition to ASEAN countries. But India withdrew itself from this agreement due to its issues and concerns not being resolved satisfactorily. Although ASEAN countries have said that India can join RCEP whenever it wants.

Delay in projects:

Delay in projects being undertaken by India in ASEAN countries such as Kaladan Multimodal Project or Trilateral Highway projects is a major problem.

Nuclear issue:

India's nuclear test in 1998 was opposed by Thailand. ASEAN has declared to keep its region nuclear-free but India needs nuclear weapons. India has signed ASEAN's declaration of a nuclear-free zone and ASEAN needs a strong India to stop China's encroachment in the South China Sea. Thus the tension between the two powers on the nuclear issue does not affect the mutual relations.

Security of North-Eastern Regions:-

In the North-Eastern region of India, Naxalism is financed by organized crime. Drug trafficking occurs in the North-Eastern region from the Golden Triangle (Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar) located in ASEAN countries, which supports these organized crimes.

Conclusion:-

Next year will be the 30th year of cooperation between India and ASEAN, in such a long time the cooperation between India and ASEAN is very high while the issues of dispute are very less. The combined power of India and ASEAN is essential for the stability and progress of this region.

NOTES

7 Need for protection of Symbols of cultural pride and heritage in India

- **Background**
- **Dholavira included in the list of world heritage sites**
- **Dignitaries and Cultural Heritage**
- **Protection of Art, Culture, Heritage and Indian Budget**
- **Efforts made by other organizations**

Background:

Protection of the cultural heritage of any country is related to the cultural pride of that country. Along with this, global identity of any country is also associated with cultural heritage. The culture and civilization of a country and the values associated with it are reflected in the form of cultural heritage. In different centuries, many kings, queens showed their excellent creative thinking in the field of architecture, sculpture and temple construction, built important buildings and forts. Preserving these cultural heritages is similar to preserving the past culture of the country. When a site of the cultural importance of India is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, this proves that India has unique and wonderful architecture. But there are many cultural important sites in different states of India which needs protection. It has been seen in India that special emphasis is given to the protection of certain monuments.

Dholavira included in the list of world heritage sites :

In the Indian budget for the financial year 2020-21, 5 archaeological sites Dholavira (Gujarat), Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Sivasagar (Assam), Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu), Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh) have been established or developed as model sites with local museums. When the announcement was made, no one knew that in the next financial year 2021-22, Dholavira of Gujarat would get a global cultural identity by including it in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Rann of Kutch, related to Dholavira, a Harappan site in Gujarat nominated by the Indian, has been included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Site. India had submitted its dossier for 'Dholavira. A Harappan city to the World Heritage Centre' in January 2020. The site was on the UNESCO's tentative list since 2014. Dholavira, a Harappan city, is one of the very few well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.

Dholavira: The city of Harappan culture, is one of the few best-preserved ancient urban settlements from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BC in South Asia. The sixth-largest of the more than 1,000 Harappan sites ever discovered and existed for over 1,500 years, Dholavira is not only a witness to the entire journey of the rise and fall of this early civilization of mankind but also it shows multi

faceted achievements in terms of urban planning, construction techniques, water management, social governance and development, art, construction, trade and faith system. With its extremely rich artifacts, the well-preserved urban settlement of Dholavira presents a vibrant picture of the regional center with its distinctive features that also contribute significantly to the existing knowledge of the Harappan civilization. Now, India has a total of 40 World Heritage Sites 32 are cultural, 7 natural and one mixed property. Union Culture Minister also mentioned those countries that have 40 or more World Heritage Sites; these are Italy, Spain, Germany, China and France. Ten new World Heritage Sites have been added in India since 2014. In the year 2021, Kakatiya Rudreshwar Temple in Telangana state has also been included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. This temple is also famous as Ramappa Temple. Surrounded by walls in a compound, it is the main Shiva temple, which was constructed during 1123 AD to 1323 AD the reign of former rulers Rudradev and Recharla Rudra. This temple is made of sandstone and its pillar made of granite stone is carved.

Dignitaries and Cultural Heritage:

From time to time visits by the Indian President, Prime Minister, Vice President and other dignitaries to heritage sites



of cultural importance and highlighting their importance on information platforms can also be an important strategy. Through which the society can be made aware of the places of cultural importance and through this a new direction can also be given to cultural tourism in the country. In August 2021, after visiting Hampi, the famous place of Vijayanagara Empire located in Bellary district of Karnataka, the Vice President of India said in a Facebook post that this historical place reminds us of our rich vibrant past. At the same time, he said, "I urge all educational institutions to organize student tours to places of historical importance so that they can get to know better about our rich and glorious heritage". Praising the grandeur and splendor of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Vice President of India had said that this historic pilgrimage filled him with a sense of pride about the vision and skill of our ancestors. The Vijayanagara Empire had been established between the Krishna and Tungabhadra river valleys in the year 1336 AD by two brothers Harihara Raya I and Bukka Raya I. The Vijayanagara Empire reached its golden age during the reign of the mighty king Sri Krishnadevaraya. During this period, trade expanded across the world and fields such as music, dance, literature, painting, sculpture and architecture saw a new height and left an inefaceable mark on history. The Vice President wrote, "Telugu literature reached splendid heights during this period and Vijayanagara became the most famous city of medieval India." The Vice President of India visited various sites including Ganesh idols, Lakshmi Narasimha, Badvilinga, VijayaVitthal Temple, Pushkarni, Kamal Mahal and Hazara Ram Temple.

Protection of Art, Culture, Heritage and Indian Budget:

To conserving art, culture and heritage, the Government of India had proposed to allocate Rs 3150 crore for the Ministry of Culture in the 2020-21 budget. In this budget, along with the announcement of

the establishment of the Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation, the proposal for 8 new museums, complete renovation of 5 museums and development of infrastructure of 5 major archaeological sites were also announced. Apart from this, the National Maritime Heritage Museum was also announced in this budget to be built in Lothal. To have well trained resources in the disciplines of Museology and Archaeology, the Finance Minister of India had proposed to set up the first Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation of the country. The institution will have the status of a deemed university and will operate under the Ministry of Culture. This institute is essential for acquiring knowledge in disciplines like museology and archaeology, gathering scientific evidence, analysis of data and their dissemination through museums. In the budget 2021-22, the Government of India has been allocated Rs 2687.99 crore for the Ministry of Culture. In the financial year 2021-22, the ministry has reserved Rs 455.20 crore for Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana, museum development, international cooperation and celebrations. In addition, Rs 883.12 crore has been allocated for central autonomous bodies, academics, museums, libraries and other cultural institutions across the country.

Efforts made by other organizations-

The National Monument Authority has also played a role in the protection of India's cultural heritage through the formation of heritage Sub-laws. The Gunavati Temple Group for which the National Monument Authority has formed a heritage sub-law is located at Radhkishorepur in the Gomti district of Tripura. These temples were built during the reign of Govind-Manikya (1600-1676 AD). According to the inscription engraved here, they were built in 1668 AD by Gunavati, wife of Govind Manikya. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Apart from this, at Bishnupur in Bankura district of West Bengal, the National Monuments Authority has prepared a draft heritage sub-law to make the Dalmadal cannon and the platform on which it is kept, as a national heritage. Heritage bye-laws have also been prepared for Ghanshyam Bhawan at Joysagar in Shibsagar district of Assam. Along with this, other monuments for which heritage sub-laws have been made include Jami Masjid, Banda Uttar Pradesh, Bithoor Stupa, Kanpur Uttar Pradesh, Karna Chaupar Cave, Sudama Cave, Lomash Rishi Cave, Barabar and Nagarjuna Hills which are located in Jehanabad, Bihar.



1

Consideration for rising the purchase age of tobacco to 21 years

Why in the news?

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has suggested a ban on selling tobacco to the youth.

Background:

India is the second largest producer and consumer of tobacco. Tobacco is consumed in India in the form of cigarettes, bidi and cigars. Tobacco increases the risk of lung disease and cancer, as well as increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases. In India, more than 13 lakh people die every year due to tobacco use, i.e. 3500 deaths per day.

'World No Tobacco Day'

World Health Organization observes 31st May every year as 'World No Tobacco Day' with the aim of promoting awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco use such as cancer and other non-communicable diseases.

Although there has been a significant decline in use of tobacco between 2000 and 2016, it is insufficient to meet the goal of preventing death for people suffering from cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases globally.

Efforts made by India for tobacco control:

Under Article 47 of the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV of the Constitution of India, the State shall take steps to improve public health and prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and substances. India has taken the following steps to control the use of tobacco:

Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA-2003) :

This act is an amended form of the Cigarette Act of 1975 because it did not cover



non-cigarette products.

The 2003 Act includes cigars, bidis, chroot, pipe tobacco, hookah, chewing tobacco, pan masala and gutkha.

Under this law, smoking in a public place, advertising, promoting tobacco products, selling tobacco products to children below 18 years of age, sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions has been banned.

The draft is being prepared by the government in which it is proposed to increase the age limit of 18 years for tobacco purchases to 21 years. India has adopted tobacco control provisions under the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

Global Status of Tobacco Production:

Due to tobacco use, around 6 million people die untimely every year in the world.

Globally, 67 lakh tonnes of tobacco are produced annually. In tobacco production, China ranks first with 32 lakh tonnes of tobacco production (39.6% of global tobacco) and India is second with 8.75 lakh tonnes (9% of global production).

Tobacco products in India provide employment to 36,865 registered farmers, 44 lakh people in beedi factories, and 22

lakh people who collect tendu leaves.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

NCPCR is a statutory body constituted by the 'Commission for Protection of Child Rights' Act 2005, which is functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Work-

The Commission ensures that all laws, policies, programs and administrative systems are in accordance with the provisions of the Children's right given in the Constitution of India and in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It investigates complaints related to the right to free and compulsory education for the child under the Right to Education Act, 2009. It monitors the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (PACSO Act).

NOTES

2 Dyscalculia

Why in News?

According to recent research by Dr. Chetna Sachidanandan, about 6 percent of school-age children may have dyscalculia, but the situation becomes more worrying when many teachers are also unaware of this condition.

What is dyscalculia?

Dyscalculia is a condition that affects the ability to understand mathematical skills. Dyscalculia-affected students may have difficulty in grasping simple number concepts and trouble learning numbers and processes.

Dyscalculia is a learning disability in mathematics. Children affected by dyscalculia have difficulty with maths on many levels. They struggle with major and minor mathematical concepts. Children affected with dyscalculia find it uncomfortable to solve basic maths questions as well as algebraic maths problems.

According to research, 5 to 10 percent of

children may have dyscalculia. It is not clear whether dyscalculia is as common in girls as boys. Most experts agree that dyscalculia can occur in boys and girls. People affected by dyscalculia find it difficult to perform everyday tasks. Like cooking, grocery shopping, and getting somewhere on time. This is because all of these tasks involve basic math skills.

Other learning disabilities:-

1. Dyslexia- It is a language-based disability in which a person has trouble understanding words, sentences or paragraphs.

2. Dysgraphia- This is a condition in which the person has difficulty in writing. There may be unusual writing of the person. In most cases, the person also has difficulty in understanding the different sounds and words spoken. Dysgraphia usually occurs in children under 15 years of age, but this disability can be present in adults as well.

3. Auditory Processing Disorder- Peo-

-ple with this disorder can hear and see properly, but it is difficult for them to communicate properly.

Symptoms of dyscalculia:

Children with dyscalculia can have problems with mathematics in different ways. Its symptoms may vary from one child to another, as well as the symptoms may be varied at different ages. In some children, the problem of number sense appears at the beginning of pre-school.

Common symptoms of dyscalculia include-

1. Difficulty in understanding the meaning of the largest and smallest numbers or concepts.
2. To understand that the 5 in form of digit and word are the same.
3. Difficulty remembering mathematical facts in school.
4. Having a problem counting money.
5. Not being able to calculate the time.

3 Demand for Garoland in Meghalaya

The demand for a separate state of Garoland in Meghalaya has again intensified with the decision to hold by-elections for three assembly seats in Meghalaya from October 30. To create pressure, two parties have formed a coordination committee. The Hills State People's Democratic Party and the Garo Hills State Movement Committee have formed panels for this and demanded that Meghalaya should have two states, one state for the Garo people and the other for the Khasi Jaintia people.

Originally, the separatist movement got a boost in Meghalaya when the Garo National Liberation Army was formed in the year 2009. It had launched a movement for the demand of an autonomous

state using violence. Its main aim was the formation of a separate Garoland in the western part of Meghalaya. This extremist group used to operate actively in the Garo region, Goalpara and Kamrup districts of Assam. The Government of India declared the GNLA as a terrorist and illegal organization in the year 2012 because it was involved in murder, smuggling, extortion, kidnapping, murder and alliance with anti-India elements.

There is a demand to create Garoland by merging the 5 Garo community-dominated districts of Meghalaya and areas of Garo community living people in Assam. Out of the 11 districts of Meghalaya, 5 districts are known as the Garo Hills region in which about 14 lakh people live

as per the 2011 Census of India while 22.44 lakh people live in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills region. The Khasi Jaintia Hills region is spread over an area of 15,546 sq km while the Garo Hills region is spread over an area of 10,102 sq km. The Garo Hills region has 24 seats out of the total 60 assembly seats in Meghalaya. In March 2014, the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly rejected a proposal to create a separate state of Garoland in western Meghalaya. Meghalaya state was formed in the year 1972 by merging some parts of Assam.

4 National Commission for Scheduled Castes

Why in News?

Mumbai Narcotics Control Bureau officer Sameer Wankhede, who came into the limelight because of Aryan Khan Drug case, has given an application in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes alleging that he is being framed in a false case. In such a situation, the chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Vijay Sampla said that the Commission will investigate the matter whether he has been implicated in a false case.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes:

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is a constitutional body established by Article 338 of the Constitution of India. Provision was made for the formation of two separate commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act 2003. As a result, since 2004, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes are two separate bodies. At present, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has been constituted

under Article-338 of the Constitution and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been constituted under Article-338A.

Composition of National Commission for Scheduled Castes:

- Chairman .
- Vice Chairman.
- Three other members

Eligibility :

(1) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members are appointed from amongst such persons who have worked selflessly for the justice of the Scheduled Castes.

(2)(a) The Chairman is appointed from amongst eminent socio-political activists of the Scheduled Castes.

(b) The Vice-Chairman and other two members shall be appointed from amongst who belong to the Scheduled Castes.

(c) At least one member must be a woman.

The chairman and members of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes are appointed by order of the President.

Tenure

(1) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other members hold office for three years.

(2) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other members are not eligible for appointment for more than two terms of office.

Functions of National Commission for Scheduled Castes:

- To supervise and inspect all matters relating to the constitutional protection of Scheduled Castes and to review their implementation.
- To investigate and hear all matters relating to Scheduled Castes.
- To submit a report annually to the President about the steps taken and the work being done in relation to the Scheduled Castes.
- To advise the Central or State Governments on the socio-economic development schemes relating to the Scheduled Castes.
- To carry out the works related to the socio-economic development and constitutional protection of the Scheduled Castes.

5 SHALE GAS

Why in news-

Reliance exits shale gas business in US

Context-As Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) aims for a net-zero carbon emissions future by 2035, the company is exiting its conventional oil and gas businesses.

Shale gas

Shale gas is a form of natural gas (mostly methane), found underground in shale rock. It is classified as 'unconventional' because it is found in shale, a less permeable rock formation than sandstone, siltstone or limestone in which 'conventional' gas is found, and it is generally distributed over a much larger area. It does not flow easily.

Different from conventional gas:

Hydrocarbons, such as oil and gas, are produced by the transformation of organic matter (plants; animals; algae, etc.) as a result of increased temperature and pressure. This occurs when a potential source rock, rich in organic matter, is buried and heated at considerable depth (usually thousands of metres below the surface).

The hydrocarbons migrate upwards where they may find their way into porous reservoir rocks, typically a sandstone or a porous limestone.

How is shale gas extracted?

- **Hydraulic fracturing**— commonly

known as fracking — is the process used to extract shale gas.

- Deep holes are drilled down into the shale rock, followed by horizontal drilling to access more of the gas reserves, as shale reserves are typically distributed horizontally rather than vertically.

- Fracking fluids containing sand, water and chemicals are then pumped at high pressure into the drilled holes, to open up fractures in the rock, enabling the trapped gas to flow through the fractures into collection wells. From there it is piped away for commercial use. Recovery rates for shale gas are much lower than for conventional gas

INTER-NATIONAL

1

Global Threat Assessment Report 2021

Why in News ?

We Protect Global Alliance has released the Global Threat Assessment Report 2021. This report states that there has been an increase in child sexual abuse and online abuse in the period of COVID-19.

Key findings:

- The cases of child sexual abuse and online abuse have been the highest in the last 2 years.
- In the report, a survey has been conducted on about 5000 youth in the age group of 18 to 20 years of 54 countries. 54 percent admitted that they had faced online sexual abuse at least once in their childhood whereas 34 percent of the

youth admitted that they were made to make some sexual demands online.

- The report states that LGBTQ+, transgender, non-binary and disabled children are at higher risk of online sexual abuse.
- The report also states that only 37% of technology companies are using tools to detect online child sexual abuse material and online grooming.
- According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, there has been a 106 percent increase in reports of child sexual abuse.
- The report recommends many steps to be taken for a safe online environment. Such as creating technology to completely block any explicit online sexual content. Also, creating such online

forums through which children can be educated in this direction.

'We Protect Global Alliance'

The 'We Protect Global Alliance' is a global movement of more than 200 governments, private sector companies and civil society organizations which are working on the issue of child sexual abuse and online exploitation.



2

America becomes a new member of the International Solar Alliance

The USA has become the 101st member of the Solar Alliance by signing the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance. Just a few months ago, India had requested America to become a member of the International Solar Alliance and now America has joined the India-led alliance. India also requested to become its member because America has already joined the Global Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure which was proposed by India in 2019.

On January 8, 2021, by amending the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance, it was decided that now all the member countries of the United Nations can become members of the International Solar Alliance, since then India has been trying through its energy diplomacy that the global powers join this alliance. The joining of Greece,

Germany, and Sweden in recent times only highlights India's meaningful efforts. 101 countries have signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement so far, due to which ISA is in news. The US is the latest country after Sweden to have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA. Before that Greece, Germany, Denmark and Italy had signed. Apart from this, Israel has also become its member in October 2021.

So far 80 countries have also signed and ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA. The International Solar Alliance is an international intergovernmental organization of 121 solar resource-rich countries located partially or wholly between the Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn. Its headquarter is in Gurugram (Haryana). The objective of the ISA is to bring all countries together to collectively address the main barriers to the large-scale

spread of solar energy in terms of technology, finance and capacity.

The objective of the ISA is to mobilize member countries and the private sector to access rural and decentralized applications, affordable financial support, solar mini-grids of islands and villages, rooftop installations and solar e-mobility technologies.

ISA has been established by an initiative of India. It was jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of France, at COP-21 during the United Nations Climate Summit in Paris on 30 November 2015.



ENVIRONMENT

1

World Meteorological Organization's report on carbon dioxide

According to the report of the World Meteorological Organization, in the coming times, the ability of terrestrial ecosystems and oceans to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere may decrease.

This is said because the amount of carbon dioxide in the environment is increasing rapidly. If the concentration of carbon dioxide in the environment continues to increase like this, then gradually one day our atmosphere will become a gas chamber.

Major findings of the report:

According to this, the growth in 'carbon dioxide' during the year 2019-2020 was slightly lower than the year 2018-2019, but the average annual growth rate during the last decade is higher.

It was told in the report that the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions last year was due to the worldwide lockdown caused by covid 19.

On the other hand, in terms of methane gas and nitrous oxide (N₂O), the increase in both these gases during the year 2019-2020 was higher than in 2018-2019, which was more than the 'average annual growth rate' during the last decade.

According to the report, in the year 2020, 'the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) has reached 413.2 parts per million. This is 149% of the pre-industrial level. Methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) levels have been 262% and 123%, respectively.

About half of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activities is absorbed by oceans and terrestrial ecosystems, while the rest remains in the atmosphere. Now, there is concern that the ability of these terrestrial ecosystems and oceans to absorb carbon dioxide may decrease in the future, and the rate at which the concentration of greenhouse gases is increasing, by the end of this century, we

may have to see a much higher temperature increase than the target set in the 'Paris Agreement'

Some important facts about the World Meteorological Organization:

WMO is a specialized agency of the 'United Nations' which was established on 23 March 1950. It is dedicated to weather, climate, hydrology and others which are related to 'geophysical sciences' such as 'oceanology' and 'atmospheric chemistry'. WMO coordinates activities related to 'National Meteorological' and 'Hydrology' services in 191 countries and territories. With this, basic services related to weather, climate and water can be made available to people. Important reports published by the WMO are the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin and the Status of the World Climate.

2

Ganges River Dolphin

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has issued a new guideline for the protection of the Ganges River Dolphin. This guideline has been prepared jointly by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of UP. The Ganges Dolphin has been declared as the National Aquatic Animal by the Central Government in the year 2009.

Some facts related to the Ganges River Dolphin:

The scientific name of the dolphin found in the Ganga river is *Platanista Gangetica* who is blind. The Ganges river dolphin is a species of fresh water dolphin, found in the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers and their tributaries in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

In India, these dolphins can be seen in long deep river reaches in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. About 4,000 dolphins of this species are found in the world. Out of which about 80 percent are found in the Indian subcontinent. Due to their decreasing number, different global organizations have classified it in different categories. Some of which are the following:-

- Wildlife Protection Act of India 1972: First Schedule
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Appendix 1 (endangered).

Why in danger :

- **Bycatch:** When a dolphin is trapped by mistake while hunting fish, it is called bycatch. This is because dolphins prefer that area of the river where the flow of the river is slow and the fish are more. In such a situation, when fishermen go fishing, they unknowingly trap dolphins.
- Due to climate change and pollution, the natural habitat of dolphins is being destroyed.
- The threat to their existence is increasing due to the construction of dams and other projects. Due to the formation of dams, Gangetic Dolphin is not able to go further in search of food.
- A report of the Ganges River Dolphin Conservation Plan 2010-2020 has claimed that river traffic, irrigation,

canals and hunting create a major threat to the existence of the Ganges River Dolphin.

Steps are taken for safety:

- **Project Dolphin:** The Central Govern-

ment started Project Dolphin in the year 2020. This project is being run on the lines of Project Tiger. Project Tiger has been considered a successful campaign in India.

- Vikramshila Ganga Dolphin Sanctuary has been established in Bihar. Along with this, October 5 is celebrated as National Ganga Dolphin Day.

3

Pink Leopard spotted for the first time in India

Recently, a rare pink-colored leopard has been seen for the first time in the Ranakpur region of the Aravalli hills of southern Rajasthan. It has been claimed by environmentalists that this is the first time a rare species of leopard of this color has been seen in India. Earlier, Pink Colored Leopard was seen in South Africa in 2016 and 2019.

Status of Leopards in India:

According to the latest report of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, the number of leopards in India has reached 12,852. This number was recorded in the data released in 2020, whereas according

to its earlier census in 2014, there were 7,910 leopards in the country. The number of leopards has increased by 60 per cent during this period. According to the census as compared to other states, 3,421 leopards have been found in Madhya Pradesh, 1,783 in Karnataka and 1,690 in Maharashtra.

Snow leopard in India:

In India, the snow leopard is found in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Hemis, Ladakh is considered the global capital of the snow leopard. The Snow Leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Along with this, the snow leopard is also listed in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The snow

leopard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 of India. It is also listed in the 'Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)', which provides the highest protection for the species globally and in India.

Clouded leopard:

Apart from this, Clouded Leopard is also found in India which is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. In India, it is found in Sikkim, northern West Bengal, Meghalaya subtropical forests, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. It is also the state animal of Meghalaya. The Dampa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram is considered the ideal habitat for the clouded leopard.

SCIENCE-TECH

1

Face Recognition Technology

Why in News?

NITI Aayog has given permission to an independent 'think tank' to test 'face recognition technology' in India.

Background:

Face recognition technology is a part of 'biometric technology' which helps a person to identify him by his face. It is known as Biometric Artificial Intelligence Base Application. Under this, a person is recognized according to the shape of the

retina, nose and face of his eye. The success rate in authentication and identification with its use is about 75%.

Use:

- This technology is used to identify people in a photo, video or real-time. Monitoring of government employees reaching office on time can be done.
- There are 144 policemen per one lakh citizens in India. Hence face recognition system can act as a force multiplier here.

If this technique is used by the police of all the states of India, then CCTV will be able to identify the criminals and this can reduce crime. Many states including Andhra Pradesh, Punjab had adopted face recognition system in 2018 to deal with crime.

- Recently, the Telangana Election Commission has started the use of face recognition app at the initial stage for identification of voters.

Challenges-

1. There may be errors in the recognized data because with its use the success rate in authentication and identification is about 75%. In such a situation, there may be a possibility of innocent people being trapped at the

time of police verification.

2. The right to privacy of citizens can be violated through the state police and investigative agencies. The challenge of data theft may arise.

3. India will have the challenge of protecting and security of the collected

data.

4. The citizens' right to forgotten may be violated.

Due to the above challenges, the European Commission is planning to ban the use of face recognition technology in Europe for 5 years.

2 e-Amrit Portal

India launched the "e-Amrit Portal" on November 10, 2021, towards the awareness of electric vehicles at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. All the information related to electric vehicles will be available on this website. NITI Aayog Advisor Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha and United Kingdom Climate Action Champion Nigel Topping were present at the inauguration ceremony of this portal.

Purpose of e-Amrit Portal:

According to NITI Aayog, all the information related to electric vehicles such as their purchase, investment opportunities, policies and subsidies will be available at one place in the e-Amrit web portal. This portal has been created to fulfill the objective of "Accelerated E-mobility Revolution for India's Transport". One of its main objectives is the adoption of carbon-free and electric mobility in transportation. The e-Amrit web portal has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Government of the United Kingdom as a part of the India-United Kingdom Joint Roadmap, 2030.

The e-Amrit portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a knowledge exchange program in collaboration with the UK Government, as per the UK-India Joint Roadmap 2030. It is a part of the UK-India Joint Roadmap 2030 which has been signed by the Prime Ministers of both countries.

The e-Amrit portal aims to assist electric vehicle users or electric vehicle adopters in the following ways:

- Motivating people to adopt electric vehicles by providing information on electric vehicle technologies, insurance options, types of electric vehicles and financing options.
- To encourage the setting up of electric vehicles or allied enterprises with the help of major initiatives of the Central and State Governments.
- Assessing the benefits with equipment designed for electric vehicles compared to petrol or diesel vehicles.
- Providing complete information about the Indian Electric Vehicle market and industry in one place.

Importance of e-Amrit Portal:

To accelerate the prospects of an electric future the central government has taken a number of initiatives in the field of transportation, with the aim of decarbonization and adoption of electric mobility. It has been instrumental in building an ecosystem towards the adoption of Electric Vehicles through schemes like FAME and PLI. This e-Amrit portal will accelerate the initiative of the Government of India to raise awareness on Electric Vehicles. This e-portal will make people aware of the benefits of adopting electric vehicles.

Electric vehicle policy of the states-

States in India have adopted various policies to promote electric vehicles, like subsidies for the purchase of electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers. Several states have also exempted electric vehicles from registration fees and road tax. Delhi is the first state to successfully implement the Electric Vehicle Policy. The registration of electric vehicles has seen a boom in the last few months.

NOTES



1 Monetization of Assets

Why in News?

Recently, the Finance Minister has announced the National Monetization Pipeline Scheme of Rs 6 lakh crore. Under this scheme, assets worth 6 lakh crores will be sold by 2022-25.

What is asset monetization?

The central government had announced the monetization of assets in the budget for the year 2021-22. The Indian economy has slowed down due to the Corona crisis, the government is looking for new options to raise finance for the infrastructure development project.

The objective of the National Monetization Pipeline is to involve the private sector in brownfield projects and transfer revenue rights to them, but there will be no transfer of ownership under this project. Whereas in privatization, the government transfers revenue rights as well as ownership rights to the private sector. Monetization will help to create and raise the value of the infrastructure of India. It will explore innovative ways of private participation without transferring the ownership of the government.

Benefits of National Monetization Scheme:

- The monetization pipeline is being planned for the long term. The Government of India will encourage such investors who are willing to invest in the infrastructure sector.
- Brownfield assets would be better managed.
- An asset monetization dashboard has also been developed for real-time monitoring.
- It would help in creating new employment opportunities.

Challenges before the National Monetization Pipeline:

- There is a lack of independent regional regulators.
- Generally, Investors do not have interest in National Highways having less than four lanes.
- Property specific challenges also exist.

Will NMP help the economy?

The government believes that leasing out public properties to private investors will help in freeing up the capital stuck in these assets. For example, the government has invested thousands of crores in a road project. It may take decades to retrieve its investment through annual toll revenue. Instead, the government can recover its investment by leasing it to a private investor.

Analysts also believe that the government is implementing the right model for infrastructure development through NMP. It will be suitable to meet the challenges related to infrastructure creation.

Issues of Monetization through PPP:

- Projects built on PPP basis have higher expenditure, which can lead to the problem of double balance sheets.
- PPP projects include issues related to land and resettlement.
- If the project is implemented through PPP, then there are also tariff-related challenges.
- Private firms and lenders need to be alert about exchange rate risk and asset risk.

Infrastructure Investment Trust:

Infrastructure Investment Trust is a pooled investment scheme like a mutual fund. Mutual funds provide investment



opportunities in equity shares whereas Infrastructure Investment Trust allow-investment in infrastructure projects like roads and electricity. Infrastructure investment is regulated by SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trust) Regulation 2014.

Way Forward:

The success of the National Monetization Pipeline infrastructure plan will depend on the role of other stakeholders. Making infrastructure creation possible through monetization in which the best public and private sectors should cooperate in full capacity. So that socio-economic development can be made possible and the quality of life of the citizens of the country can be improved. Along with this, the dream of making a 5 trillion economy by 2024 would be realized.

NOTES



1. Most Climate Vulnerable Districts of India

The Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW), a think tank, has released the first district-based Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI). This index covers 640 districts of India. The objective of this index is to accurately assess the vulnerability of cities to weather incidents like cyclones, floods, heatwaves, droughts etc. In this report, it has been claimed that 17 out of 20 people in India are at climate risk. The most climate-sensitive districts in India are:

- Dhemaji and Nagaon in Assam
- Khammam in Telangana
- Gajapati in Orissa
- Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh

2. Top State in Governance Performance

Recently, In a study by the Public Affairs Center (PAC) Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have been ranked as the top three states in governance performance. The report states that Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Gujarat have performed well in the overall index. Equity, growth and stability have been made the basis for this assessment. The study is an annual assessment of the quality of governance in the states. Among the smaller states, Sikkim, Goa and Mizoram are the top-performing states. Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh are the top-performing union territories. This index is based on the analysis of government data



3. Maharashtra becomes the first state to prepare a wildlife action plan



Maharashtra became the first state in the country to prepare a wildlife action plan till 2021-30. This action plan will be implemented in the next 10 years. In this action plan, the impact of climate change on wildlife, coastal ecosystems, marine biodiversity, flora and fauna will be assessed. It will act as a guiding document for the state for the next ten years. Apart from this, the scheme will focus on the conservation of species, control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict and wildlife health management, etc.

4. National Unity Day celebrated on 31st October

India celebrates National Unity Day on 31 October on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The first National Unity Day was celebrated in the year 2014. Vallabhbhai Patel was the first Deputy Prime Minister and the first Home Minister of India. He has also been known as the Iron Man and Bismarck of India. Due to his efforts, 565 princely states of India were successfully unified. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had an important role in the establishment of the All India Services.



5. Indigenous Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon Successfully Tested



Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully test-fired indigenous Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon in the Chandan ranges of Jaisalmer. This test of smart anti-airfield has been done for the first time in India. At present, the range of this weapon is 100 km. The anti-airfield electro-optical configuration is equipped with Imaging Infra-red (IIR) technology. Due to which its ability to hit the target increases. The Smart Anti Airfield Weapon is designed and developed by the Research Center Imarat (RCI), a branch of DRDO.

6. Bill on declare Diwali as a holiday introduced in the US

Recently, the US Parliament (Congress) has introduced a bill to declare Diwali as a holiday. Earlier, a woman member of the US Parliament, Caroline B. Maloney, had urged to make Diwali a national holiday in the United States. This bill has been supported by many MPs including the Indian-origin American Congress member Raja Krishnamurthy. Additionally, on the occasion of Diwali, the United States Postal Service also issued a commemorative stamp.



7. MoU between Ministry of Rural Development and Flipkart



The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an agreement with Flipkart to sell products made by artisans under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. This agreement with Flipkart has been done under the 'Samarth Program'. Small craftsmen, weavers and artisans will get the biggest benefit from this agreement because their products will be available to 100 million customers through Flipkart's e-marketplace. A provision has been made in this agreement to give preference to women entrepreneurs. The government is planning to make a similar agreement with Amazon.

8. Damon Galgut got the Booker Prize

South African author Damon Galgut will be awarded the Booker Prize for the book 'The Promise'. Earlier, South Africa's Nadine Gordimer and JM Coetzee have been awarded the Booker Prize.

Booker Prize in a nut shell

The Booker Prize was established in 1969. It is a literary award given annually to the best novel written in English and published in the UK and Ireland. The winner of the Booker Prize receives £50,000 as a prize. Bernice Rubens was the first woman to receive the Booker Prize in 1970 for book "The Elected Member".



9. Manu Bhaker and Jawad Foroughi won gold in shooting

India's Manu Bhaker and Iran's Jawad Foroughi won the gold medals in the air pistol mixed team at the President's Cup Shooting Championship in Wroclaw, Poland. Manu Bhaker and Jawad Foroughi won the title by defeating Mathilde-Lamolle of France and Artem Artem Chernousov of Russia in the match. In the competition, Manu Bhaker topped in the individual women's air pistol.



10. National Logistics Performance Index 2021

The National Logistics Performance Index 2021 was released on 08 November 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is an indicator of the efficiency of logistics services required to boost exports and economic growth. Gujarat tops the list of 21 states, followed by Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra respectively. Uttar Pradesh has come from 13th place to 6th place this year.

Delhi has got the top position among the Union Territories. This index is based on 21 indicators. The index aims to focus on improving logistic performance across states. This index was released in the Leads (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2021 report released by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. This report will help in identifying the problem areas and formulating a policy to tackle them.



11. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar to be the next Chief of Navy



The Union Ministry of Defense has appointed Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar as the next Chief of Naval Staff. He will take over his new office on November 30. At present, Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar is the Flag Commanding-in-Chief Officer of the Western Naval Command. The current Navy Chief, Admiral Karambir is retiring from service on 30 November 2021. Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar has been awarded ParamVishishtSeva Medal (PVSM), AtiVishishtSeva Medal (AVSM) and VishishtSeva Medal (VSM).

12. A mentorship program for young innovators started

The Government of India has started a mentorship program for young innovators. This mentorship program was started for the first time on November 08, 2021, by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. On the occasion of the 75th year of Indian Independence, the Central Government has started the Mentorship Program for Young Innovators. This program will be all India level which will help in promoting scientific research, innovation and scientific temper in the country. Under this, there is a plan for Star College in every district by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The program focuses on the concepts of networking, outreach and hand-holding. Under this, workshops, meetings every month and activities in government schools will be organized.



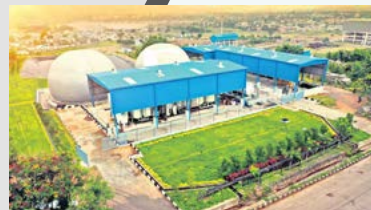
13. Indian Navy got fourth Scorpene submarine 'Vela'



Under Project 75, the fourth submarine Vela was handed over to the Indian Navy. Under this project, 6 submarines are of Scorpene class. All these submarines are manufactured in India with the help of France and all are being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai. The cost of the project is 23 thousand crores. So far, Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, and just now Vela submarines have been included in the Indian Navy. This submarine is a part of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat project. Vela is a diesel-electric warfare submarine. It is also capable of attacking with torpedoes and tube-launched anti-ship missiles.

14. The world's first landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant started in Hyderabad

The Municipal Corporation in Hyderabad has inaugurated the world's first and India's largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant at the solid waste site. The plant is being set up by RamkyEnviro Engineers Limited. RamkyEnviro Engineers Limited is a leading company in Asia providing comprehensive environmental management services. The project aims to convert landfill gas into compressed biogas for automotive fuel.



15. 'KhelRatna' Award



Tokyo Olympics gold medalist javelin throw athlete Neeraj Chopra and silver medalist wrestler Ravi Dahiya along with nine other athletes will receive the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand KhelRatna Award (earlier known as Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna Award). Apart from 11 athletes, eminent football player Sunil Chhetri, Tokyo Paralympic gold medalist shooter AvaniLekhara, Manish Narwal, javelin throw player SumitAntil and shuttlersPramodBhagat, Krishna Nagar have also been selected for the KhelRatna award. Sunil Chhetri is the first footballer to get this honor.

- Other sportspersons who have been selected for the KhelRatna Award are:
 - o PR Sreejesh, Manpreet Singh (Hockey)
 - o LovlinaBorgohain (boxing)
 - o Mithali Raj (Cricket)
- This time where 35 athletes were selected for the Arjuna Award. On the other hand, cricketer ShikharDhawan, para TT player Bhavna Patel, parashutlerSuhas Yathiraj and Nishad Kumar have been selected for the Arjuna Award

16. QS Asia University Rankings 2022 released

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released the ranking of 687 universities. The National University of Singapore has been ranked first in the QS Asia University Rankings for the fourth year in a row.

No Indian university is in the top 10 this year. 7 Indian universities have made it to the top 100. The Indian institutes that have made it to the rankings are IIT Bombay (Rank 42), IIT Delhi (Rank 45), IIT Madras (Rank 54), University of Delhi (Rank 77) and JNU (Rank 107)

At the same time, among the state-run universities, the University of Calcutta (Rank 154) is at the top position. In the QS Asia University Rankings 2022, China's highest 126 universities have been found the place. While India is in second place with 18 universities. Japan's highest number of universities (11 universities) have been ranked in the top 50 of the rankings.



17. Indian team announced for Junior Men's Hockey World Cup



Hockey India has announced an 18-member Indian squad for the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021 to be held from 24 November 2021 to 5 December. The tournament will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha.

Vivek Sagar has been made the captain of the team. He was part of the senior hockey team at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

India won the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2016 title. 16 top teams from around the world will participate in this tournament. India will play its first match against France.

Other 15 teams Belgium, Netherlands, Argentina, Germany, Canada, South Africa, Egypt, Pakistan, Korea, Malaysia, Poland, France, Chile, Spain and USA are participating in the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup tournament along with India.

18. Padma awards 2021

Padma awards are one of the highest civilian awards of the country which are awarded in three categories – Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. In this year 2021, 119 people from different fields have been awarded Padma Awards. There are 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri awards. There are 29 women in the Padma Awards for the year 2021. The recipients of Padma Vibhushan are former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, singer SP Balasubramaniam (posthumously), Sudarshan Sahu, BB Lal, Maulana Wahiddeen Khan, Dr. Monappa Hegde, Narinder Singh Kapani in the field of arts.

Padma Bhushan recipients are former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Nripendra Mishra, former Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan (posthumously), religious leader Kabeer Sadiq (posthumous), Spiritualism, Krishnan Nair Shantakumari, Chandrashekhar Kambra, Keshubhai Patel (posthumously), Rajinikanth Devidas, Tarlochan Singh.

The Padma Shri recipients include actresses Kangana Ranaut, Tulsi Gowda, transgender Majamma Jogathi, hockey team captain Rani Rampal, Karan Johar etc.



19. DRDO and Israel sign agreement on 'Technical Cooperation'



Recently, India and Israel have signed a bilateral agreement in the field of innovation to further strengthen technical cooperation. This agreement has been signed between Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Directorate of Organization (DDR&D) and Israel. The agreement seeks to work together to develop next-generation technologies and products, including drones, robotics, artificial intelligence and quantum computing. The agreement was signed by DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy on behalf of the Defense Ministry and Daniel Gould on behalf of Israel. During the 15th Joint Working Group meeting in Tel Aviv last month, the two countries had announced the formation of a task force aimed at enhancing their bilateral defense cooperation. The meeting was co-chaired by Indian Defense Secretary Ajay Kumar and Retd Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defense Major General Amir Eshel.

BRAIN BOOSTERS

1. Government of India Act 1858:

- After the revolt of 1857, Rule of Company was replaced by Rule of Crown in India.
- Powers of the British Crown were to be exercised by the Secretary of State of India, assisted by the Council of India having 15 members.
- Governor General was made Viceroy of India.
- Abolition of Board of Control and Court of Directors.

2. Indian Councils Act 1861:

- Decentralization initiated by restoration of the legislative powers of Madras and Bombay Presidencies.
- For the first time, Viceroy's extended Council had 3 Indians.
- Bengal, North-western Provinces and Punjab were provided new legislative councils.
- Viceroy empowered to issue ordinances, during an emergency.

3. Indian Councils Act 1892:

- Introduction of indirect elections.
- Governor-General's council enlarged.
- Functions of the Legislative Council increased. Power given to them to discuss budget and address questions to the executives.

4. Indian Councils Act 1909:

- Also known as Morley-Minto reforms.
- Size of Legislative Councils at Centre and provinces was significantly increased. Members in Central Legislative Council increased from 16 to 60.
- Communal representation introduced, separate electorate for Muslims. Lord Minto became Father of Communal Electorate.
- Indians were allowed in the Executive Councils of the Viceroy and Governor.
- Councils given the right to discuss any matter, move resolution on budget and ask supplementary questions.

5. Government of India Act 1919:

- Also known as Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.
- Central subjects were demarcated and separated from those of the provincial subjects.
- 'Dyarchy' introduced at provincial level.
- Under Dyarchy system, provincial subjects were divided in Transferred and Reserved Subjects. Governor was not responsible to the Legislative Council on reserved subjects.
- For 1st time, bicameralism was introduced in the centre.
- Direct elections.
- Act mandated, 3 of 6 members of the viceroy's executive Council but not the Commander-in-chief, to be Indians.
- Provided for the establishment of Central Public Service Commission.

Evolution of Indian Constitution- II

The Crown Rule (1858-1947)

7. Indian Independence Act of 1947:

- It ended British rule in India and declared India as an independent state.
- Provided for partition of India.
- The office of the Secretary of State for India abolished

6. Government of India Act 1935:

- Act proposed for the establishment of an All India Federation consisting of the provinces and the Princely states as Units, though the federation never came into being.
- Act divided the powers between the Centre and units into Federal list, Provincial List and Concurrent list.
- Residuary powers were vested in Viceroy.
- Provided for adoption of dyarchy at Centre.
- Introduced bicameralism in 6 provinces i.e., Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and United Provinces.
- Reserve Bank of India established.
- Provided for the establishment of Federal Court

What is geographical indication?

Geographical indication (GI) is a sign or a name given to a certain product that relates to a specific geographical location or origins like a town, region or country.

Importance of GI tag:

GI tags are regarded as a certification that the particular product is produced as per traditional methods and it has certain specific qualities or it has a particular reputation because of its geographical origin.

Significance of GI in rural development:

Mostly traditional products which are produced by rural communities for generations and have gained fame in the market for their precise quality get GI tags. Impact on rural development can be as follows:-

- Preservation of traditional expertise and traditions
- Supply chains can be built around a product's reputation
- Higher price for the GI product
- Product's natural resources or ingredients can be preserved.
- Tourism ecosystem system can be built.



GI Tag

Measures taken by government to promote GI tag in India:

- Reduced fee structure for the registration of an authorised user of a registered Geographical Indication
- Social media campaigns launched like:
 - i) Gift a GI
 - ii) Spot the GI
- DPIIT and CII together launched a first-of-its-kind Geographical Indication Festival of India with an aim to provide a platform for GI producers to display their product virtually.

Recently awarded GI Tags:-

1. Harmal Chilli, Goa:- Popular for its spicy taste and high colour value. It contains a good amount of minerals like potassium, magnesium, calcium and sodium.

2. Uttarakhand Ringal Craft, Uttarakhand:- Ringal weaving is a Nifty and age-old art. The artisans use a special species of the dwarf Ringal that grows in these areas to weave. Ringal is nearly water resistant.

3. Munsiyari Rajma, Uttarakhand:- It is grown in high altitude, mineral rich lands of Uttarakhand and is famous for its excellent culinary properties, high nutritional value and medicinal properties.

4. Uttarakhand Aipan, Uttarakhand:- It is an exclusive woman practised art that has its unique identity as a painting, done on the empty walls and on the ground symbolising fortune and fertility.

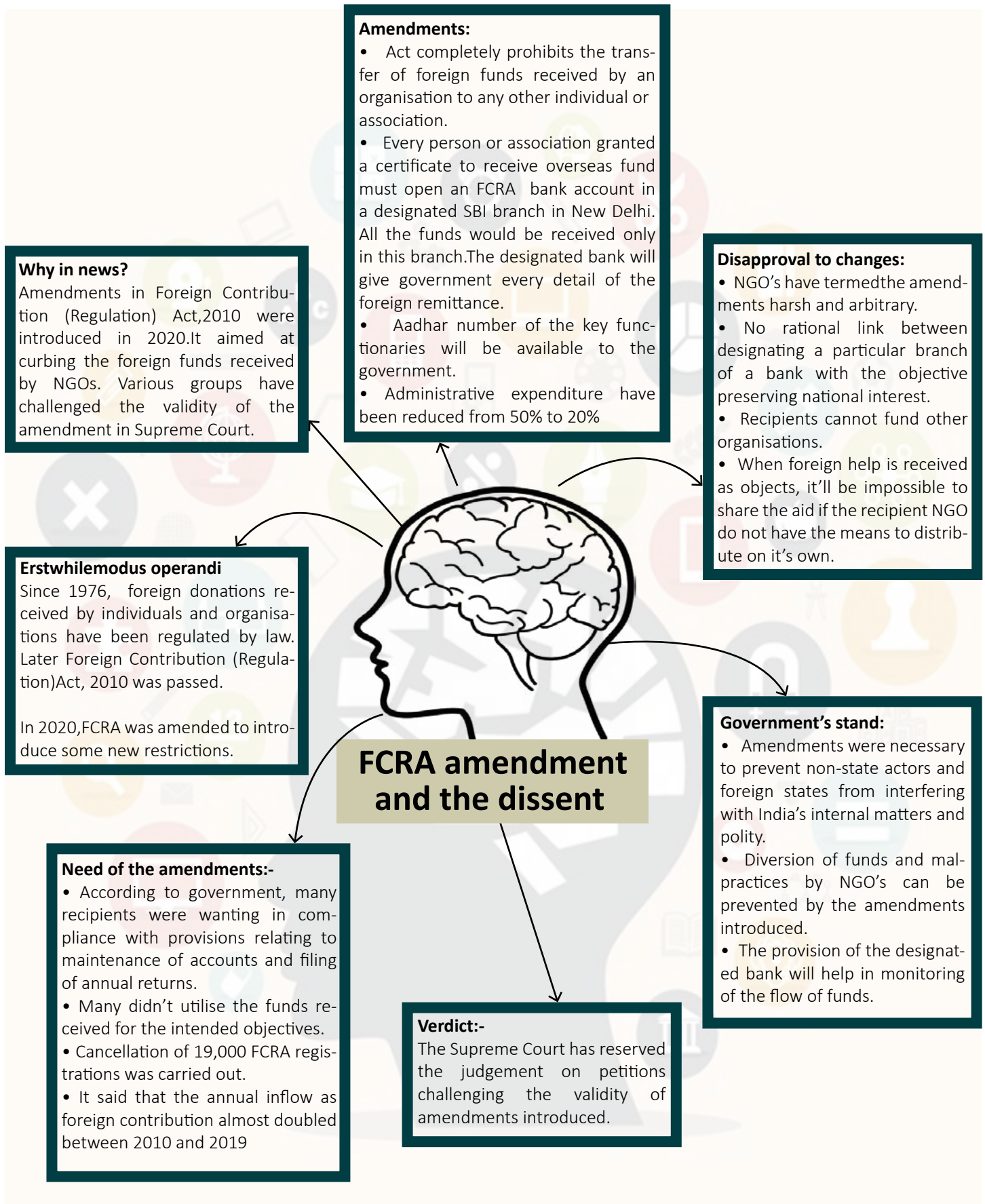
5. Kumaonchura Oil, Uttarakhand
This multipurpose, nutritious and hygienic oil is used for edible purposes and making various types of food products. Chyura is also considered as the backbone of Uttarakhand's rural economy.

6. Bhotia Dann, Uttarakhand:- These soft warm unique and durable hand-knotted carpets are made up of pure wool with the conventional design patterns, inspired by traditional Bhotia culture themes woven in the high-altitude regions of the state.

7. Naga Cucumber, Nagaland:- It have a distinctive taste and is grown completely organically. It is low in calories but high in potassium and contains a high level of water and can be served as an alternative to sports drinks.

8. Dallekhursani, West Bengal & Sikkim:- Red cherry pepper locally known as Dalle Khursani has the twin combination of high pungency and characteristic aroma which is grown completely in an organic way of cultivation.

9. Mizo Ginger, Mizoram:- Famous for their high quantity of gingerol and volatile oil. This Ginger variety is produced using traditional eco-friendly, economical methods that utilizes local resources knowledge and labour.



How the Global Minimum Tax will work:-

- Countries will legislate a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15% for companies with annual revenues more than \$ 864 billion.
- If companies have earnings that go untaxed or lightly taxed in one of the world's tax havens, their home country will impose a top-up tax that will bring the rate to 15%.
- 136 of 140 countries supported the deal.

The Two-Pillar solution:-

1. Pillar One:-

- Pillar One gives taxing rights and allocation of profits of global corporates to the countries where their customer base is present.
- Global corporates with global sales above EUR 20 billion and profitability above 10% will be covered by the new rule. Under it, 25% of profit above the 10% threshold will be reallocated to the profit generating jurisdiction.

2. Pillar Two:-

It introduces a global minimum corporate tax rate at 15%.

The dissent:-

- According to some developing countries and advocacy groups the 15% tax rate is too low and there is much scope for revenue generation through taxes on Global Corporates.
- Many developing countries have said their interests have been ignored and that wealthy nations were likely to continue dividing up the spoils of foreign direct investment.

Minimum Global Corporate tax rate at 15%

Why in news:- The organisation for economic cooperation and development announced on October 8 2021, that effective in 2023 its members have agreed to set global corporate minimum tax rate of 15%

What's the importance:-

- The landmark it has been agreed by 136 countries representing more than 90% of global GDP.
- This deal reallocates more than \$ 125 billion of profits from around 100 of the world's largest and most profitable multinational corporations to countries worldwide.
- It will ensure that these firms pay a fair share of tax wherever they operate and generate profits.

Why are global minimum tax needed

COVID-19 have strained the budgets of many countries. In these tough times, countries don't want multinationals to shift their profits and tax revenues to low tax countries.

About OECD:-

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an association of 38 nations. Its members and key partners represent 80% of world trade and investment.

The goal of the OECD is to promote the economic welfare of its members. It also coordinates their efforts to aid developing countries outside of its membership. Its programs help promote reform in more than 100 countries worldwide.

The OECD's headquarter is located in Paris, France. India is not a member of OECD

Why in news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 26th summit of Conference of Parties (CoP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

PM Modi announced that India will achieve a net zero carbon emission by 2070.

Meaning of "Net-Zero Emissions"

Net Zero Emission refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.

Importance of Net-Zero Emissions:

The greenhouse gases the main contributor to climate change will stay in the atmosphere & these will keep heating the atmosphere for years

Historical burden:

- India's contributions to cumulative emissions are much smaller than rich Nations.
- Data of carbon dioxide emissions from 1750 to 2018 in billion metric tons shows that India's emissions are at 51 while that of USA, China, Russia, Germany, UK & Japan stand at 397, 214, 180, 90, 77&58 respectively.

Net zero emission needs:-

- Low carbon technologies
- Zero emission vehicles
- Cities promoting walking and cycling
- Consumers should be given right to repair
- Preventing the release of stored carbon in environment

India's energy mix:

The increasing economic boost and energy needs along with rapid urbanization have put India in atight spot regarding clean energy. India's energy basket consists of :-

- Nuclear 3%
- Gas 4%
- Renewables 11%
- Hydropower 11%
- Coal 65%

Right now coal is the major source, but India is trying to come up with more renewable energy sources.

Emissions of India and others:

- India contributes about 7% of today's global emissions.
- According to World Bank data for the year 2019 per capita emissions in ton are:-
USA 15.5
UK 5.5
China 8.1
Russia 12.5
India 1.9.
- Projectedper capita emissions is 2.4 tonfor India under Paris agreement
- India'sabsolute emissions volume stands third after China and USA
- India had committed itself to a net zero deadline in 2070

Outlook for India's emissions:

- India GDP per capita is rising.
- There is pressure from absolute rise of population and consumption but population growth is slowing
- There is no indication when India's emissions will be peak.

Cop 26 & India's Commitments

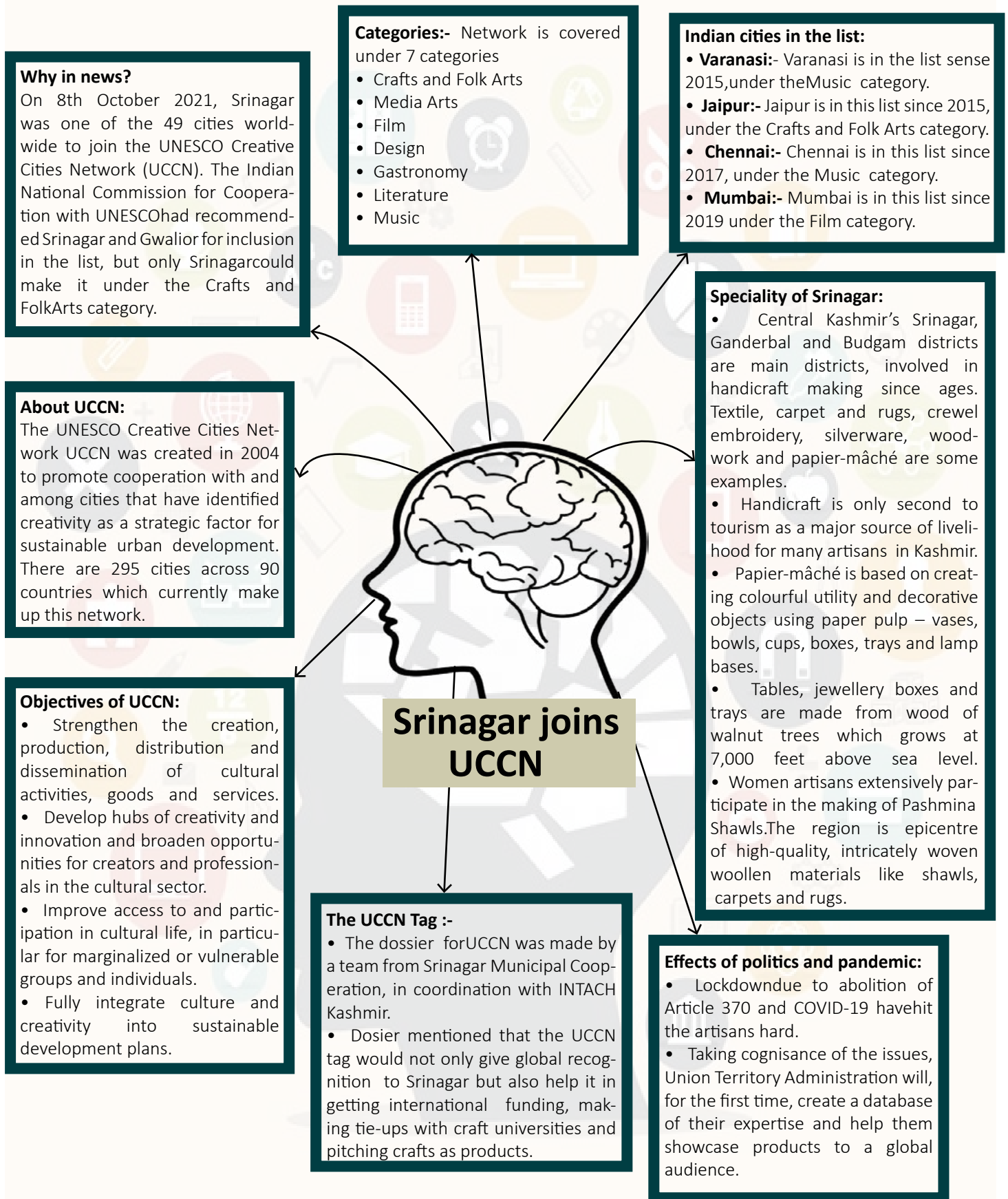
Immediate interventions:

- Indian needs to create a legal mandate for climate impact assessment of all activities
- 500 GW renewable target needs major boost through national and international climate funding
- India's National Hydrogen Mission aims at producing green hydrogen as a clean fuel
- Solid waste management needs to be modernized to curb methane emissions

Panchamrit by India:

- To raise the non-fossilfuel based energy capacity of the country to 500 GW by 2030
- 50% of the country's energy requirement would be met using renewable energy sources by 2030
- India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion ton by the 2030
- The carbon intensity of the economy would be reduced to less than 45% by 2030
- India would become Carbon Neutral and achieve net-zero emissions by the year 2070





Why in news?

Retail Direct Scheme for investors in government securities and the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme were announced by RBI in February, 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 12, 2021 dedicated the schemes to the nation.

How to register a complaint:

Complaint may be registered

- Electronically through the regulator's complaint management system
- Physically to the Centralised Receipt and Processing centre or the RBI's offices.

Fate of pending complaints:

- RBI had clarified that the adjudication of pending complaints and execution of the judgements passed "shall continue to be covered by the provisions of the respective ombudsman schemes and its functions of the Reserve Bank issued thereunder".

Why setting up an Integrated Ombudsman important?

- Earlier there were 3 different ombudsmen for dispute resolution. They were for
 - o Banks
 - o NBFC
 - o Non-Bank prepaid payment issues (PPIs)
- There were 22 offices for the dispute disposal
- The target of integrated ombudsman is to be "Simpler, Efficient and Responsive"
- RBI head said, it was intended to make the process of redress of grievances easier "by enabling customers to register their complaints under the integrated scheme with one centralised reference point".

Retail Direct Scheme:

- Under this scheme, small investors can now buy or sell government securities (G-Secs) or bonds, directly without having to go through an intermediary like a mutual fund
- As the government is the borrower, there is a sovereign guarantee for the funds, Hence zero risk of default
- Government securities may offer better interest rates than bank fixed deposits, depending on prevailing interest rate trends.

G-Sec access for Common Indian:

- An online portal has been setup for investment in Retail Direct Gilt
- Account will be activated through password sent to the users mobile phone
- The minimum amount for a bid is ` 10,000 and in multiple of ` 10,000 thereafter
- Net banking or UPI platform can be used to make payments.

RBI's Customer Centric Initiatives

Tenure:

- Ombudsman 3 year
- Deputy Ombudsman 3 years

Necessity of the scheme:

- It will broaden the investor base and provide retail investors with enhanced access to government securities market both- primary and secondary
- This is a major structural reform placing India among select few countries which have similar facilities
- It would facilitate smooth completion of the government borrowing program in 2021-22 which is targeted at `12 lakh crore
- The added benefit of the government accessing retail investors could be the freeing up of room for companies to mop up funds from institutional investors

MCQs BASED ON POLITY

1. Who has propounded this idea of democracy "Rule of people Expressed through voter".
 - (a) Bryce
 - (b) Sisley
 - (c) Dicey
 - (d) Lincoln
2. Consider the following statements :
 1. Only elected ruler doesn't mean democracy
 2. The ruler must follow some principlesWhich of the above statement is/are correct for democratic Advancements?
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) None of these
3. Consider the following statements-
 1. The people in the states like USA, France, Germany, can only take indirect part in the Act of governance.
 2. The adult population can periodically elect its government and the latter remain accountable in the indirect form of democracy.Which of the above statement (s) is/are incorrect as for as indirect & direct democracy is concerned :
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) None of these
4. Which of the following is characteristic of democracy-
 1. Ensure maximum liberty
 2. A judicious mix of liberty & equality.
 3. Enhance self determination and justice
 4. Ensure human dignitySelect the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1, 3, 4
 - (b) 2, 3, 4
 - (c) 1, 2, 3
 - (d) All of the above
5. Which of the following is not a Function of constitution-
 - (a) Develop necessary trust and co-operation among the people
 - (b) Clarifies that how the govt will be formed
 - (c) Clarifies that who will have the authority to take decision
 - (d) Develop necessary trust in co-operatives.
6. Which of the following is not a fundamental base of the constitution-
 - (a) Expression of the ideology
 - (b) Expression of basic laws
 - (c) Unorganisational frame work
 - (d) Levels of govt.
7. Which of the following are responsible to make constitution a living document.
 1. Contribution of living document
 2. Contribution of judiciary
 3. Maturity of the politicianChoose the right answer from the following codes-
 - (a) only 1 and 2
 - (b) only 2 and 3
 - (c) only 1 and 3
 - (d) All of them
8. Which is not a part of Regulating Act 1773
 - (a) A court of directors was created in India to oversee affairs of EIC (East India Company) in India.
 - (b) Governor of Bengal became Governor General of Bengal
 - (c) A Supreme Court was provided in Calcutta
 - (d) The act limited company dividend to 6%
9. Which of the following was not a part of Charter Act 1813-
 - (a) It ended company's monopoly in Asia
 - (b) It made compulsory training for all civil servants.
 - (c) It allotted Rs. 1 lack for education in India
 - (d) None of the above
10. Which of the following acts gave the power of issuing ordinance to viceroy in India-
 - (a) The Govt. of India Act, 1858
 - (b) Indian Council Act, 1861
 - (c) Indian Council Act, 1892
 - (d) Indian Council Act, 1909
11. Which of the following are the salient features of the constitution-
 1. Longest written constitution
 2. Partly rigid & Partly flexible
 3. A federation
 4. parliamentary system of governmentChoose the correct answer from following codes-
 - (a) 1, 2, 3
 - (b) 2, 3, 4
 - (c) 1, 3, 4
 - (d) All of them

12. Weimar constitution is related to-

- (a) Germany
- (b) France
- (c) Britain
- (d) Poland

Choose the correct statements(s)-

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

13. Match the following-

Features	Countries
A. Rule of law	1. Britain
B. Equality of law	2. USA
C. DPSP	3. Ireland
D. Fundamental Rights	4. Russia

Code:

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

14. Consider the following statements-

- 1. Preamble is a part of constitution
- 2. It can be amended under Article 368.

Which of the above statements is incorrect statement-

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

15. Citizens' Charter is framed on the principles of

- 1. co-management of civic services with citizens' participation in administration
- 2. assured time-bound quality/ quantity of services
- 3. simplified procedures for receipt of complaints and their quick redressal
- 4. provision of performance scrutiny with citizens' involvement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

16. According to Act-110 a Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains-

- 1. the imposition, abolition, remission or alternation of any tax
- 2. the payment of money into or the withdrawal of moneys from consolidated fund or the contingency fund.
- 3. the declaration of any expenditure to be expenditure charged on the consolidated fund.
- 4. Lok Sabha speaker certified Money Bill.

17. Consider the following statements.

- 1. Sikkim was admitted as a state in Indian union on 26 April, 1973.
- 2. The representation of seats in Rajya Sabha shall be given in schedule 4 of the constitution.

Which of the above is false?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

18. Which of the following is the way to adopt the citizenship of India-

- 1. Citizenship by Birth
- 2. Citizenship by descent
- 3. Citizenship by Registration
- 4. Citizenship by Naturalisation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

19. Who was the chairman of first Backward Class Commission?

- (a) Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal
- (b) Kaka Kalelkar
- (c) Ramniwas Mirdha
- (d) H. Hanuman Thappa

20. PIO & OCI schemes were merged by using-

- (a) Constitutional amendmend
- (b) Simple Ordinance
- (c) By Resolution
- (d) By promulgating a new law

21. Consider the following statements-

- 1. President of India may suspend to all or any of the fundamental rights.
- 2. Parliament of India may supend to all or any of the fundamental rights.

Which of the above is false statement.

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

- 22.** Who has the power to suspend the rights of people to move the courts for the enforcement of fundamental rights-
- President
 - Parliament
 - Supreme Court
 - None of these
- 23.** Consider the following statements :
- The Governor can't grant the amnesty to the issue of capital punishment.
 - The Governor can suspend the punishment given by the army court.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - 1 and 2 both
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 24.** Theory of protection from double jeopardy is a part of-
- Right to freedom
 - Right against exploitation
 - Right to equality
 - Right to constitutional remedies
- 25.** Which of the following writs can be used against tribunals associated with judicial power?
- Prohibition
 - Certiorari
 - Mandamus
- Choose the right answer from the codes given below-
- 1 and 2
 - 2 and 3
 - 1 and 3
 - All of them
- 26.** Consider the following statements-
- The Legislative Council can only be created by the Parliament when the State Legislature passes a resolution.
 - At present Goa is having smallest legislative assembly (32 members).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - 1 and 2 both
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 27.** In India, an election to constitute a municipality has to be completed
- immediately on completion of its term of five years
 - before the expiry of its fixed tenure
 - before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution
 - None of the above
- 28.** Consider the following statements and identify the false statement-
- The title of RTE act doesn't, during its inception, incorporate the words free and compulsory education. It was added later.
 - It is applicable only till the completion of higher education-
- Which of the above statement is/are true?
- Only 1
 - Only 2
 - Both 1 and 2
 - None of these
- 29.** Consider the following statements and choose the right statements.
- DPSPs (Directive Principle of State Policy) are enforceable in a court of law during emergency.
 - DPSPs (Directive Principle of State Policy) are not bounded to states.
- Which of the above statement is/are true?
- Only 1
 - Only 2
 - Both 1 and 2
 - None of these
- 30.** Votes of Credit' provides for making
- an exceptional grant which forms no part of current service of any financial year
 - any grant in advance in respect of estimated expenditure for a part of any financial year
 - a grant for meeting an unexpected demand upon resources of India
 - a grant for additional expenditure upon new service not contemplated in the financial year
- 31.** Which of the following is not a part of fundamental duties-
- To abide by constitution and respect its ideals
 - To value and preserve rich heritage of our composite culture.
 - To develop a scientific temper
 - To develop a research approach
- 32.** Which of the following is a discretionary power of president-
- Appointment of prime minister when there is no party in majority
 - While exercising the option of 'pocket veto'
- Choose the right answer from the followings-
- Only 1
 - Only 2
 - Both 1 and 2
 - None of these

33. Consider the following statements regarding election process of vice president-

1. The election process is of indirect manner
2. Only members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha take part in his election

Choose the right answer from the followings-

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

34. Who among the following vice presidents were re-elected as a president-

1. Krishnakanth
2. Hidayatullah
3. Radhakrishnan
4. V.V. Giri

Choose the right answer using the followings codes-

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

35. Who of the following Government and civil servicemen don't get certain safety guard and protection under the section 311-

1. Members of union and state civil Services
2. Members of All Indian Army
3. Person who bear any civil post under the union and state
4. To the armed forces
5. To the civil staff of defence services

Select the correct answer using the codes given below-

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

36. Consider the following statements-

1. "Cabinet" is not directly responsible to lower house of parliament.
2. "Cabinet" is smaller body compared to council of ministers

Which of the above is true statement?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

37. The ground of the proclamation of National emergency are-

1. War
2. Internal disturbance
3. Internal aggression

4. Armed rebellion

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

38. Choose the wrong one from the statements related to the Union territories-

- (a) It is directly administered by the Union.
- (b) The administrator appointed by the President is generally known as Deputy Governor.
- (c) The Legislatures for the Chandigarh and Andaman-Nicobar have been created.
- (d) The administrator can issue the ordinance in the Union-territories having Legislature.

39. Consider the following statement regarding (AGI) Attorney General of India.

1. Can submit his resignation to president.
2. Can be removed from his office in the manner as is used for the judge of supreme court.

Which of the above statement is true statement ?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

40. As per the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, Legislatures of States have not been conferred the power to empower municipalities with the responsibility of

- (a) preparation of plans for economic development and social justice
- (b) management of law and order
- (c) implementation of schemes as may be entrusted to them
- (d) levy, collection and appropriation of taxes, duties, tolls, etc.

41. Which of the following needs special majority-

1. Bill related to fundamental rights
2. Bill related to Directive principles of State Policy (DPSP)

Choose the right answer from the following-

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

42. Which of the following cases is related to theory of basic structure-

1. Indira Gandhi Vs Rajnarayan Acharya 1975
2. Minerva Mills Vs UOI 1980
3. Keshwananda Bharti Vs Kerala 1973

Choose the right answer from the codes given below-

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

43. The maximum source of income of Panchayati Raj Institutions-

- (a) Local tax
- (b) Share in union revenue
- (c) Regional fund
- (d) government grant

44. Consider the following statements-

- 1. No joint sitting can be done on a money bill
- 2. No joint sitting can be done on constitutional amendment bills.

Which of the above is false statement-

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

45. Which of the following Bills are subject of application of Guillotine-

- (a) Money Bill
- (b) Finance Bill
- (c) Ordinary Bills
- (d) Demands for Grants

46. Which of the following is not a part of appropriation bill-

- 1. Charged expenditure on consolidated fund
- 2. Demands for Grants

Choose your answer from the following options-

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

47. Consider the following sentences regarding rule 377.

- 1. Under this rule only urgent matters can be taken for consideration.
- 2. Issues which can't be raised on short notice

Which of the above is false statement-

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

48. Which of the following committee is constituted from the members of Lok Sabha only.

- (a) Committee of Estimate
- (b) Committee on Public account

- (c) Committee on Public Undertaking
- (d) All of the above

49. Which of the following committee/Commission is related to recommendation on Office of Governor-

- 1. Punchhi commission
- 2. Sarkariya commission
- 3. Administrative Reform Commission

Choose the right answer from the following codes-

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

50. Governor of which of the following state has some additional responsibilities of maintaining peace in the state-

- (a) Governor of Nagaland
- (b) Governor of Assam
- (c) Governor of Meghalaya
- (d) Governor of Sikkim

MCQ BASED ON POLITY ANSWERS

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

MCQs Based on Current Affairs

Q.1 What is false about Surendra Nath Banerjee? Select the correct code.

1. In 1868, he was the first Indian who passed the ICS examination.
 2. After passing the ICS exam, he got an appointment as an assistant magistrate in Sylhet (Bangladesh).
 3. On 26 July 1876, he founded the Indian National Association with Anandamohan Bose.
- (a) Only 1 is false.
(b) Both 1 and 2 are false.
(c) 2 and 3 are false.
(d) All three are true.

Answer (a)

Q.2 Recently which country has become the 101st member of the

International Solar Alliance?

- (a) Israel
(b) America
(c) India
(d) Britain

Answer (b)

Q.3 Consider the following statements on the National Commission for Scheduled Castes

1. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is a constitutional body established by Article 338 of the Indian Constitution.
2. By the 88th Constitutional Amendment Act 2003, a provision has been made for the formation of two separate commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
3. The chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes must necessarily be from the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) All the three statements are true.
(b) Only 1 and 3 are true.
(c) Only 2 and 3 are true.
(d) Only 1 and 2 are true.

Answer (b)

Q.4 In which state Pink Leopard has been seen in India?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Maharashtra
(d) Rajasthan

Answer (d)

Q.5 What is false about the World Meteorological Organization's report on carbon dioxide?

- (a) The 'sink' capacity of terrestrial ecosystems and oceans will be weak in the coming times.
(b) The increase in 'Carbon Dioxide' during the year 2019-2020 was slightly less than the year 2018-2019.
(c) The emissions of methane gas and nitrous oxide were lower during the year 2019-2020 as compared to 2018-2019.
(d) In the year 2020, 'the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) has reached 413.2 parts per million.

Answer (c)

Q.6 With reference of "National Mission on Cultural Mapping", considers the following statements-

1. The Ministry of Culture in 2017 has started this initiative.
2. Now it is being operated by 'Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts' (IGNCA).
3. IGNCA has started experimental trials related to cultural mapping in 75 villages of India from October 2021.

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

- (a) Only 1 is correct.
(b) Only 2 and 3 are correct.
(c) Only 1 and 3 are correct.
(d) All three are correct.

Answer (d)

Q.7 Which is the first state to prepare Wildlife Action Plan?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
(b) Maharashtra
(c) Sikkim
(d) Chhattisgarh

Answer (b)

Q.8 Where has the world's first landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant been installed?

- (a) Hyderabad
(b) Chennai
(c) Gangtok
(d) Mumbai

Answer (a)

Q.9 Which of the following player has not received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award this year?

- (a) Sunil Chhetri
(b) Manpreet
(c) Rani Rampal
(d) Pramod Bhagat

Answer (c)

Q.10 How many athletes have been given the Arjuna Award this year?

- (a) 33
(b) 34
(c) 35
(d) 36

Answer (c)

Case Study-1

You are a senior officer, posted in ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, UP.

I.C.M.R. has recently reported that 1.6 million people died in India in 2019 due to air pollution. It has worried UP Government about pollution and depleting forest cover in the state.

Government issued directions to the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change to work out a project to plant 7 crore saplings in a single day and set a new world record.

Ministry has entrusted you responsibility, to study the feasibility of the project and submit a detail report in three days, for consideration of the cabinet.

(a) Discuss the different issues involved in the case.

(b) Discuss your recommendations with their merits and demerits.

Ans- In the given case study I am a senior officer. I have to submit a study report on the feasibility of plantation drive to plant 7 crore saplings in a single day. Values like objectivity, accountability, resource management and sensitivity towards nature are involved in the case.

Ethical Issues :

Environment and pollution are very sensitive issues. They are directly related with our health and survival. Governments need to make serious efforts for conservation and protection of nature. Linking such important project with a wish to set world record shows only careless attitude of Government. It shows that government is not serious and want only publicity and focus of media.

Such plantation drives need a lot of preparation and money. Market can not supply such huge amount of saplings in a short time. It can compromise the quality of saplings and nurture opportunities for corruption. In such case we import saplings from neighbour states, which accelerate the cost of project. Plants of other states may not survive in local soil and climate. It may lead to hoarding, black marketing, fraud and other malpractices including price-like. Some time plant nurseries supply branches on the name of saplings, which dries up after some time. It all lead to wastage of public money and misutilization of resources.

My recommendations :

I will suggest government to conduct plantation drive as an on going process. I will recommend to develop necessary infrastructure in all blocks of all districts of state, to support regular plantation. We can sign a contract with local

nurseries to supply saplings at daily basis and run plantation drive as a year long regular exercise, though we can speed up during monsoon with advance preparation. We can contract NGO's or self help groups with required knowledge and experience for plantation drive and fix their accountability for care of plants. We can develop a procedure to pay only 40% of the total amount at the time of plantation and remaining part in annual instalments of 20% each. We should geotag all saplings and replace dried plants. We can provide incentive and rewards for better performance.

Merits : It will ensure quality of plantation and reduce pollution .

- Provide regular employment to people.
- Reduce financial burden of state.
- Local plants will easily survive.
- It will check corruption.

Demerits : We have to develop necessary infrastructure but it will benefit in long time.



Case Study-2

You are district magistrate of Noida. You have received several complaints against different petrol pumps in last few weeks. During enquiry you found that petrol pump owners installed an integrated chip in the measuring machine. This chip ensure that 5% less oil is filled each time, while the meter show full amount.

You immediately formed a team honest of officers to conduct surprise raids, arrest guilty persons and cease such machines. Public also appreciated such move, but ones they faced long queues they lost there enthusiasm.

Very soon petrol pumps formed a joint front to resist there raids. They issued threat to conduct complete strike. It created panic among public. Politicians are also exerting pressure on you, in favour of petrol-pump owners. Some of the options to handle this situation could be as follows.

- (a) Stop conducting raids on petrol pumps.
- (b) Seek cooperations from oil companies.
- (c) Brief your higher-ups, seek directions from them and act accordingly.

- Evaluate all of these options and suggest best course of action, giving your reasons for it.

Ans- In the given case study, I am District Magistrate of Noida, where I have to check malpractices committed by petrol pump owners. Values like honesty, integrity, responsibility, dedication for public service and justice are involved in the case.

Options :

(a) Merits :It will solve the immediate tension. Public will get relief from long queues. Petrol pump owners can oblige me.

Demerits :It will incourage petrol pump owners to indulge in more frauds. Media will criticise me. Judiciary can also summon me.

(b) Merits :It can help me. Oil companies can provide technical assistance. It will put pressure on petrol pumps to cooperate.

Demerits :Some employees of oil companies can be involved in this racket. It can leak strategic informations.

(c) Merits :Briefing higher ups is a good step. In case of need, they can provide necessary help. Other persons will not be able to confuse them.

Demerits :I know my work, so there is no need of seeking directions. If higher officer will issue some directions on their own, I will act on its merits.

Course of action :

I will immediately impose Essential Services

Mainternance Act and warn petrol pump owners against any strike. Next I will call a meeting with pertol-pump owners, apprise them about laws and ask them to cooperate during raids. After that I will call management of oil companies and convince them to immediately replace ceased machines so that public not face any problem. After that I will meet higher-officers and apprise them about situation.

After that I will personally monitor these raids and motivate public to cooperate. I will ensure 24 hour working of public pertol pumps. With in one week we will complete inspection of all pertol pumps, lodge case against guilty employees / owners of pertolpamps, and restore normalcy.

NOTES

Birthday Special: Surendranath Banerjee

Surendra Nath Banerjee was born on 10 November 1848. His father Durga Charan Banerjee was a doctor. Surendranath Banerjee did his education from Presidency College. After graduation, he went to England with Ramesh Chandra Dutt and Bihari Lal Gupta to appear in the Indian Civil Services Examination in 1868. He passed this examination and became eligible to serve in the Government of British India. In 1868, he was the second Indian to pass the ICS examination. Before this in 1867, Satyendranath Tagore was the first Indian to qualify the ICS exam.

After clearing ICS exam, Surendranath Banerjee got the appointment as Assistant Magistrate in Sylhet (Bangladesh). But soon in a report prepared by one of his subordinates, Surendra Nath was dismissed from the post of Assistant Magistrate on the basis of technical objection in age. The report falsely stated his age as 22 whereas the age to pass ICS was 21. Banerjee also went to London to appeal in his case, but he was unsuccessful.

On 26 July 1876, he founded the Indian National Association with Anandamohan Bose which was also known as the Indian Association, which proved to be the biggest platform to spread political awareness against British imperialism to the Indian youth in that decade. Banerjee was known as "Indian Burke" due to his education and political thought. Edmund Burke was a well-known British political thinker and theorist.

Banerjee also founded the All India National Conference and contributed to organizing the first All India National Conference in Calcutta in 1883. This national conference was the first attempt at an all India level. Banerjee had an important role in the Swadeshi movement. He advocated the indigenous goods of India against foreign products.

He opposed the Ilbert Bill and he opened a college named Marquis of Ripon, the Viceroy of India in 1882. Now the name of this college is Surendra Nath Banerjee College. In 1879, he bought an English language newspaper 'Bengali' and worked as an editor for it. This newspaper was the leading paper of his liberal political views. After the establishment of the Congress in 1885, Surendra Nath Banerjee merged his organization with the Indian National Congress. Surendranath Banerjee presided over the 11th session at Poona in 1895 and the 18th session in 1902 at Ahmedabad. At the same time, Surendra Nath Banerjee was also a member of Calcutta Corporation and Bengal Legislative Council till 1900. By that time, he became an important leader of the Congress. Due to his liberal views, he was a leading leader for Indian demands in England.

When Lord Curzon announced the partition of Bengal

in 1905, Banerjee strongly opposed it through public meetings and rallies. Banerjee supported the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 and criticized the method of civil disobedience of Gandhi. As a result, he had to face the displeasure of the Indian public and nationalist politicians.

He was elected to the Legislative Council for the Reform of Bengal in 1921. He was also awarded the title of a 'knighthood' and also served as a minister for local self-government from 1921 to 1924. Despite all this, Surendra Nath Banerjee was defeated by Swaraj Party's candidate Dr. Vidhan Chandra Roy with a huge margin in the 1923 Bengal Legislative Council election. Banerjee died on 6 August 1925 in Barrackpore. Before his death, he wrote his autobiography, 'A Nation in Making' in 1925.



Important Dates of November Month

7th November	World Cancer Awareness Day
9th November	Uttarakhand Foundation Day
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
11 November	National Education Day
13 November	World Kindness Day
14 November	Children's Day World diabetes day
16 November	International Day for Tolerance
19 November	World Toilet Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Economy Terms

Pareto efficiency:

Pareto efficiency is the state of allocating resources that are impossible to reallocate to better meet at least one individual's preference criterion.

Pareto efficiency is the main pillar of welfare economics.

For example, if a cricket stadium is full with no extra seats. In this context, the only way to allow another spectator to watch the match is by removing the existing spectator and allotting a seat.

Predatory Pricing:

The pricing policy of a company by which competitors have a loss and undue advantage is taken from the consumer is known as Predatory Pricing. In this tactic, the competitors are taken out of the market by lowering the prices of the products and an unfair advantage is taken by the company from the consumers because that company has a monopoly on the supply of the product.

Public Goods:

Public goods are those goods that are generally available to all the people of a society or community and which have two distinctive properties, they are available to all and have no competition for them. For example – air, water etc.

An economy can be classified into two parts: Micro and Macro economics.

1. Microeconomics: Microeconomics studies the small elements of the economy that make up the economy. That is, microeconomics is the study of economic activities at the level of family, industrial unit etc.

Microeconomics is the basis of any economy, on which the macro economy is based.

2. Macroeconomics: Macroeconomics studies the broader parts of the economy. It is related to the study of economic activities at the level of the whole country, under which economic growth, economic development, monetary policies, inflation etc.

Both micro and macro are important for sustained growth in any economy.

Mixed Economy:

In this economy, a mixed form of both socialist and capitalist economies is seen. In a mixed economy, the government controls the means of production as well as the control of the private sector. The nature of the Indian economy is mixed.

Dumping:

Exporting a commodity at a price that is less than its value in the domestic market, then this situation is called dumping. To reduce the effect of dumping, the exporting country imposes an over-duty on the export, which is called

Anti-dumping Duty.

Example: China dumping solar panels and steel products into India.

Externalities:

Factors that are not included in the gross income of the economy but affect the public welfare. These factors can be positive or negative that benefit a third party.

Externalities are of two types-

1. Negative Externalities
2. Positive Externalities

Discount Rate:

The discount rate is the rate that refers to the interest rate for loans taken from commercial banks and other financial institutions.

The discount rate refers to the interest rate used in discounted cash flow analysis to determine the present value of future cash flows.

The discount rate serves as an important indicator of the credit status in an economy. Banks' borrowing costs change increase or decrease the discount rate. The discount rate is considered a tool to combat recession or inflation. The discount rate can also be used to deal with the balance of payments deficit.

Price Elasticity of Demand:

Price elasticity of demand means a change in demand for a commodity due to a change in its price only. That is, how sensitive is the demand for that commodity to the price. If price elasticity is high, it means that there is a large change in demand due to a change in price, and if it is low, it means that there is little effect on demand due to a change in prices.

Types of price elasticity of demand

1. Perfectly Inelastic Demand
2. Inelastic Demand
3. Unity Elastic Demand
4. Elastic Demand
5. Perfectly Elastic Demand

Debt Equity Ratio:

The debt-equity ratio is used to measure a company's ability to meet its liabilities. The debt-equity ratio reflects the ability of the company in the case of higher ratios subject to the risk of the company getting more financing than borrowing money. If the potential debt is high, the company is at greater risk of bankruptcy.

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