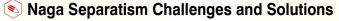
# PERFECT 7 FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

September 2022 / Issue-1

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- Regulating FinTech Without Any Truncheon
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# Director's Message





# **Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh**

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

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Yours very truly,

Vinay Kumar Singh CEO and Founder

# Mr. Q H Khan

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

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

Yours very truly,

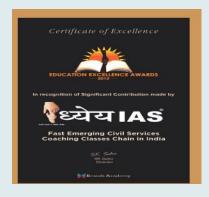
Q H Khan

Managing Director





# **PREFACE**







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

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

Vinay Kumar Singh Founder DhyeyalAS



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# PERFECT 7 FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya TV

IMPORTANT ISSUES



The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), a separatist group founded in 1980, the lead group in the Naga Separatist Movement recently stated, "Nagas cannot merge with India but cannot live apart from Indians too, due to the necessity of interdependent relationship among people and nation." The chief of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (IM), a faction of the NSCN, passed this statement while marking seven years of the signing of the Framework Agreement with New Delhi. NSCN (I-M), Chairman Q. Tuccu said the coexistence of the Nagas and Indians is a "natural necessity because no individual or nation exists in total isolation from others".

The Naga peace talks had always been a sensitive issue for the Central Government. The Naga rebel groups have been posing challenges to the Central Government through their demands from time to time. Last year, the Secretary General of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM) demanded that the Naga Peace talks should be held in another country. It is worth noting that the NSCN (IM) considers greater Nagalim as an independent country. Hence, it demanded clarification from PMO on this issue and further demanded Prime Minister's direct involvement to resolve the issue of the Naga insurgency. The central personality behind these demands is, Muivah, who is the self-proclaimed Prime Minister of the Naga

Government or Greater Nagalim and has become more active since the past few days on matters related to Naga separatism. He believes that his group sees the Naga problem not as a matter of India's internal law and order, but as a political issue. Muivah has from time to time called for a separate Naga Constitution, Flag, State Emblem and Symbol, citing the 2015 Framework Agreement between the Government of India and Naga insurgent groups. The demand for peace talks in a third country is not something new as the representatives of the Government of India have been meeting the rebel Naga leaders abroad, trying to bring them on the path of peace. Narasimha Rao met the Naga rebels in France when he was the Prime Minister, while H.D. Deve Gowda the 11th Prime Minister, met the rebels in Zurich, Switzerland.

# Dimensions of the Naga Separatism Issue:

For the past seven decades, the issue of Naga separatism has posed a question mark on the sovereignty and integrity of the Union of India. The Central Government took various steps in this regard including, implementing the provisions of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, declaring the Naga insurgent groups NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K) as banned and extending the period of the ban. Moreover, The Constitution of

India too included provisions for the social, cultural and administrative autonomy of Nagaland through the Fifth Schedule and Article 371(A) of the Indian Constitution. Article 371(A) was added to the Indian Constitution through the 13th Amendment Act, of 1962. This article makes special provisions for Nagaland. The Indian Parliament cannot legislate on matters relating to social customs, customary rules, laws, and justices performed by Naga traditions and the land of Nagas, without the approval of the Legislative Assembly of Nagaland. Tuensang district of Nagaland has also got special status under this article. Further, the Nagaland government is empowered to create a separate minister for the Tuensang district and a local council consisting of 35 members. However, despite the constant efforts by the Central Government, the Naga separatism remains the same.

### **Demands of Naga rebels:**

 The Naga separatist movement gained momentum in the 1980s through the emergence of a violent separatist group called the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) 1980. The NSCN through its prominent leaders Izak and Muivah revived the old demands of the Naga insurgents and these demands

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persist even today. Majority of these demands comprise the creation of Greater Nagalim by merging Naga-dominated areas (Areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Myanmar where Nagas are living), a demand for separate Naga constitution, a separate Naga Flag, separate Naga Currency and control on entry of outsiders into Nagaland, etc.

In 1988, The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) emerged as another prominent Naga rebel group. With its formation, the Shillong Accord of 1975 was repealed and this again fueled unrest in North East India. The main difference between these two factions is that while the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM) insists on the demand for the establishment of Greater Nagalim on the communist revolutionary Maoist model of China. the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) talks of emphasizing on foreign alliances to form the Greater Nagalim based on ethnicity, connecting the Naga-dominated areas. It is noteworthy that the Legislative Assembly of Nagaland has supported the Greater Nagalim resolution five times so far.

# Peace talks between Naga rebels and the Indian government:

 The foundation of peace talks between the Naga insurgents and the Indian Government can be traced back to the ceasefire agreement signed between the two sides in 1997. Under this agreement, the Naga insurgents agreed to give up the path of violence, however, this agreement did not last long and the separatist demands began to re-emerge. In this sequence, in August 2015, the Central Government signed the Naga Framework Agreement with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) under the chairmanship of the Indian Prime Minister. This paved the way for peace talks between the two sides. The main points of the talks comprised the issue of deployment of paramilitary forces in Nagaland under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, the demand for a separate Naga Constitution, a separate Flag and discussion on changes in the demographic structure of Nagaland due to cross-border migration.

The Government of India insisted, that by October 31, 2019, the Naga peace talks would yield some concrete results and a permanent solution could be found. Further. the Central Government made it clear that the demand for a separate flag and constitution of Nagaland is not acceptable at any level and peace talks cannot be pursued by guns. Thus, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) resorted back to violence and didn't seem committed to any compromise with the Central Government. It is noteworthy that the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) last year also began to consider the possibility of setting up camps in Myanmar to carry out violent activities if the Central Government does not accede to its demands. In this context, the alleged involvement of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland

(Isak Muivah) in the murder of Arunachal Pradesh MLA Tirong Aboh and 10 other leaders in May 2019 came to the forefront. Aboh was a staunch opponent of this faction and was a supporter of the Indian government and peace talks.

The NSCN (IM) also accused the Government of India's Naga peace negotiator and Governor Ravi of misrepresenting Framework Agreement and made it clear that Naga sovereignty cannot compromised. The original of the Framework Agreement was also made public by NSCN(IM). Recently, the differences between the NSCN (Muivah) faction and the Government of India again escalated when Naga faction V. Horam issued member a statement expressing his displeasure not only at the letter written by Governor N. Ravi to the Government of India but also citing the agreement, he said that "the Nagas shall not be a part of the Indian Constitution but shall be concomitant". According to Naga insurgent group the mention of certain things in the Governor's letter was inappropriate. According to the group N. Ravi in his letter to the Central Government has said that there are half a dozen armed groups in Nagaland who are running their parallel government in the state. It was also said by the Governor in the letter that these gangs are also challenging the legitimacy of the state. The faction argued that it has been fighting for the rights of the people of Nagaland for 70 years. In such a situation, taking out ordinance and asking government employees to tell



which group they belong to, is very objectionable. They argued that in a tribal community everyone's kinship emerges from each other. After the Governor's letter, the Chief Secretary of Nagaland issued instructions to the government employees asking everyone to tell "which insurgent group does him or his family have links with?"

Over the past three years, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) in collaboration with insurgents living in Myanmar and insurgents living in North East India have posed a major challenge to the Indian government and the security of the North-Eastern states. This group has worked to carry out anti-India operations in the Taga region of Myanmar. On the other hand, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) along with rebels of Myanmar's Arakan Salvation Army and Kachin separatists have attempted to target India's energy and development projects in Myanmar. The rebels have been found planning a strategy to destroy the Kaladan Multimodal Transportation Project and other plants. To deal with all this, the joint forces of Myanmar and India through the Surgical Strike-3, named as Operation Sunrise, in February - March 2019 destroyed the terrorist camps of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), Naga insurgent groups and the Tagabased Arakan Salvation Army. Presently, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khaplang has also ordered its cadres to open a camp in Taga and take

retaliatory action against the

Myanmar Army. They have also decided to open a camp in the Koki area of Myanmar. All this is being carried out by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) with links to several North Eastern insurgent organisations, including ULFA (I), NDFB and KLO.

## How to solve the Naga problem?

India is as an Indestructible Union
 of Destructible States. India and
 its constitution have respected
 the ethnic identity, autonomy
 and sovereignty of the states. But
 it is also important that ethnicity
 should not challenge nationality.
 Be it Jammu and Kashmir or
 Nagaland, both are integral
 parts of the Union of India. In
 such a situation, the demand



for common sovereignty, a separate constitution and a flag cannot be accepted. To ensure inclusive development plans, infrastructural development, and cultural autonomy in Nagaland, the Central Government may identify Naga groups that are relatively liberal and accept autonomy within the Indian Union. In the 2015 agreement with the Naga groups, a new twist came in the year 2017 when the government included the Naga National Political Groups i.e. NNPG groups as a party. The manner in which, the Government of India took various parties into confidence for the Bodo Accord in Assam and in resolving the dispute of the Bru tribe between Tripura and Mizoram; in the same manner, for the case of Nagaland, the government should look for ways to solve the problem without being aggressive. However, the solution to the Naga problem cannot be found only by the goodwill of the Central Government. For this, Naga insurgent groups will have to choose the path of peace and development because the Indian government cannot think at any cost for a separate Nagaland country by disintegrating the areas of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, the demand of a separate constitution and flag can't be accepted. In such a situation, the Naga rebels are left with no option but to take limited autonomy under the Indian Union.

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# Regulating FinTech Without Any Truncheon

### Context:

Recently, there have been efforts made by RBI for regulating FinTech companies. RBI has decided to ban 'Buy Now Pay Later' in this context.

### Introduction:

The word FinTech is made up of two words fin (finance) and the other is tech (technology). It refers to the use of technology in financial matters. It is the implementation of modern technology in traditional financial services, and management of financial aspects in companies and businesses. In recent years, these fintech companies have grown very rapidly. These companies have played a big role in dealing with the financial crisis of retail borrowers during the pandemic. But the problem is that many of these companies are operating beyond the regulatory framework and providing loans at high rates. Along with this, they are using unethical strategies to recover loans. So in these circumstances, there was an urgent need for regulation of FinTech companies and this step of RBI in this context is welcome.

## India's FinTech Market:

It should be noted that India is a global FinTech superpower where the rate of acceptance of finTech is the highest in the world. In the year 2020, India has overtaken China as the top FinTech market in Asia. India's FinTech market is currently at the level of \$50 billion. According

to government estimates, the Indian fintech sector is expected to reach \$150 billion by the year 2025.

FinTechs are an essential part of Indian financial ecosystem, which comprise start-ups, technological existing businesses, and financial institutions operating in technology, payments. lending wealth technology (WealthTech), personal finance management, insurance technology (InsurTech), regulation technology (RegTech), cryptocurrency, and other subsegments.

India is also one of the fastest growing fintech marketplaces in the world, with 6,636 fintech startups, 24 of these are 'Unicorns' with a valuation of over \$1 billion. Most notably, finTech accounts for one out of every five start-up Unicorns in the country.

# Efforts made by RBI to regulate FinTech

Although RBI never made a direct attempt to regulate FinTech, several steps were taken by RBI in this regard in the past —

 In the year 2018, intending to create a controlled regulatory environment for testing FinTech products, RBI made a provision for 'Fintech Regulatory Sandbox'. Simultaneously, RBI introduced the 'Payment System Operators License' which indirectly regulates Fintech.

- By regulating alternative credit scoring platforms and crowdsourcing platforms, RBI gradually brought in control of fintech companies, as these companies practice 'peerto-peer' lending rather than providing direct loans.
- Recently, RBI has created a regulatory framework to support the systematic growth of credit delivery through digital lending.

# Guidelines for 'Buy now pay later by RBI

 In June 2022, the RBI issued a notification to fintech firms or non-banking institutions to do away with 'Buy now, pay later.

In the new guidelines of RBI, it has been said that-

- Non-banks (finTech firms or non-banking institutions) can no longer load prepaid instruments

   digital wallets, or stored-value cards by using credit lines.
- The only valid purchase option for the buyer is to buy through his wallet with cash or debit to his bank or credit card accounts.
- Payment Instruments (PPIs) from credit lines is not permitted. If this type of permission is being given then it should be closed with immediate effect. This type of permit is punishable under the provisions contained in the Payment and Settlement

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Systems Act, 2007.

### Do you know?

What is the 'buy now pay later model?

Buy now, pay later (BNPL system) is one such payment option where the buyer can make purchases without paying out of his pocket. In this model, the buyer collaborates with a firm that pays for the goods taken by the buyer. Once the payment is done, the buyer will have to repay the amount to the lender through installments in a stipulated time. Initially, no interest is charged under the BNPL model. However, if a buyer fails to repay the amount on time, the BNPL firm may levy interest on the principal amount.

# Why regulation of FinTech is necessary:

- For the benefit of borrowers:

  Loans provided by fintech companies have higher lending rates and the process of recovery of loans by these companies are also unethical. Sometimes such steps were also taken to recover the loan which affected the dignified life of the borrower, eg. by telling all the contacts of the borrower about the borrower's loan.
- Lack of competition: Due to the non-regulation of fintech companies, these companies had more freedom to do business than banks and other NBFCs.
- For data protection: Before giving a loan, Fintech companies take the information about Aadhar cards, PAN cards, account details, contact, etc. from the borrower. There was a possibility of this data being sold to another institution and also

there is a possibility of altering the credit score of the customer without his knowledge. This violated the privacy of the individual. Along with this, it was affecting the data localization.

**Improving** Transparency: Arrangements have also been made in the regulation to make the Fintech business transparent and to secure customers' trust. It states that the transaction cost will now be borne by the regulated entity and like any other loan product, the all-inclusive cost of the loan availed from fintech will have to be disclosed to the customer. This regulation will eliminate the scope of FinTech to charging exorbitant fees.

# Concerns regarding regulation of FinTech:

- Regulation of fintech may close the source of funding (loan) for many retail borrowers and the unorganized sector.
- Fintech ensures quick disbursement and fast processing. It works with the theme of "Credit at Your Door Step". Regulation of FinTech can increase the loan processing time.
- Before regulating FinTech companies, it is necessary to regulate cryptocurrencies and big tech companies, then only digital loans can be fully regulated.
- India's FinTech market has huge growth potential. This can help achieve the country's \$5 trillion economy target. In this situation, regulating this sector is likely to halt its growth.

### Way forward:

RBI will have to make some other arrangements for easy access

- to credit for retail borrowers and people in the unorganized sector.
- Simultaneously, the RBI will have to ensure the role of fintech in India's financial inclusion by establishing a new regulatory framework that has enough innovation and flexibility.
- Along with the regulation of fintech, the government will have to strengthen consumer protection and data protection rules. For this, the most important thing is that the Personal Data Protection Bill be passed.
- Cryptocurrencies and big tech companies need to be brought under regulation. The government is making efforts in this direction.

### **Conclusion:**

FinTech indeed is one of the fastest growing sectors in India. But no economic growth can be more important than the values of privacy protection and human dignity. The step taken by RBI for regulation of Fintech companies to protect the interest of borrowers is welcome and it shows the welfare trend of India. Although there are some challenges in the regulation of FinTech companies but the government is working on all those challenges.



Bilateral relations between India and Nepal are crucial for peace and stability in South Asia. Therefore, both nations keep working to enhance mutual cooperation on a multitude of issues from time to time. Recently, understanding Nepal's commercial and economic needs, India has allowed Nepal to use its two ports, Mundra in Gujarat and Dhamra in Orissa. Now Nepal will be able to use these two ports in addition to Visakhapatnam and Haldia ports for its international trade. This effectively demonstrates that India understands the needs of Nepal and thinks of giving economic strength to Nepal under its Neighbourhood First Policy.

# Need to amend the trade transit agreement between India and Nepal:

India and Nepal have recently agreed that the Treaty of Trade and Transit between the two countries should be amended and it is believed that the amendments will be done by the year 2023. Under this Treaty India gives duty free market access to Nepalese goods. More than 90 percent of Nepal's foreign trade goes through India's Haldia and Visakhapatnam ports as Nepal is a landlocked country. India and Nepal first finalized the Treaty of

Trade and Transit in September, 1960 and in 1978 the same was divided into two parts: the Treaty of Trade and the Treaty of Transit. Both these treaties are automatically renewed every 7 years. These were last reviewed in October, 2016 and Now it is due to be renewed in the year 2023. In 2020, during the meeting of Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) between India-Nepal, the highest bilateral mechanism for promotion of trade and investments between both countries, it was decided that the bilateral transit treaty will be amended.

India provides a transit route to Nepal for trade with any other third country. India facilitates transit of trade for Nepal through 22 identified routes and two ports. To strengthen the crossborder trade infrastructure with Nepal as well as Bangladesh, India has emphasized the establishment of Integrated Check Posts for on-site border management in Nepal. Under this, Raxaul-Birgunj checkpost, Sunauli-Bhairhawa checkpost, Biratnagar-Jogbani checkpost, Rajapur-Katerniyaghat checkpost etc., have been constituted. The advantage is that it will not only increase trade and regional connectivity but will also help to limit/control organized crimes like human trafficking, arms and drug smuggling along the Indo-Nepal border.

 Considering that India and Nepal regional connectivity cooperation is essential for bilateral economic trade, tourism, transport, the two countries signed an agreement on the development of the Raxaul-Kathmandu railway link, which was considered necessary to counterbalance China.

# Efforts towards railway connectivity between India Nepal:

- India and Nepal have started emphasizing on the development of important cross border railway links for the purpose of regional and economic integration. In this regard, in April 2022, Jayanagar-Kurtha Cross Border Railway Link has been launched by both the countries. Jaynagar is in Bihar while Kurtha is in Nepal.
- The Jayanagar-Kurtha section, 34.90 Km is a part of Jayanagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail (68.72 KM) project which has entirely been funded by Government of



India. In the first phase of this project, tracks has been laid from Jayanagar in Madhubani district, Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal and will be extended up to Bijalpura. Government of India has spent nearly Rs 550 Crores for the section up to Bijalpura which is further 17 km from Kurtha. After Bijalpura, new line will be constructed till Bardibas after Government of Nepal hands over land for the project.

Jayanagar is 4 Km from the India-Nepal border. This route has Janakpur, the famous pilgrim age centre in Nepal which is 29 Kms from Jayanager. This project is being undertaken by IRCON and all rail engineering and infrastructure works are complete. To operate rail service on this route, 2 sets of 1600 HP DEMU passenger rakes have been supplied by Konkan Rail Corporation Limited (KRCL).

# Bilateral economic relations between India and Nepal:

India is the largest trading partner of Nepal. In recent years, China has tried to overtake India to become Nepal's largest trading partner. According to the data by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, India-Nepal currently has a bilateral trade of more than \$ 7 billion in the form of trade in goods and services. Many companies in India like LIC, SBI, PNB, Asian Paint etc. are actively carrying out economic activities in Nepal. Nepal imports petroleum and motor vehicles from India. India has been supplying petroleum products to Nepal since 1975. India is the largest source of foreign direct investment in Nepal and Indian companies

account for more than 30% Nepal's total approved foreign direct investment. India mainly exports petroleum products, motor vehicles, coal, cement, chemicals and medicines to Nepal while Nepal mainly exports polyester yarn, textile, jute goods, zinc sheet, cardamom, copper wire etc. to India.

# Regional Cooperation between India and Nepal in South Asia:

- Regional cooperation between India and Nepal in South Asia has been considered important for the development and security of both countries.
- It is very important for India to have friendly relations with Nepal for the peace, stability and prosperity of South Asia. It is also necessary to take Nepal into confidence to promote regional integration in South Asia and to promote regional interconnections. In this sequence, the decision to make Bhutan Bangladesh India and Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement was taken in the year 2015, which has become functional.
- Nepal is a major member of SAARC and the Secretariat of SAARC is located in Kathmandu. As a member of SAARC, Nepal is expected to cooperate in combating terrorism in South Asia, and especially Pakistansponsored terrorism. Nepal is expected not to allow Indian Mujahideen and other terrorist organizations and ISI to act against Indian interests from its soil. The US Department of State, in its Country Reports on Terrorism 2020 and 2021, noted

the activism and associated violence of the Viplav group in Nepal.

- India also expects from Nepal that it should not cooperate with Pakistan in the trade and smuggling of Indian counterfeit currency notes. Countries like China and Pakistan have tried to use Nepal as a factor against India's interests due to its geographical location. Keeping this in mind, India has also formed the Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell of the National Investigation Agency so that such organized crimes can be dealt with.
- India and Nepal cooperate in the field of disaster management as members in the BIMSTEC. On the other hand, while India is a full member in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Nepal plays its role as a dialogue partner. Both India and Nepal are part of the South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Program of the Asian Development Bank.
- China has been present as an important factor in relations between India and Nepal. At the same time, Nepal has played the role of a buffer state between India and China. China and Nepal have diplomatic relations. Nepal is a part of and supports China's One Belt One Road initiative. Along with this, Nepal is also an active member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank led by China, Nepal has become observer member of SCO on the recommendations of Chaina, earlier Nepal was dialogue Many important partner. agreements have been signed between China and Nepal.





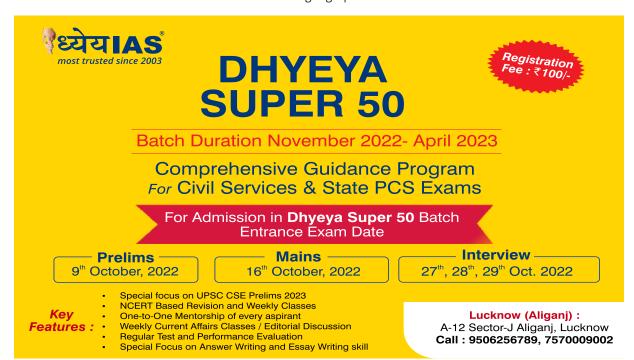
Most notably, a railway network project connecting Nepal and China has been agreed upon, which will connect Kathmandu to China. Under the agreements signed between China and Nepal in the year 2018, China has proposed Nepal access to four of its ports. China has taken this step with the thought of not allowing Nepal to depend too much on India for trade.

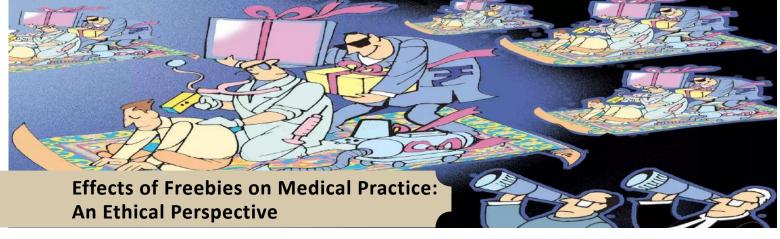
Motihari-Amlekhgani Petroleum Pipeline between India and Nepal has been commissioned. Motihari in Bihar has been connected with Amlekhgani in Nepal through this 69 km long petroleum pipeline. It is the first transnational pipeline from India as well as the first South Asian oil pipeline corridor. With this, it will be easy to get rid of the problem of oil storage in Nepal and the difficulty of transporting petroleum products from one place to another through tankers has been removed. On the other hand, Nepal has

recently become a member of the International Solar Alliance led by India in terms of energy security.

- Nepal is situated to the south of the Tibetan plateau, hence its geographical location becomes important. The Tibetan plateau is important from the point of view of security of the north eastern states of India. The construction of a railway link between China and Nepal will be possible only through the Tibetan plateau and its strategic location and this has also been proposed by China. On this basis it has been decided to establish the Kathmandu Kunming Railway Link using the Tibetan Plateau.
- Nepal shares its international border with some Indian states like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim. It shares a 1850 km long international border with Indian states. This geographical factor

has played an important role determining India-Nepal relations. Nepal has land border dispute in some of these states. which has led to several talks at the level of border management in both the countries. The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu says that the open borders and their influenced kinship and culture have laid the foundation of relations between the two countries. Citizens of both the countries have had free and uninterrupted movement for a very long time, which led to the relationship of roti and beti (business and matrimonial relations), in both the countries.





### Context:

Recently, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has accused the manufacturer of Dolo-650 of giving 'gifts' of about Rs 1,000 crore to doctors and medical professionals in return for promoting their products. Pharmaceutical company Micro Labs manufactures Dolo-650.

### Introduction:

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has accused the manufacturer of Dolo-650 that this company has given a 'free- gift' of about Rs 1,000 crore to doctors and medical professionals during Corona so that these medical professionals and Doctors should prescribe Dolo-650 to the patients. The CBDT has also informed that after the action being taken against the pharmaceutical company, undeclared cash of about Rs 1.20 crore and jewelry worth Rs 1.40 crore have been seized from there. At present, the matter is in the Supreme Court. Citing the example of Dolo, the petitioner (Federation of Medical Representatives of India) is seeking action from the Center to stop the unethical marketing practices by the pharmaceutical industry. The Supreme Court has ordered the Center to report within 10 days in this regard.

# The impact of this issue on value system:

### Lack of accountability:

- The accountability, of doctors (receiving a "free gift" from the company that produces the Dolo-650) is not fixed. Doctors are an important part of society and country and they have to understand the importance of their position. This shows the lack of accountability of doctors towards "People of India"
- Hearing the matter, Justice D.Y. Chandrachuda said that he was also given Dolo-650 during Covid-19, and this is a serious issue. Thus the accountability of the doctors will have to be fixed.

### Insensitivity:

- According to the current regulation laws, if a drug is more than 500 mg, then the pharmaceutical company is free to fix its price, whereas the price of drugs of 500 mg or less is under the regulation of the government.
- It is true that under the rule of free trade, the manufacturer of the dolo was free to determine its price. It gave free gifts of 1000 crores for its marketing; but was such benevolence justified at a time of serious crisis like Corona where thousands of deaths were taking place every day.
- Such a profit-oriented company is showing the insensitivity of medical professionals and

doctors.

# **Lack of Empathy:**

- Empathy means putting oneself in the place of another person and feeling his sorrows, problems and his condition.
- The doctors, administration, and pharma companies failed to realize the condition of the distressed and worried public during Corona.
- The lack of moral values in the private sector only increases the distance between them and the public.

# Against the medical ethics:

- Research into medical ethics by sociologists Landau and Osmo found that 45% of respondents cited "protection of life" as the most important medical principle.
- In the field of medical ethics, there are four standards laid down by Beauchamp and Childress—autonomy, non-maliciousness, benefit, and justice. They have been important in determining ethics.
- This makes it clear that "protection of life" is the most important moral principle, but in this activity, autonomy and



profit have been given priority while protection of life as well as non-malicious and justice are not taken into account.

## Against the ethics of doctors:

The ethics of doctors are as follows -

The most important aim of a doctor should be the service of humanity. He should keep his character high beyond money or rewards.

- A doctor should advise while keeping all the interests of the patient paramount.
- It is essential for a doctor to always avoid giving unnecessary consultations.
- A doctor should assist the administration in the event of epidemic and infectious diseases for their prevention. Efforts should be made to prevent improper use of health funds and resources.
- A doctor should avoid immoral acts related to the medical profession, such as selling medicine on his own, taking a commission in an unethical way, etc.

In this, the doctors or medical professionals who have received such free-gifts have violated the abovementioned norms of the ethics of doctors.

### Effects of such unethical activities:

 Such activities affect not only medical ethics but also important values such as the right to life and right to medical aid as enshrined in the Constitution.

- Because of such immoral activities, there is a trust deficit between the public and the private sector, which can become a hindrance to economic development in the future.
- These types of activities, highlight the loopholes in the law and order situation of India. They also show how these are misused by the chaotic elements.
- This situation also indicates the need for a limited amount of regulation.

# What can be done to solve these problems?

### Short term effort:

• First of all, the culprits must be punished by speedy disposal of this case; because it is not only a denial of moral values, but it also affects the right to life (Article 21) of the patients. In this context, the Supreme Court and the Central Government will have to decide this matter soon.

# Long term effort:

- Legal support for Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices:
  - In this PIL, The Federation of Representatives Medical India is seeking directions to give statutory backing to the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) make pharma companies and doctors accountable. The Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices is a voluntary code issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals. It provides guidelines the marketing on practices pharmaceutical

companies and the medical device industry in India.

# Efforts to connect doctors and the public:

- » Government should form an association involving doctors' associations and pharma lobby with civil society so that it increases the connectivity.
- » Students getting medical education should be taught this regularly by teaching them medical ethics on a practical basis.

# Preventive penal legislation:

» There should be a provision of the harshest punishment for such chaotic activities where there is a question of one's life, so that it became a standard and people are afraid to engage in such activities in future.

### **Conclusion:**

Doctors are considered as the almighty God in this Indian society. It has also been told in medical ethics that the first duty of a doctor is to protect the life of his patient, but the problem is that many doctors get involved in immoral activities like organ trade, gifts, etc. It has a clear impact on society and poor people. In a country like India, where more than 21% of the country's population is poor and the top 1% of the country has more money than the entire budget, this type of insensitivity directly affects the right to life of the poor and the general public. In this situation, the government, civil society, courts, and doctors' associations must co-ordinate and create a framework that ensures the welfare of all.



Narco-terrorism has emerged as a major challenge in India especially with respect to Kashmir valley. Further, it has given rise to several forms of organized crimes. Recently, the Director General of Police Jammu and Kashmir emphasized on the emerging challenges of narcoterrorism used by Pakistan against India. Since last 5 years, the misuse of heroine has increased two thousand times in Kashmir valley and this has further enhanced the scope of terror financing. Presently Pakistan is using narco-terrorism as a weapon of proxy war in Kashmir valley. Earlier this proxy war was limited to terror attacks by infiltrators and terrorists, however, now Pakistan has encouraged trafficking of weapons and drugs. The negative impact of which can be seen in Kashmir valley in the form of new ways of terrorism and its support. Pakistan based many terrorist organisation like Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba etc. are using drugs to empower terror and terrorism in Kashmir Valley.

Recently, National Investigating Agency India exposed the Pakistan sponsored terror module and as a consequence of which, the police arrested three terrorists. Police found 21 kilograms of heroine, 1.34 crore cash and a cash counting machine from the terrorists. This module was working with the terror organization Lashkar-e-taiyyaba. Moreover, NIA arrested a terror associate from Kupwada who was carrying

intoxicants, cash, and weapons in the vegetable cart to supply them. He was arrested in Amrohi near the line of control of Tangdhar area. This event emphasises on the seriousness of narco-terrorism. Not only in Kashmir, narco-terrorism is a major issue in Gujrat, Rajasthan and Punjab as it encourages hawala transactions, money laundering and terror financing.

# Narco-terrorism: Concept and Dimensions:

- The concept of narco-terrorism was presented in 1983 by Belande terry, the then President of Peru. Through this he implied those terrorist who attacked the anti-drug trafficking police. Drug criminals when used violent activities to accomplish their motives and violent means to affect the politics of the country, this phenomenon was named as narco-terrorism in Peru. Narcoterrorism is executed through several ways. For instance, by increasing the production of the drugs so that it can be used illegally, misuse of drugs, drugs related serious crimes, by creating hindrances against the rule of law, by causing danger to public safety and public health, money laundering and infiltration etc.
- Columbia, Peru and Bolivia together constitute another narcotic belt. They together

constitute what is also known as the silver triangle, due to the illegal production and smuggling of cocaine. Brazil shares its boundaries with Peru and Columbia, and is one of the major supplier of cocaine to Europe and thus, it plays a major role in this trans-Atlantic trade of drugs. Apart from this, México and Bolivia too are especially known for the drug trafficking.

- When the capital derived out of drug or narcotics trafficking is used to fund terror activities or terror financing, this is known as the Narcoterrorism. The drug trafficking through narcotic belt named "Golden Crescent" (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran) situated near India is being used for a while now for smuggling of drugs especially in the areas of Gujrat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir. Through Jammu and Kashmir, it is supplied to Punjab and then to the whole country. According to Intelligence Bureau of India, there is a strong link between Kashmiri terrorists and drug traffickers in Punjab.
- Apart from this, Golden
  Triangle is another prominent
  narcotic belt that is a major
  hotspot for drugs trafficking.
  It includes Southeast Asian
  countries Thailand, Myanmar
  and Laos. Since most of the
  North Eastern states of India



share their boundaries with Myanmar the drug trafficking is pre-dominant especially in the states of Manipur and Mizoram. The funds derived out of it are usually used for aiding separatist activities and financing rebellion against the country. There has been an organized attempt and crime to engage youth in drug abuse, through the purchase and sale of party drugs from Myanmar in the northeastern states.

# Jammu and Kashmir: A hub of Narco-terrorism in India

Jammu and Kashmir is the main center for narco-terrorism in India. Pakistan army and its spy agency ISI are the main drivers to execute and operate Narcoterrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan army has given several pieces of land for the cultivation of heroine to many terror organisations near Afghanistan border. Further Pakistan through Taliban supplies drugs( from Iran and Afghanistan) to the terror organizations. Moreover, there are several modules operating in the districts of Rajouri and Poonch. Weapon smuggling too is prominent apart from drug trafficking.

# Funds derived out of Narcoterrorism:

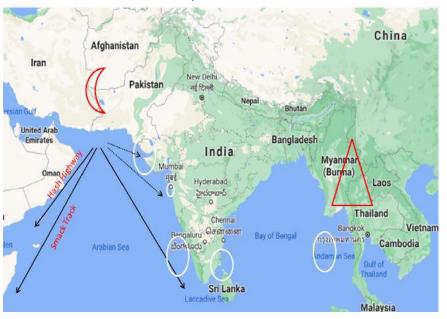
 A large chunk of the funds earned out of narco-terrorism is sent to the fake bank accounts of terror organization through middle east. This money is distributed to several terror organistions a major portion of which goes to ISI. The same money is used by the active terrorists of Kashmir, furthermore, the money is even given to the families of terrorists killed in encounter. Thus, the money is used to spread terrorism.

# Efforts by Indian government to tackle Narcoterrorism:

- Indian Coast Guard actively monitors and works for the prevention of narcoterroism and drug trafficking. Recently it launched a mission named operation Khojbeen on May 7, 2022 under which they patrolled near the exclusive economic zones. Two boats named 'prince' and 'little Jesus' were stopped near the Lakshadweep islands and later it was confirmed that some people in the boats were carrying drugs. They were later taken to cochin for further investigation. Several other expeditions were carried out by ICG which successfully prevented the influx of drugs from the international water route.
- The Indian Coast Guard has seized around 3 tonnes of narcotics worth around Rs 6,200

crore in various operations in the last three years. Sri Lankan boats Shenaya Duva and Ravihansi were nabbed in which drugs and weapons like AK-47s and pistols were found.

- The joint operation of ICG and DRI against the International Drug Trafficking Network has been successful in preventing the arrival of drugs in the country through sea routes.
- Effective action is also taken by the Navy against drug smuggling through the sea. For example, recently the Indian warship INS Suvarna caught a boat in the Arabian Sea on suspicion, and the investigation found that she was carrying narcotics worth Rs 3000 crores.





American warships recently passed through the Taiwan Strait, after which the US has clarified that this move is not a violation of America's 'One China Policy' from anywhere but rather is inspired by the security of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific. US National Security Advisor spokesman John Kirby further made it clear, that the movement of American warships in the Taiwan Sea is not intended to act against the One China Policy. The reason behind China's suspicion for America is US House of Representatives Speaker, Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. Within hours of Nancy Pelosi's visit, China sent 27 of its warplanes to Taiwan's air defence zone. Furthermore, China even banned the import of fruits, fish and other food items from Taiwan.

Nancy Pelosi had been vocal against China's imperialist and aggressive policies. Her contact with the Dalai Lama is another compelling reason for China's vigilance against Nancy Pelosi's activities. In 2008, Nancy Pelosi visited Dharamshala Himachal Pradesh where she met the Dalai Lama. China considers Tibet as its integral part and disregards its efforts for independence and greater autonomy. Further, it considers any awareness-raising campaigns or rights-based movements in Tibet as a separatist issue. Hence, China asserts that US lawmakers and diplomats should refrain from highlighting the issues of Tibet's independence.

Nancy Pelosi's legislative district of San Francisco's 32% of population comprises Asians, including people of Taiwanese and Tibet origins. Nancy Pelosi had included the issues related to the rights of selfdetermination in her speeches, which China has viewed with suspicion. In 1991, Nancy Pelosi during early stages of her political career, travelled to China with a congressional delegation where she waved pro-democracy banners at some places and protested against China for human rights violations at Tiananmen Square.

### What is US policy on Taiwan?

- The US has been supportive of the 'One China policy' on the Taiwan issue. Although, its One China policy is often regarded by world community as a "strategic ambiguity". Though, US considers Taiwan as a part of China, however, it is also committed to the security and support of Taiwan. The Taiwan Defence Pact between the US and Taiwan states that if Beijing tries to take Taiwan by force, the US will provide security support to Taiwan.
- China insists that the people living on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are part of China and thus, considers Taiwan as its integral part under the 'One China Policy' and is against

Taiwan's independence.

The China and Taiwan dispute began when a civil war broke out in China in 1949. The Communist Party of China led by Mao Zedong won the capital Beijing, and after the defeat, the ruling Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) had to flee. The members of the Kuomintang Party had to take refuge in Taiwan and established their power there. Since then, both people's Republic of Chaina (PRC) and Republic of Chaina (RoC) claims to be the real Chaina.

### Taiwan is essential for Indo Pacific:

The geographical location of Taiwan in East Asia is strategically essential to meet the ambitions of both China and the United States. Since Taiwan is located at the junction of the South China Sea and the East China Sea; it occupies an important place in the security of the Indo-Pacific. East Asian countries including Taiwan are critical for the security of the Indo-Pacific, and they oppose PLAN warships & China's efforts to build artificial islands in their maritime territories. In view of the security of the Indo Pacific, the mention of Taiwan comes because countries like America openly support the spread of democracy and protection of

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human rights in Taiwan.

- The US and other Quad member states have emphasized freedom of navigation in the Pacific Ocean through a free and independent Indo-Pacific strategy. The creation of an illegal Air Defence Identification Zone by China in the territory of Taiwan is a violation of the Free and Open Indo Pacific Strategy.
- On one side, the US does not support Taiwan's independence, but it asserts on the differences that exist across the Taiwan Strait to be resolved peacefully. It is through the Taiwan Relations Act that America supplies defence equipment, and sells weapons to Taiwan to give it sufficient self-defence capability. The American Institute in Taiwan provides citizen and consular services similar to those provided through the Diplomatic Mission. Taiwan, on the other hand, maintains the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington DC.

# Taiwan-US Relations, Reasons for America's Interest in Taiwan:

- Taiwan is a highly advanced economy, and has produced goods and services worth \$786 billion in 2021. The US and Taiwan have strong trade ties both the countries hold Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue frequently. Taiwan is America's eighth-largest trading partner and the US is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner. Taiwan's total investment in the US in 2020 was \$137 billion.
- In 2015, the American

Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office formed the "Global Cooperation and Training Framework" which is a platform to showcase Taiwan's technical expertise at the world level. The partners provide technical training in the areas of public health, supply chain resilience, energy, women's rights and disaster relief.

 In 2019, Japan became a global partner of this framework and in 2021 Australia has also joined it. Hence it can be concluded that the Quad member states like America, Japan and Australia are working together on the issue of Taiwan's technology development.

# Taiwan's position in the world market and possible impact of Chinese attack on Taiwan:

- Taiwan holds one of the heighest position in the world in terms of technology. It ranks first in the world in terms of chip-making and produces everything from laptops to expensive phones and watches. The chip and smartphone industry is dependent on it. The Taiwanese company Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is one of the world's largest chip manufacturers. In terms of chip manufacturing in the world, this company alone produces more than half.
- Thus, the whole world is dependent on Taiwan for the chips used in everything from electric vehicles to phones & laptops, aeroplanes to satellites.
   If China have complete control over Taiwan, it may take illegitimate advantage of the

situation.

- If China occupies Taiwan there will be a direct threat to USA as the American military bases in Guam and the Hawaiian Islands will be directly targeted by China. Along with this, China can get an open road in the western Pacific Ocean, which would directly affect American interests. Therefore, America keeps supporting Taiwan and gives it military aid and diplomatic help.
- Apart from this, the Australia, UK and US 'AUKUS Agreement' also curbs China in the Pacific Ocean region. Also, countries like South Korea, Japan, and Philippines are with USA on the issue of Taiwan.

# What is India's Taiwan Policy?

- India does not have any formal and diplomatic relations with Taiwan so far. India recognizes the One China Policy only. The reason behind which is the prevailing border disputes with China, and by supporting Taiwan issue India does not want to provoke China. This stance has however changed gradually. In a joint document issued in December 2010 when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited India, India did not mention its support for the One China policy.
- Beijing has given its message to India that if it maintains the One China policy, it will increase mutual trust between the two countries, but India has refused to support this policy recently as Beijing has issued stapled visas instead of normal visas to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir





traveling to China which India did not like.

- It is worth mentioning that in the year 2014, that during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oath taking ceremony, the Ambassador of Taiwan and the President of Tibet were invited. Through this India had given a message to China that India Wants to maintain trade-economic ties with Taiwan.
- However, there are links between

India and Taiwan in the fields of trade, investment, tourism, culture and education. India has an office in Taipei that performs diplomatic functions, apart from the India Taipei Association and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (formed in 1995) which is located in New Delhi. Through these two institutions, efforts are made to strengthen the relations between India and Taiwan. India also appointed its new ambassador to Taiwan after China attacked Galwan Valley.

As India is also a part of the organizations like Quad and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and take part in exercises like Malabar and RIMPAC. Therefore, it has an obligation to deal with the Taiwan issue in a better diplomatic manner.



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### Context:

Recently, the "Harnessing Green Hydrogen" report has been released by NITI Aayog.

### Introduction:

At present, the whole world is suffering from the problem of global warming. India is also very sensitive to the effect of global warming and is making efforts in this regard. In this context, NITI Aayog recently released a report titled "Harnessing Green Hydrogen". It has been prepared by the Niti Aayog in collaboration with RMI, India. This report will provide opportunities for deep decarbonization as well as promote the production of green hydrogen. By following the recommendations of this report, India will move towards achieving its Glasgow goals.

# Classification of hydrogen according to production

A. Green Hydrogen: Green hydrogen is produced with no harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Green hydrogen is made by using clean electricity from surplus renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, to electrolyse water. Electrolysers an electrochemical reaction to split water into its components of hydrogen and oxygen, emitting zero-carbon dioxide in the process.

- B. Blue Hydrogen: Blue hydrogen is produced mainly from natural gas, using a process called steam reforming. The output is hydrogen but also carbon dioxide as a by-product. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is essential to trap and store this carbon. Blue hydrogen is also called 'low-carbon hydrogen'.
- C. Grey Hydrogen: Currently, this is the most common form of hydrogen production. Grey hydrogen is created from natural gas, or methane, using steam methane reformation but without capturing the greenhouse gases made in the process.
- D. Black and Brown Hydrogen: In this, black coal or lignite (brown coal) is used in the hydrogenmaking process. It is the most environmentally damaging.
- **E. Pink Hydrogen:** Pink hydrogen is generated through electrolysis powered by nuclear energy.
- F. Turquoise Hydrogen: Turquoise hydrogen is made using a process called methane pyrolysis to produce hydrogen and solid carbon.
- G. Yellow Hydrogen: Yellow

hydrogen is a relatively new phrase for hydrogen made through electrolysis using solar power.

H. White Hydrogen: White hydrogen is naturally-occurring geological hydrogen found in underground deposits and created through fracking. There are no strategies to exploit this hydrogen at present.

# About green hydrogen:

- Green hydrogen is a type of renewable energy source and clean form of energy and its carbon footprint is much less than other types of hydrogen such as grey hydrogen, brown hydrogen and blue hydrogen.
- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water. In this process, water is split into its components (hydrogen and oxygen) by electricity.
- Currently, grey hydrogen is produced largely in India.

# **Deep De-carbonization:**

The phrase 'deep de-carbonization' refers to the gradual elimination of carbon-emitting fuels, favouring more sustainable alternatives. In other words, deep de-carbonization is more than just a quick, short-term



fix to combat the climate crisis. It's a long-term, proactive strategy offering humans a longer lease on the planet.

A common consensus has emerged when it comes to the best approach to deep de-carbonisation. It now aims to decrease the amount of carbon released by each sector and not just confined to energy, utilities, transportation, construction, and consumer goods sectors.

# Key points of the report released by NITI Aayog:

The report outlines how green hydrogen produced through the electrolysis of water can reduce carbon emissions in sectors such as fertilizer, refining, methanol, maritime shipping, iron and steel and transportation. It further said that in the emerging global situation in hydrogen, India can take advantage of this opportunity not only to become a low-carbon economy but also to ensure energy security for the country and accelerate economic growth.

This report of NITI Aayog is prepared in accordance with the environmental goals of the government. Its key points are as follows -

- NITI Aayog has considered green hydrogen as a form of energy for deep de-carbonization; it has been told that about 45 countries have issued a roadmap to promote hydrogen energy.
- This report is inspired by the objective of making India a global green hydrogen hub.

# Major challenges mentioned in the report are:

- This report discusses the challenges and solutions for the production, distribution and transportation of green hydrogen.
- The report has stated that the high cost of hydrogen production, issues in the supply chain, legal complexity, lack of research, etc. are the biggest hurdles towards India becoming a hydrogen economy.
- NITI Aayog has said that India is the world's third-largest crude oil and energy importer. Along with this, energy security and carbonization is the biggest challenge for the country.
- The report has projected that by the year 2050, the demand for hydrogen in India could increase by more than 4 times, which would be about 10 percent of the gross global demand.

## Panchamrit:

While delivering the 'National Statement' at the COP-26 climate conference in Glasgow at Scotland, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented his five-point agenda to counter global warming and climate change. He termed it as the 'Panch Amrit Tattva' or 'Panchamrit'.

**First-** India will take its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.

**Second-** India will meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.

**Third-** India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now till 2030.

**Fourth-** By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by more than 45 percent.

**Fifth-** By the year 2070, India will achieve the target of Net Zero.

# Ways to solve these challenges: Key recommendations of Report:

- The report recommends the creation of green corridors in the states.
- The report says that there is a need to increase investment in green hydrogen. For this, startups should be provided cheap loans and grants. Demand aggregators and dollar-based bidding can be used to drive investment.
- Near-term policy measures can reduce the current cost of green hydrogen to make it competitive in price against grey hydrogen (hydrogen produced by natural gas). In the medium term, policy measures should be determined with the aim of guiding the industry to make green hydrogen more competitive in the hydrogen category.
- The government should identify industrial clusters and encourage market growth shortly by implementing rules and targets, bridging the associated practical gap in funding.
- Opportunities in R&D and manufacturing of equipment like electrolyzers needs to be identified. To achieve 25 GW manufacturing capacity by the year 2028, electrolyzers should be suitably incentivized with a Production Linked Incentive



(PLI) scheme.

- A globally competitive green hydrogen industry could lead to exports of green hydrogen and hydrogen-embedded lowcarbon products such as green ammonia and green steel. With this, 95 GW of electrolysis capacity will be achieved in the country by 2030.
- There is a need to set up an inter-ministerial committee for policy coordination to promote the Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Along with this, NITI Aayog has recommended the formation of a global hydrogen alliance to increase the export of hydrogen products.

### **Benefits of Green Hydrogen:**

- Green hydrogen could become an alternative to fossil fuels in industrial processes. This will reduce India's dependence on crude oil.
- Being a renewable energy source, it will accelerate economic growth but won't affect the environment negatively. With this, the balance of economic development and protection of the environment will be maintained, and it will help towards India's net zero goal by 2070.
- The report also pointed out that with the right policies India can emerge as the cheapest producer of green hydrogen and by 2030 the price of green hydrogen can be reduced to \$1 per kg. By doing this India, not only will achieve its energy

- security but also it can be established itself as an energy exporter.
- The report states that the size
  of the green hydrogen market
  in India is expected to reach
  around \$8 billion by 2030, which
  will help India reach its \$5 trillion
  economy target.

# Efforts made to promote Green Hydrogen:

## **National Hydrogen Energy Mission:**

A National Hydrogen Energy Mission has been announced by India in the Union Budget 2021-22, which will prepare a roadmap for using hydrogen as an alternative energy source.

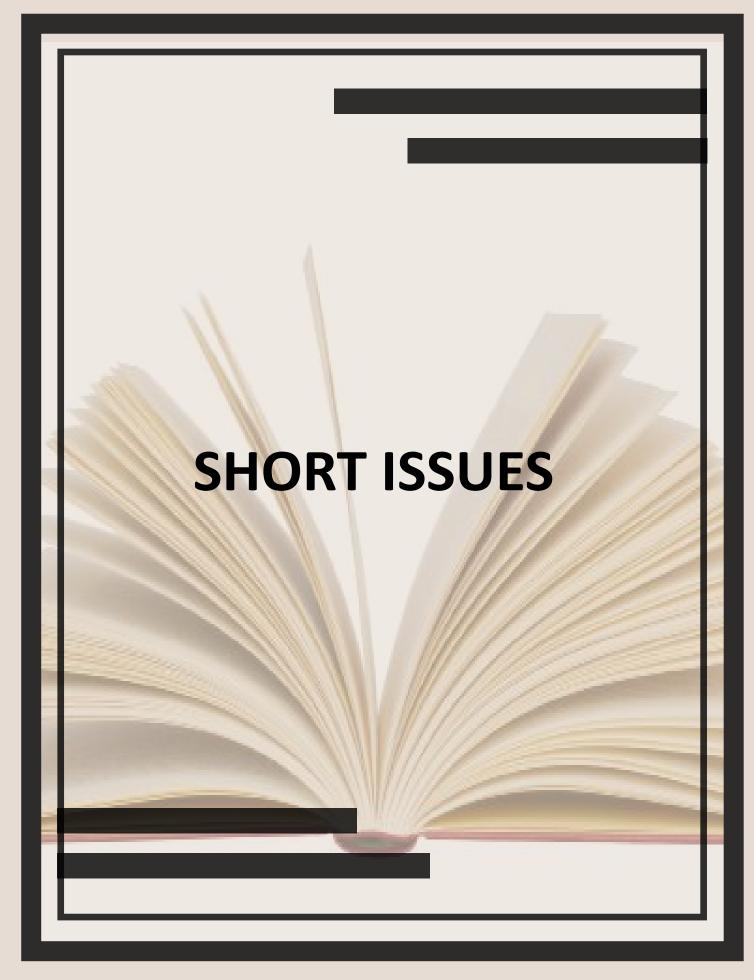
### **Green Hydrogen Policy:**

- Green Hydrogen Policy (GHP)
  has been announced by the
  Ministry of Power (MoP).
  The policy has set a target of
  producing 5 million tonnes
  per annum (MTPA) of green
  hydrogen by 2030.
- Under this policy, it is being proposed by the government to establish manufacturing sector for production of green hydrogen and connectivity to inter-state transmission system on priority and free transmission for 25 years.
- Manufacturers of green hydrogen and ammonia have been allowed to purchase renewable energy from power exchanges.
- In addition, green hydrogen

- manufacturers have also been allowed to set up renewable energy (RE) capacity on their own or through third party.
- This policy also provides a special facility to the generators to store any surplus of renewable energy generated with the power distribution companies (Discoms) for 30 days and use it as needed.

### **Conclusion:**

Green Hydrogen is indeed one such option by which India can not only nurture its energy needs and economic development but can also become an energy exporter from an energy importer. But for this, the problems arising before the production of green hydrogen must be resolved; Efforts should be made to achieve the goals of the Green Hydrogen Policy by following the report of NITI Aayog. At present, the global importance of green hydrogen is increasing and in this situation, India needs to act as soon as possible on this project.



# **NATIONAL**

# 1

# **One Nation One Fertilizer Scheme**

### Why in News:

The Government of India is going to implement One Nation One Fertilizer Scheme from October 2, 2022 in the country.

# About 'One Nation One Fertiliser' scheme:

Under ONOF scheme, all fertiliser companies, State Trading Entities (STEs) and Fertiliser Marketing Entities (FMEs) will be required to use a single "Bharat" brand for fertilisers and logo under the Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna (PMBJP).

The single brand name would be Bharat Urea, Bharat DAP, Bharat MOP and Bharat NPK etc. The specifications of the new packaging for companies' are-

- The new "Bharat" brand name and PMBJP logo will cover twothirds of the front of the fertiliser packet.
- The manufacturing brands can only display their name, logo, and other information on the remaining one-third space.

# Government's motive behind the scheme

It will be easier to check black marketing of fertilizers with a single brand name. This will help in reducing the freight charges by preventing cross movement of fertilizers. The products of all the fertilizer companies will be easily sold without any competition. All the sacks of fertilizer will be same, so farmers will be able to identify the bags easily. Timely availability of fertilizers will be ensured. Fertilizer

production standards will be fulfilled by the government itself and not the companies.

# **Views of Fertilizer Companies:**

Fertilizer companies do not agree with this move of the government due to the same brand name of the



product of all the companies and completely destroying the brand value of their product in the market.

# Why the name Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna (PMBJP)?

This is the name of the subsidy scheme mentioned on the urea bag. The fertiliser subsidy bill of the government is huge each year and only second to the food subsidy in terms of expenditure. It is expected to be over Rs. 2 lakh crore in 2022-

**23.** That is why the government has established its control over the production, storage, distribution and brand name of urea.

The government has launched One Nation One Fertilizer Scheme under PMBJP scheme to prevent different brands of fertilizer products in the country and to overcome the challenge of transportation of fertilizers.

In addition to price controls and subsidies, the Government of India, under the Fertilizers (Movement) Control Order, 1973, also prohibits companies from doing business in an arbitrary manner.



# Way Ahead:

The introduction of this scheme will not only benefit the farmers, but all the fertilizer companies will be benefitted in their respective business areas. But for sustainable agriculture, the Government of India needs to lay special emphasis on eco-friendly organic farming along with single brand urea products.

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# **Anangtal Lake**

### Why in News:

Recently, the Ministry of Culture has declared the 1000-year-old Anangtal Lake as a monument of national importance.

## **About Anangtal Lake:**

- This is a historical lake which was built in Mehrauli, New Delhi by Tomar King Anangpal II in 1060 AD. The area of lake was earlier known as Dhillikapuri. Later Dhillikapuri became New Delhi. Presently, the area of this lake is about 10.5 acres.
- The Anangtal Lake is located to the north of Jogmaya Temple and about 500 meters to the north-west of the complex of Qutub Minar.
- Maharaja Anangpal II belonged to the Tomar dynasty. Anangpal Tomar was the maternal grandfather of Prithviraj Chauhan.
- He is the same Prithviraj Chauhan whose fort 'Rai Pithora' or 'Lala Kot' is included in the list of Archaeological Survey of India and who defeated Mohammad Ghori in the first battle of Tarain (in Haryana) in 1191.
- Archaeological studies show that Anangpal Tomar was the ruler of Delhi and Haryana between 8th to 12th century.
- The area is believed to have been a common resting place in ancient times but has now dried up and is used for farming.
- It is also said that Alauddin Khilji used the water of this lake in 1296-1316 AD while building the Qutub Minar and expanding the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque.

# Monuments of National Importance:

- The Archaeological Survey of India under the Ministry of Culture gives the status of national importance to any natural site, historical building while the responsibility of their maintenance and conservation lies with the Central Government. The Archaeological Survey of India regulates all archaeological activities in the country under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- Since this lake is presently in dilapidated condition as a symbol of establishment of Delhi, the Government of India wants to maintain it for future generations by renovating it.

# Other monuments of national importance:

- In 2015, the Vishnu temple at Nadvayal in Wayanad district of Kerala was added to the list of national importance.
- In 2018, the Archaeological Survey of India declared six monuments as protected and of national importance- Ancient High Court building in Nagpur, Aga Khan and Hathi Khana

- ki Haveli in Agra, Neemrana Baori in Alwar district, Group of temples at Ranipur Jharial in Bolangir district of Odisha and Kotli Vishnu temple in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- At present, the total number of monuments of national importance under the Archaeological Survey of India in the country has increased to 3 693
- Uttar Pradesh (745), Karnataka (506) and Tamil Nadu (413) have the highest number of protected sites.

### Way Forward:

The national monuments of any country are not only the heritage of that country, but they also generate employment and national income through tourism. So the protection of all the historical buildings and places of the country is very important.





# **Increase coverage under Food Security Act: Supreme Court**

# Why in News:

- The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to increase the coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) so that more and more needy persons and citizens can get the benefits under the National Food Security Act, 2013. This law entitles the rural and urban poor to receive subsidized food grains. Till now, only those persons included in the 2011 census get the benefits. The court asked the Center to include migrant labourers and other needy people in the NFSA, who are out of the 2011 census.
- Earlier in 2021, the apex court had directed the Center to redetermine the coverage as per Section 9 of the NFSA. That is, the direction has been merely reiterated by the court.

# Reasons for the direction given by the court:

- Huge population growth between 2011-2021, thus gains should not be limited to 2011 census.
- Right to food is a fundamental right available under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- The court believed alternative data is available to include these people. Example, based on official population estimates published by the Ministry of Health.

# About National Food Security Act, 2013

 The Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in July 2013, which gives 67 per cent of the population (75 per cent in rural areas and 50 per cent in urban

- areas) a legal right to receive highly subsidized food grains. The beneficiaries are identified by the states.
- Under the Act, 5 kg per person per month for priority family category and 35 kg per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families are given.
- The coverage under the Act is based on the population data of the 2011 Census. The Act is now being implemented in all 36 States/UTs and covers about 81.35 crore persons.

# Problems under the PDS system in India:

- Identification of beneficiaries by the states is not foolproof.
- There are a lot of errors in the beneficiary data inclusion and exclusion of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.
- The high prevalence of ghost cards in the names of nonexistent people in many states indicates that food grains are shipped to the open market instead of the actual beneficiaries.
- Part of the leakage occurs at the level of fair price shops, where some store owners exchange high quality goods provided from the government for distribution through PDS with low quality goods from general stores.

# Schemes under the National Food Security Act, 2013:

 Schemes like Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Public Distribution System (PDS), and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana etc. are covered under the Act. Now the central government is implementing one nation, one ration card scheme under this act.

# State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act:

The index measures the reforms undertaken by the states under National Food Security act and provides a ranking to the states. Odisha topped the ranking of states for implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

### Conclusion

There is no clear provision for the right to food in the Indian Constitution. The decision of the court is commendable, thus it is expected that now the genuine needy left out will be able to avail the benefits under this Act.





# EC Recommends the Disqualification of Jharkhand CM as MLA

# Why in News:

Election Commission (EC) recommended the disqualification of Chief Minister Hemant Soren as MLA under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Soren has been found guilty of misusing his position, as the head of the state's mining department, to allot himself a stone mining lease last year.

# **About the Controversy:**

- The entire controversy stems from the issue of Chief Minister Hemant Soren allegedly misusing his power to allot himself a stone mining lease last year.
- The opposition had sought Soren's disqualification for violating Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, by approaching the Governor.
- Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 prohibits elected representatives from entering into any contract with the government for "supply of goods" or "performance of any act".
- The Governor then wrote to the Election Commission under Article 192 of the Constitution for its opinion.
- In May this year, the Election Commission had issued a notice to Soren seeking his reply on the complaint. On August 12, Soren's legal team concluded its arguments before the Election Commission.

# What happens next?

 As per the law, the Governor is bound by the EC's opinion,

- as the latter serves as a quasijudicial body in such matters.
- This means that if the EC disqualifies Soren, the Governor will have no choice but to follow suit. If that happens, the Chief Minister can go to the Supreme Court against the EC's move.
- According to section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 disqualification of an elected representative will last as long as the contract is in force.
- Hence, if the Assembly Speaker declares Soren's seat vacant, he can resign as Chief Minister and technically be sworn in again since he has already surrendered the mining lease.
- According to Article 164(4) of the Constitution, a minister or a Chief Minister can remain in office or be appointed for six consecutive months even if he is not a member of the State Legislature.

# Concept of the 'Office of Profit':

 Under the law related to office of profit, if legislators or MPs hold an 'office of profit' under the government, the application of the principle of "the Separation of Power between the Legislature and The Executive" a 'Basic Feature of the Constitution' may be affected.

# Office of Profit:

 The office of profit has been mentioned in Article 102(1)

 (a) and Article 191(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. Under Article 102(1)(a), the members of Parliament and under Article 191(1)(a), members of the State Legislature are prohibited from

- holding any such other office of profit.
- The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualifications) Act, 1959 lists the posts which have been kept out of office of profit.
- The Supreme Court ruled in 1964 that the determination of whether a person held an office of profit will be by an inquiry into his appointment.

# Related decisions of the Supreme Court:

- The Chief Minister can be disqualified under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 in view of three decisions of the Supreme Court.
- In 1964, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in CVK Rao Vs Dantu Bhaskar Rao held that a mining lease does not amount to a contract of supply of goods.
- In 2001, a three-judge bench of the SC in Kartar Singh Bhadana vs Hari Singh Nalwa also clarified that mining lease does not amount to performance of work done by the government.

Even if the Chief Minister is disqualified by any authority, he can challenge it in the High Court and the decision must be completed within four months as per the Supreme Court order.





# Mithila Makhana gets a GI Tag

# Why in news:

The Central Government has awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana. With this step, the cultivators will get the maximum price for their premium produce. This decision will benefit more than five lakh cultivators of the Mithila region of Bihar. Once a product got the tag, no person or company can sell anything similar to that name. The tag is valid for a period of 10 years after which it can be renewed. Other benefits of GI registration include legal protection of that commodity, prevention against unauthorized use by others and promotion of exports.

### **About Mithila Makhana:**

Makhana is one of the best aquatic cash fruit crops of Mithila. It is used for offering Prasad to deities during festivals. It is rich in low-fat content, high carbohydrate, protein and minerals. Both raw and fried makhanas are rich in amino acids. Makhana is a storehouse of macro and micronutrients. Makhana is recommended for many medicinal uses in the Indian system of medicine.

### **Suitable Climate for Makhana**

It is a plant of tropical and sub-tropical climate. It requires a temperature of 20-35 °C, relative humidity of 65-90% and annual rainfall of 100-250 cm for its growth. Makhana being an aquatic fruit crop, requires a lot of water. Thus, the availability of irrigation water is essential, especially for its cultivation. Clay and loamy soil is suitable for growing Makhana.

# **About GI tag:**

- A Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin. It is primarily an agricultural, natural or manufactured product originating from a certain geographical area that assures its quality and uniqueness.
- It is protected under Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. The GI tag is recognized under Articles 22 to 24 of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
- Geographical Indications in India are protected under

the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2002.

# Difference between Geographical Indication and Trade Mark:

A trade mark is a sign used in the course of business and that distinguishes the goods or services of one business from those of other businesses.

A geographical indication is a sign used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a certain geographical area.

### Conclusion

Protection of Geographical Indications leads to the overall economic prosperity of manufacturers and producers. In addition, marketing and promotion of products with a GI tag encourages secondary economic activities in that specific area, resulting in regional economic development.



# Bail should be Rule and Jail should be Exception: Supreme Court

### Context

The Supreme Court made important remarks regarding bail. A bench of Justice SK Kaul and Justice MM Sundaresh had pointed out the dire need to reform the laws related to bail. The bench had asked the government to consider making a separate law on bail on the lines of Britain. The court said that bail

should be the rule and jail should be exception. However, the stand of the lower courts has been quite the opposite. The bench observed that the attitude of the courts in refusing to grant bail has boosted the morale of the investigating agencies. Agencies have made it a weapon of punishment. The court had considered such an attitude as a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

### **Grant of Bail: Balachand case**

 Justice Krishna Iyer had given important ruling in 1977 in Rajasthan v Balachand case. The court had said in one voice that bail should be given in all cases. This should be denied only when





there is a risk of the accused running away, repeating the offense or influencing witnesses.

- The intention to grant bail was clearly explained by the Supreme Court in Gurbaksh Singh Sibbiya v State of Punjab (1980). It was then held that bail should not be rejected as a punitive measure. The court had said that the purpose of bail is to ensure the presence of the accused in the trial. Bail should not be withheld as a punishment.
- Talking about the lower courts, they have gone against the principles. There are many examples of this such as the cases of Mohammad Zubair, Stan Swamy, Aseem Trivedi etc.

### India's law on bail:

- The CrPC does not define the term bail, but only classifies offenses under the Indian Penal Code as 'bailable' and 'non-bailable'.
- Section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 states that a person accused of a bailable offense under the I.P.C may be granted bail which he has received as a right. On the other hand, Section 437 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 states that in non-bailable offences, the accused is not entitled to bail, in these cases it is the discretion of the court to grant bail. Apart from this, anticipatory bail is also provided under section 438 of CrPC.

### Way forward

According to the latest available data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in India for 2020, around 76% of all prison inmates in the country were under trials, of whom about 68% were either illiterate or had dropped out of school. Having such a situation in the country can actually lead to serious consequences. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to have a UK-like law regarding bail so that the rights of the people can be protected and more trust can be instilled in the judiciary.



# **Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India**

### Why in News:

NCRB report "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India" has revealed that the daily wage earners remained the largest profession wise group among suicide victims in the year 2021.

increased by 11.52 per cent during this period.

The latest report shows that

in the daily wage earner group

 The latest report shows that the share of daily wage earners among suicide victims not only numbers separately from those of agricultural labourers, who have been grouped in a subcategory under the category of "Persons engaged in farming sector".

# Key points of the report: Daily Wage Laborer

- During the year 2021, out of total 1,64,033 suicides, the number of daily wage laborers who committed suicide was 42,004 i.e. 25.6 percent.
- In the year 2020 also, out of the total 1,53,052 suicides, 37,666 (24.6 per cent) were daily wage workers.
- At the same time, out of the total recorded 1,39,123 suicides in the year 2019, it was 23.4 percent (32,563).
- Nationally, the number of suicides increased by 7.17 percent from 2020 to 2021.
- However, the number of suicides

# RISING SUICIDE RATE OF DAILY WAGE WORKERS



increased during 2021, but the number grew faster than the national average.

The report lists the daily wage

### Farmers and Agricultural Labourers:

 Farmer means a person whose occupation is agriculture and includes a person who cultivates



- himself or with the help of agricultural labourers on his own land or on land without lease or on the land of others.
- "Agriculture Labourer" means a person who works primarily in the agricultural sector (agriculture/horticulture), whose main source of income is from agricultural labour activities.
- In the year 2021, 10,881 suicides were recorded in the "persons engaged in agriculture" group, which included 5,318 farmers and 5,563 agricultural labourers.
- During the year 2019 to 2020, the cases of 'Farmer' suicide have decreased from 5,957 to 5,579 while 'Agriculture Labourer' suicides have increased from 4,324 to 5,098.
- The report shows that the total share of "persons engaged in agriculture" in the total recorded suicides was 6.6 per cent during 2021.

# **Self-employed Persons:**

 The highest increase of 16.73 per cent was recorded by the "self - employed persons" from 17,332 in 2020 to 20,231 in 2021.

### **Unemployed Persons:**

 The "unemployed persons" group was the only group that saw a decline in suicides, a decline of 12.38 per cent from 15,652 in 2020 to 13,714 suicides in 2021.

### State wise suicide cases:

Maharashtra (22,207) is at the forefront in terms of suicides in 2021, followed by Tamil Nadu (18,925) and MP (14,965). However, Maharashtra is not among the top 10 states of the country in terms of high suicide rate in India.

- Drug abuse and alcohol addiction have been considered among the major causes of suicide in the report.
- The NCRB has classified suicide reports into nine profession wise groups: Students, professional/ salaried persons, daily wage earners, retired persons, unemployed persons, self-employed persons, housewives, persons engaged in farming sector and others.

# Causes of Suicides by Daily Wage Earners:

 Ambiguity in minimum wages, complexity in wage laws, large labour force belonging to the unorganized sector, lack of awareness among workers, etc.

## Laws related to Wages:

- Wages (Central) Rules, 2020, Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) ,2005, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Bonded Labour System Abolition Act, 1976.
- Constitutional Provisions: The Constitution of India prohibits bonded labour under Article 23 of the constitution and prohibits human trafficking and forced labour under Article 23.
- Wages are included in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, so both Centre and States can make laws on it.
- Measures to stop these suicides: Agriculture and animal husbandry should be made profitable, Emphasis should

be given on low cost and more profitable farming, cottage and small scale industries should be encouraged in rural areas, access to government services should be made transparent to all labour and disadvantaged groups of the society.

### **About NCRB:**

It was established in the year 1986 on the basis of the recommendations of the National Police Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs. In March 2022, this organization has celebrated its 37th Foundation Day. This organization publishes Crime in India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India, Prison Statistics in India, Reports on Missing Women and Children in India, Finger Print in India.

### Way Forward:

At present, NCRB reports only the cases registered in the police stations of the country while other central agencies such as Central Bureau of Investigation, Narcotics Control Bureau and National Investigation Agency are still separate from it. Therefore, there is a need to make this bureau more empowered to control various criminal activities in the country. Also, due to the large role of agriculture and the unorganized working class the economy of the country, the laws related to them should be implemented in an effective manner by the government.



# **Increase in Crimes Against Women and Children**

### Why in News:

According to the recent NCRB report, there has been an increase in crimes against women and children in the country in the year 2021.

### **National Statistics:**

- Crimes against women have increased by 15.3 percent in the year 2021 over the previous year.
- The crime rate against women per 1 lakh population has increased from 56.5% in the year 2020 to 64.5% in the year 2021.
- Of 4,28,278 cases of crime registered against women
  - » 31.8% were attacked by their husbands or relatives.
- » 20.8% of attacks on them were done with the intention of insulting their modesty.
- » 17.66% were of kidnapping and abduction.
- » 7.40% were rape cases.

### State wise stats:

- The top states in the year 2021 with the highest rate of crime against women are Assam (168.3%) Odisha (137.8%), Haryana (119.7%), Telangana (111.2%) and Rajasthan(105.4%).
- Rajasthan has registered a marginal decrease in crimes against women, while Odisha, Haryana and Telangana have seen an increase.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crime cases in 2021, followed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Odisha respectively. Nagaland had the lowest number of registered cases of crime.

### **Union Territory:**

Delhi had the highest rate of crime against women at 147.6% in the year 2021.

### **City Wise Figures:**

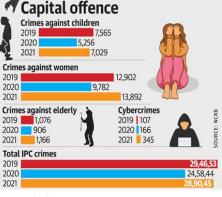
Cities with highest rates: Jaipur (194%), Delhi , Indore and Lucknow. **Cities with lowest rates:** Chennai and Coimbatore.

# City wise figures based on actual numbers

**Top cities:** Delhi(13,892), Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

# Deaths due to domestic violence and dowry:

- During the year 2021, only 507 or 0.1% cases were registered under the Domestic Violence Act in the country. Kerala recorded the highest number of domestic violence cases at 270.
- After the Corona epidemic, criminal incidents like rape,



kidnapping, crimes against children and dacoity have increased across India in the year 2021.

**Rape cases:** In the year 2021, there has been an increase of 13 percent as compared to 2020.

Rajasthan with 16.4% cases tops the list in the year 2021.

**Kidnapping cases:** In the year 2021, there has been an increase of 20 percent as compared to 2020.

**Murder cases:** Numbers increased from 29,193 in the year 2020 to 29,272 in the year 2021.

The highest number of murder cases were registered in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra.

# Crimes against Children in the year 2021:

- There has been an increase in crimes against children in the year 2021 after COVID.
- Kerala, Meghalaya, Haryana, Mizoram and Sikkim have the highest rates of sexual crimes against children.

# **Reasons for Crime against Women:**

Gender discrimination, Patriarchy, Male-dominated rules and laws, Orthodox culture and practices and Not getting the dowry.

### **Challenges in Crime Control:**

Bureaucratic non - cooperation, judicial delay, willful neglect of cases and more emphasis on punishment rather than prevention of crimes.

# What are the Legal Provisions in India?

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act-2005, Dowry Prohibition Act-1961, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act-2013, Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POCSO)-2012 etc.

### **Constitutional Provisions:**

**Article- 14** gives equal rights to men and women.

**Article-15(1)** prohibits gender discrimination between men and women.





**According to Article-15(3),** the government can make special provisions for women.

**Article -51(A)** provides a life of dignity to women.

### Way Forward:

The government needs to work at the grassroots level with full determination to control crimes against women and children. Instead of punishing the guilty, the crime should be rooted out.

# 9

# **Shrinking States' share in Divisible Pool**

### Why in the News:

In recent times, it is seen that the revenue of the states is continuously decreasing. The main reason behind this is the continuous decline in revenue from the divisible pool. Persistent revenue shortfall has also increased the vertical fiscal imbalance between the Centre and the states, indicating that reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax were not really sustainable for the states.

### About the Issue:

The Chief Ministers of various states expressed concern over the declining state revenue in the meeting of NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

They demanded a higher share in the divisible pool of taxes and extension of GST compensation.

### **Vertical Fiscal Imbalance:**

- There is a vertical disparity in the distribution of resources (revenue) and responsibilities between the Centre and the states, often referred to as vertical fiscal imbalance. More revenue resources are available with the central government than the states, while the responsibilities are less than the states.
- Article 280 of the Constitution provided a solution to this vertical imbalance, under which the Finance Commission is

constituted every five years, which recommends the transfer of resources from the Centre to the states.

### **About Divisible Pool:**

- The divisible pool is that portion of the gross tax revenue that is distributed between the Centre and the states.
- The divisible pool includes almost all taxes except surcharges and cess and collection charges levied for a specific purpose.

# The current state of the Divisible Pool:

- According to the report of the 15th Finance Commission, in the financial year 2019-20, the central government raised 62.7% of the total resources mobilized by the central government and the states, while 62.4% of the expenditure in terms of expenditure was borne by the states.
- Several Finance Commissions (FCs) have tried to reduce the imbalance by increasing the share of the states in the central taxes, yet there has been no significant improvement in the situation of the states.
- It has been seen many times that the share of the states in the divisible pool would have been increased by the Finance Commission, but due

- to lack of revenue, it is not fully implemented.
- However. the central government has increased its revenue by levying cess and surcharge which do not have to be shared with the states. Over the years, the share of cesses and surcharges in the gross tax revenue has increased significantly. This has increased the exchequer of the central government, while reducing the divisible pool, which is actually affecting the revenue received by the states from the centre.

### Way forward:

The shrinking of the divisible pool, despite the high expenditure burden on the states, suggests that the chief ministers' complaint appears to be correct. The financial position of the states had worsened due to the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Scheme, farm loan waiver, as well as the slowdown in the pace of development in 2019-20. Increased expenditure and revenue crunch during the pandemic further strained their finances. The situation calls for immediate attention.





# **INTER-NATIONAL**

# 1

# The controversy around Nepal's new Citizenship Law

### Why in News:

- Recently, Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari sent back the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2006 to the Pratinidhi Sabha urging the members to reconsider the Act.
- Ahead of the election season, this clash between the President and the Pratinidhi Sabha has ignited a heated debate over the question of citizenship in Nepal.

### **Issues in Citizenship Act of Nepal:**

- Nepal transitioned into a democracy beginning with the fall of the monarchy in 2006 and the subsequent election of the Maoist government in 2008.
- The emergence of the multiparty system was followed by the adoption of a constitution on September 20, 2015.
- All Nepalese citizens born before this date got naturalised citizenship. But their children remained without citizenship as that was to be guided by a federal law which has not yet been framed.
- This amendment Act is expected to pave the way for citizenship of many such stateless youth as well as their parents.

### **Issues with the Amendment Act:**

The main criticism against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2006 is that it goes against established parameters of gender justice.

 According to Article 11(2b), a person born to a father or a mother with Nepalese citizenship can get citizenship by descent.

- Article 11(5) of the constitution says a person who is born to a Nepalese mother (who has lived in the country) and an unidentified father will also get citizenship by descent.
- But this section appears humiliating for a mother as she has to declare that her husband is unidentified for the child to be eligible for citizenship.
   Furthermore, it supports punitive action against the mother if the father is found later. But in case of a Nepalese father, such declarations are not required.
- According to Article 11(7) a child born to a Nepalese mother and a father holding a foreign citizenship can get "naturalised citizenship" in accordance with the laws of Nepal appears to contradict Article 11(2b).
- It places a condition of permanent residency on the mother and the child which will determine the grant of citizenship for the child.
- Ms. Bhandari is the first female President of Nepal. Her refusal to sign the Act has drawn attention to certain sections in the constitution that thrusts greater responsibility on women.

For example, Article 11 (5) supports punitive action against the mother if the father is found later.

# Why these amendment been framed thus?

There is an unarticulated concern in the orthodox sections of the country that as Nepalese men, particularly from the Tarai region, continue to marry women from northern India so Nepalese identity would be undermined.

Because of these issues, many women could not become citizens of Nepal as they were subjected to the infamous seven-year cooling off period before they could apply for citizenship in Nepal.

- However, the new amendments have done away with the cooling off period for these stateless women.
- This will benefit the children of such families where the mother and children remained stateless for years.

### Way forward:

- The women of Indian origin, who were deprived of rights because of the cooling off period and bureaucratic procrastination, and their children, will be stuck in a stateless condition if the Act is not recognised by the President's office.
- Nepal Citizenshipless Struggle Committee held a protest in Kathmandu demanding that President Bhandari should ratify the Act that was passed again by the Pratinidhi Sabha for the second time.





# 2

### Military Exercise "Vostok-2022"

#### Why in News:

A multilateral strategic and command exercise Vostok-2022 has commenced on 1st September, 2022 at the Training grounds of the Eastern Military District of Russia from 1 to 7 September, 2022. The exercise is aimed at interaction and coordination among other participating military contingents and observers. America has expressed concern over India's involvement in this military exercise.

#### **About Military Exercise:**

This military exercise took place in a military range in the Primorsky region of Russia. Russia had invited 13 countries- Azerbaijan, Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Syria and Tajikistan to participate in this military exercise. Out of them, soldiers from nine countries have participated in the exercise.

 The military exercise includes war games for military officers and field exercises for soldiers, as well as naval and aerial training. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, more than 50,000 soldiers and officers and more than 5,000 heavy military equipment, including some 140 aircraft and 60 naval ships, will participate in the exercise.

#### **Indian Army:**

- Troops of 7/8 Gorkha Rifles are participating in this military exercise as a multi-pronged strategy aimed at interaction and coordination between the participating troops and observers, enhancing our capability against various security threats and come forward for strategic coordination.
- The exercise also includes the participation of the China's People's Liberation Army.

 India, while allaying US concerns, said that India has been regularly participating in multilateral exercises in Russia along with other countries for the past several years and is free to take any decision.

#### Importance:

With this military exercise, the tension between India and China over the Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso Lake in the Ladakh region can be reduced for two years. The multilateral relations between India and Russia will continue to be strong.

3

## Kushiyara River Water Agreement between India and Bangladesh

#### Why in News:

Recently, India and Bangladesh gave final approval to the Kushiyara river water sharing agreement.

#### **Key Points:**

- The final approval for this agreement was given during the 38th Ministerial level meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission. This meeting was held after a gap of 12 years.
- During this meeting, the two countries discussed a number of issues of mutual interest which included river water sharing, sharing of flood data, addressing

- river pollution, joint studies on sedimentation management and river bank protection etc.
- The finalization of the design and location of water intake point on the Feni river to meet the drinking water needs of Sabroom town in Tripura was also finalized. This was done in accordance with an October 2019 India Bangladesh MoU on the subject.
- India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers, of which 7 rivers have been identified earlier for developing framework of water sharing agreements on priority.

The Joint Rivers Commission of India and Bangladesh was constituted in the year 1972 as a bilateral mechanism to address issues of mutual interest on common / border / transboundary rivers.

#### **About Kushiyara River:**

 Kushiyara River is a river flowing in India and Bangladesh. The Barak River splits into two rivers on the Indo-Bangladesh border- one the Kushiyara River and the other the Surma River. Kushiyara starts flowing in the west direction and forms the



boundary of the Indian state of Assam and Sylhet district, Bangladesh. After flowing some distance in Bangladesh, it again rejoin the Surma River and the river is now known as Meghna River.

# Other river-water disputes between India and Bangladesh:

**Teesta River Dispute-** Teesta River is a 414 km (257 mi) long river. It flows through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal and through Bangladesh enters the Bay of Bengal. It

joins Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh. 305 km portion of the river lies in India and rest in Bangladesh. Teesta is the largest river of Sikkim and second largest river of West Bengal after Ganges.

**Ganga Water Dispute-** When India commissioned the Farakka Barrage on the river Ganga in 1975, the dry season flow into Bangladesh reduced significantly. This eventually resulted in a dispute over the sharing of the dry season flow between the two countries. After a series of

negotiations, India and Bangladesh signed a 30-year Ganges Water Sharing Treaty in 1996 to share the dry season flow of the Ganges.

#### Way Forward:

India and Bangladesh should resolve all their border and transboundary river disputes through friendship and cooperation so that their long-term interests are not negatively affected.

# 4

### **WTO Needs Reform**

#### Why in the news:

India, along with 44 African countries, Cuba and Pakistan, submitted a written note to the WTO during the 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022. It seeks to correct the historical imbalances underlying the organization's founding in 1995.

#### **Issues Need Attention:**

- Unilateral agricultural trade rules, which allow OECD countries to provide higher subsidies to farmers but same can not be done by the developing countries
- Rules of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which are being misused by developed countries.
- Inequality in subsidies to promote industrialization, advanced economies used them liberally during their industrial development phase but developing countries are not allowed to do the same.
- In order to achieve the objectives of development, every country has its own needs, which the World Trade Organization

has to understand and every country will have to be treated accordingly.

 Covid-19 has hit the developing countries hard, so the WTO should do some separate funding for developing countries.

#### **World Trade Organization (WTO):**

- It was established on 1st January 1995.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The WTO has over 160 members representing 98 percent of world trade.

#### **Roles**

- It operates a global system of business rules.
- It serves as a forum for negotiating trade agreements.
- It settles trade disputes among its members.
- It supports the needs of developing countries.

#### **Nature of the Organization:**

 The top decision-making body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference. Below this are the General Council and various other councils and committees.

- Ministerial conferences are usually held every two years.
- The General Council is the apex body making day to day decisions.

#### **Conclusion:**

India and other developing countries have to come together to reform these institutions.





## **ENVIRONMENT**

# 1

### **Arctic is Warming Four Times Faster**

#### Why in News:

Recently, researchers from the Finnish Meteorological Institute published their research in the journal "Communications Earth and Environment" concluding that the Arctic is warming four times faster than the rest of the planet. This phenomenon is known as Arctic Amplification. Warming is more concentrated in the Eurasian part of the Arctic where the Barents Sea, north of Russia and Norway, are warming at an alarming rate of seven times the global average. As a result, large amounts of methane are being emitted from methane hydrate deposits accumulated over the years in the Arctic region.

#### **Causes of Arctic Warming:**

There are four primary causes of Arctic warming.

- 1. Ice-albedo feedback
- 2. Lapse rate feedback
- 3. Water vapor feedback
- 4. Ocean heat transport

Ice has a high albedo which means that they are able to reflect most of the solar radiation, unlike water and land. In the case of the Arctic, sea ice is shrinking as a result of global warming, resulting in the ice reflecting less solar radiation.

As sea ice melts, the Arctic Ocean will be more able to absorb solar radiation thereby promoting amplification. Studies show that the ice-albedo reaction and the lapse rate reaction account for 40% and 15% of polar amplification, respectively.

#### **Arctic amplification:**

Long-term warming of the Earth's surface has been caused by human activities since pre-industrial times, and the planet's average temperature has increased by 1.1 °C. Any change in surface air temperature and radiation balance produces major changes at the north and south poles. This phenomenon is known as polar amplification; these changes are more pronounced at northern latitudes and are known as arctic amplification.

#### **Effects of Arctic Warming:**

 Increase in global warming due to more emissions of methane and carbon.

- Sea level rise
- Acidification of water
- Change in salinity of the water
- Loss of biodiversity around the Arctic region
- Increase in rainfall around the arctic region

#### Impact on India:

This may affect the monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent. Due to extreme weather events in the country, heavy dependence on rainfall for water and food security, it remains a matter of concern for us. Late arrival of monsoon can be linked to Arctic warming. Apart from this, areas adjoining the Arabian Sea may see more rainfall.

#### **Conclusion:**

The above research shows that the rising temperature of the Arctic is a big problem for the whole world. Therefore, all countries should adopt options to reduce global warming at the national level so that such situations can be avoided in future.

# 2

### **Cloudburst Incidents in India**

#### Why in News

Over 20 people have been killed in destruction caused by cloudbursts and flash floods in different parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand over the last few days.

Isolated areas of many states have reported heavy rainfall, triggering landslides and flash floods that have also disrupted rail and road traffic. **Cloudburst:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) defines it as unexpected precipitation exceeding 100mm per hour over a geographical region of approximately 20 to 30





square km.

#### **Science behind Cloudburst:**

- The phenomenon responsible the large amount of precipitation in such a short duration is 'orographic lift'. It is the process by which clouds that are about to rain are pushed up by warm air currents. As they reach higher elevations, the water droplets within the clouds become bigger and new ones are formed. These dense clouds eventually rain, unable to hold the large volume of moisture. This results in torrential downpours in the geographical region right below.
- A study on meteorological factors behind the cloudburst showed that during the cloudburst, the relative humidity and cloud cover are at the maximum level with low temperature and slow winds.

#### Some other responsible factor:

- The energy necessary for the cloudburst comes from the upward motion of air.
- It mostly occurs at elevations between 1,000-2,500 metres above sea level.
- The moisture is usually provided by a low-pressure system (associated with cyclonic storms in the ocean) over the Gangetic plains associated with low level

- winds flowing in from the east.
- Sometimes winds flowing in from the north-west also aid the occurrence of cloudbursts.

#### **Consequences of the cloudburst:**

The consequences of these events are not confined to the small areas. Because of the nature of terrain, the heavy rainfall events often trigger landslides and flash floods, causing extensive destruction downstream. During the monsoon, chances of cloudburst are very common in the Himalayas and it affects thousands of people every year and causes loss of life, property, livelihood, infrastructure, and environment.

#### **Forecasting of cloudbursts:**

The IMD forecasts rainfall events in advance, but does not predict the amount of rainfall. Forecasts can be about light, heavy or very heavy rainfall, but forecasting of cloudbursts is difficult.

#### Will we see more such cloudbursts?

- In May, the World Meteorological Organization noted that there is about a 40% chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C above the preindustrial level in at least one of the next five years.
- It added that there is a 90% likelihood of at least one year between 2021 and 2025

- becoming the warmest on record and dislodge 2016 from the top rank.
- Several studies have shown that climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of cloudbursts in many cities across the globe.

#### Way forward:

- Regulate construction activities along river banks with special consideration to water level during heavy rainfall.
- Strengthening of embankments, barrages and dams to constrain & regulate water flow.
- Local communities should be involved during developmental planning of the area.
- Better forecasting by IMD and incorporation of advanced technology to monitor and predict extreme weather events.
- It can promote eco-sensitive tourism, adopting eco-friendly policies for the development of the region.
- The use of local knowledge and resources can have a multiplier effect on the mitigation of such incidents. The involvement of local bodies such as gram sabhas, panchayats and NGOs can strengthen the entire framework of disaster management.

3

### Plan to Bring the Tasmanian Tiger Back From Extinction

#### Why in News:

Scientists in the US and Australia have embarked on a \$15-million project to resurrect the Thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger using gene-editing technology. It went extinct in 1930s. The reviving of extinct species can restore ecological diversity and balance in the area.

# About Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacinus cynocephalus):

- It was the only animal in Thylacinidae family to survive in modern times, a marsupial mammal that raises young ones in a pouch.
- The Tasmanian tiger was the

largest carnivorous marsupial in modern times.

- After the death of Tasmanian tiger in Hobart zoo, Tasmania in 1936, in 1986 it was declared extinct.
- The Tasmanian tiger, also called Tasmanian wolf and thylacine, was neither a tiger nor a wolf,



- but a marsupial, and closely related to the Tasmanian devil.
- It earned its nickname Tasmanian tiger because of the stripes along its back.
- The sharply clawed animal had a dog-like head and ate kangaroos, other marsupials, small rodents, and birds.

## De-extinction project of Tasmanian tiger:

- Scientists will be using a genome sequenced from a DNA extracted from a 108-year-old Tasmanian tiger specimen held in a museum.
- This genome will be compared with the closest living animal of the species— the Fat Tailed Dunnart to identify all the differences.
- Once all the genetic differences are identified, scientists will engineer the Tasmanian Tiger's living cell DNA. Then will take living cells from dunnart (Dunnart is small mouse-sized marsupials found in Australia) and edit their DNA at every place where it differs from the thylacine.
- Stem cell technologies and cloning techniques are used to

- turn those engineered cells back into a living animal.
- De-extinction will be complete after the success of the re-wilding process. Thus reintroducing the animal to its native habitat will stabilise the fragile ecosystem of Tasmania.

#### **Some Other Project:**

- The Pyrenean ibex, a subspecies of Spanish ibex, was one of the first extinct animals that have been resurrected using somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT).
- Apart from Colossal's project to resuscitate Woolly Mammoths and thylacines, a cooperation between the Dutch Foundation partnered with multiple universities, called Tauros Programme, is currently working to breed a cattle species similar to the extinct wild ancestor of domestic cattle, aurochs.
- Marsupials are the group of mammals commonly thought of as pouched mammals. They give live birth, but they do not have long gestation period. Marsupials give birth to a live but relatively undeveloped fetus

called a joey. When the joey is born it crawls from inside the mother to the pouch.

#### **Challenges:**

- Reintroducing the species to its former habitat may make it an invasive species, which will also impact the balance of the current ecological system.
- It is possible that a genetically imperfect hybrid thylacine could have health problems and might not survive without a lot of support.
- Other question is the concept of spending tens of millions of dollars on de-extinction attempts when so many living animals are on the brink of disappearing. Money should be spend to save them who will be extinct in some years.
- Technology can be misused in unethical experiments on humans and biodiversity and it can give rise to new challenges and concerns in the world.

# 4

### **Save Whale Shark Campaign**

#### Why in News:

 The Wildlife Trust of India, a nature conservation organization, has launched the 'Save the Whale Shark Campaign' in three Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep on August 30, 2022, International Whale Shark Day.

#### Key points of the campaign:

 Karnataka's Ports, Fisheries and Inland Water Transport Minister
 S. Angara has launched this one year long campaign from Mangaluru.

The "Save the Whale Shark" campaign is being launched in collaboration with the Forest and Fisheries Departments Karnataka, Kerala Lakshadweep. As part of this campaign, awareness would be raised about conservation of whale sharks amongst the marine fisher folk, village communities and students. The campaign aims to reduce accidental entanglements in fishing nets with fishermen

releasing whale shark. The campaign also emphasizes on the relief and rescue operations of whale shark.

 A mobile application has also been launched for whale shark identification and conservation.

#### **About Whale Shark:**

 The whale shark is the largest fish on earth. It is a keystone species in the marine ecosystem. It can grow to a length of approximately 18 metres and weigh as much as 21 tonnes. It



is found in tropical and warm temperate seas. The Gujarat coast, Kerala and Karnataka coastal areas are the major landing areas for whale sharks.

• This fish is sluggish and calm in nature. Usually it likes to swim in shallow water. Therefore, it becomes an easy prey for fishermen. Due to its demand in the international meat market, the whale shark population has decreased by about fifty percent, and it is on the verge of extinction. Whale Shark Rescue Mission will help restore the old glory of this beautiful fish.

#### **Protection:**

• The big fish has the highest level

of protection as a Schedule I Species in the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. This means that for poaching, killing and smuggling, one can be punished with a minimum sentence of 3 years and a maximum of 7 years and a fine of ₹ 25,000. It is listed by the IUCN as Endangered in its Red Data List, while it is listed in Appendix- II of the International Convention on Sites.

 A similar project was started by the Wildlife Trust of India in Gujarat, which is going on for the last 20 years. Under this project, 900 whale sharks have been released into the Arabian Sea. Fishermen have played an important role in the conservation of whale sharks.

#### **International Whale Shark Day:**

 Every year since 2008, 30 August, is celebrated as International Whale Shark Day. It is used to spread awareness about the importance of whale sharks and its conservation.

#### Way Ahead:

 For the conservation of marine biodiversity and the protection of marine fishes, the Government of India should conduct such public awareness campaigns on a large scale.

5

### **G20** Environment Ministers meeting in Bali

#### Why in news:

- Recently, the G20 Environment Ministers meeting was held in Bali (Indonesia) in which Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav participated. In the meeting, a consensus could not be reached among the G20 countries on the environmental issue, which is showing how insensitive the world is towards the environment. Despite all this, India firmly put its stand before the world and also put those issues in front of the world which should be resolved immediately.
- The G20 climate meeting hosted by Indonesia this year comes as the world grapples with extreme weather events such as fires, floods and heat waves. The floods of Pakistan and the heatwave in Europe etc. are vivid examples of this.

#### Issues Raised by India:

Despite not being a traditional

- contributor to global emissions, India is showing its intent as a problem solver. For example, India emits about 3 gigatons of CO2 greenhouse gases every year, about two and a half tons per person, which is less than the world average. Despite having 17% of the world's population, the country emits 7% of global emissions. Apart from this, India as a problem solver has initiated initiatives like International Solar Alliance, LiFE, One Sun, One World, One Grid and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- The most impacted by the climate crisis poorest are countries and the most vulnerable communities that have contributed the least to the climate crisis. The non-fulfilment of climate finance promises made bγ the developed countries of the world is making the problem more serious.

- Therefore, the climate finance promise made by the world must be fulfilled at the earliest.
- In 2019-20, only six percent was in climate finance grants which is pushing developing countries into more debt. Therefore, it is very important that more and more grants should be given to the developing countries for the climate crisis.

#### **Conclusion:**

Every country should take climate change seriously and should not considering it as the problem of any one nation. The world should work under a common program and the countries which are capable should help poor countries financially and by technology transfer related to environment.





6

## Protest against the construction of Vizhinjam port

#### Why in News:

Fishermen are protesting against the construction work of Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Hundreds of fishermen have demanded rehabilitation and permanent solution for this.

#### **Root Cause of the Protest:**

- According to fishermen, the port work has increased the coastal erosion along the coast of Thiruvananthapuram.
- The fishermen say that an urgent scientific study should be conducted to assess the impact of the port work on the shoreline by stopping the construction.
- Additionally, about 300 families were relocated to relief camps along the beach after their homes were destroyed by highintensity coastal erosion. So far, no solution has been provided.

# Importance of Vizhinjam port project:

 The port is located at the southern tip of the Indian peninsula, just 10 nautical miles from major international sea routes and east-west shipping axis.

- Vizhinjam port can play an important role in the maritime development of the country and Kerala.
- The opening of the port is expected to give a fillip to the development of 17 minor ports in the state, and its construction is expected to provide employment to lakhs of people.

#### About the project:

- Vizhinjam International Deep water Multipurpose Seaport, also known as Vizhinjam Port, is an under construction port on the Arabian Sea coast in Thiruvananthapuram.
- It is an ambitious project undertaken by the Government of Kerala.
- The port is currently being built on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) basis under a public private partnership, using the landlord model, which is led by Adani

Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd.

#### **About Landlord Model:**

- In the landlord port model, the government acts as the regulator while private companies conduct port operations.
- In this the government retains ownership while the infrastructure is leased to private firms who set up their own superstructure and equipment to handle the cargo.
- Under this model, the port receives a share of the revenue from the private entity.

#### **Conclusion:**

It is true that the construction of a port is very important for the development of the country, yet we also need to understand the problems of those people who are being affected by its construction.

7

### **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022**

#### Why in news:

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change published the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of battery waste.
- The Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, have been brought in by replacing the Battery (Management and Handling)

Rules, 2001.

- Electric vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries, industrial batteries are covered under the new rules.
- The rules will work based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), where battery manufacturers (including importers) will be responsible for the collection and recycling and refurbishment
- of waste batteries, as well as the use of waste material for new batteries.
- These rules shall apply to manufacturers, dealer, consumers and entities involved in the collection, segregation, transportation, refurbishment and recycling of waste batteries.

Key Facts of Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022



- The producers producing the batteries will have an obligation to fully recycle or refurbish the battery after the use of battery they are offering in the market.
- Waste batteries must be sent for recycling or renewal and must not be burned or disposed of in landfills.
- Annual return of how many waste batteries have been recycled or refurbished, to meet the obligations under Extended Producer Responsibility with the Central Pollution Control Board and respective State Pollution Control Boards by 30th June of the financial year will have to be filed.
- Manufacturers will confirm that all batteries are properly packaged with correct labelling. The label should be printed clearly and in such a way that it can be easily read. Labels must be printed in such a way that it

- cannot be removed
- All batteries must be packed with the cross out wheeled bin symbol mark
- Batteries containing mercury, cadmium or lead must be marked Hg, Cd or Pb.
- It will be the responsibility of the consumer to segregate the waste battery from other waste as well as ensure that the waste battery is disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.
- The recycler and refurbisher should review the recovery target of the waste battery once every four years and keep updating the technology of disposal of the waste battery and recommend the same to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Each producer shall be registered under the Central Pollution Control Board and the

- registration shall be valid for a period of 5 years.
- Environmental compensation will be levied for not meeting the Extended Producer Responsibility targets, responsibilities and obligations set out in the regulations, on the principle of the polluter pays.
- Funds collected under Environmental Compensation will be used for the collection and renewal or recycling of noncollectible and non-recyclable waste batteries.

## 8

## **Agasthyamalai Hills**

#### Why in News:

The Agasthyamalai hills are in the news recently due to the discovery of a new species of Bent Toed Gecko in the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot of India. Earlier 3 species of Bent Toed geckos were discovered in Tamil Nadu.

#### **Bent Toed Geckos:**

- Based on morphological and molecular DNA data, the bent-toed gecko found in the Agasthyamalai Hills is distinct from other lizard species. It is very similar to Cyrtodactylus vakhuna found in Sri Lanka.
- This new lizard species discovered in the Agasthyamalai hills has been named after Indian malacologist Dr. N. A.

- Aravind. For this, the name Arvind's ground gecko has been suggested. Dr Arvind is an ecologist with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE).
- Arvind Ground Gecko is found at two sites only both of which are within the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve in Kanyakumari district.

#### Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve:

- Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is one of the 18 Biosphere Reserves in India and is also included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries

- are inside the biosphere reserve. It also houses the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. A primitive tribe Kanikaran also lives inside this biosphere reserve.
- The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve or Agasthyamalai Hills is located on the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala which is part of the Western Ghats. The Western Ghats is included in the 8 hottest hotspots of biodiversity in the world.

#### **Western Ghats:**

 The mountain range situated on the western coast of India is called Western Ghats or Sahyadri. Along the western edge of the Deccan plateau, the





1600 km long mountain range runs from north to south. It is very important for biological diversity in the world and in this regard it is ranked 8th in the world. Its highest peak is Anaimudi. The Nilgiri Tahr is the state animal of Tamil Nadu which can be found only in the Western Ghats.

 More than five thousand species of flowers, 139 species of mammals, 508 species of birds

- and 179 species of amphibians are found in this region.
- There are at least 84 amphibian species and 16 bird species and seven mammals and 1600 flower species found in the Western Ghats, which are not found anywhere else in the world.
- The Silent Valley National Park in Kerala is a part of the Western Ghats. This is the last tropical green forest in India, where no one has entered so far.

#### Way Ahead:

In order to increase biodiversity, the Government of India should encourage the discovery of new species in the Himalayan and southern states of India.

## **SCIENCE-TECH**

# 1

### **Forever Chemicals**

Forever Chemicals are a special type of chemical in non-stick utensils, due to which the food does not stick on burning and it also looks good.

On the basis of a recent study, scientists from the University of Stockholm have found rain in most parts of the world to be unsafe and the reason for this is a chemical found in non-stick utensils named **Forever Chemicals.** 



#### **About Forever Chemicals (PFAS):**

Per- and poly-fluoro alkyl substances, or PFAS, were developed in the

1940s. Since then their use has increased continuously and now they are found in many items used in our everyday life in our homes. These include non-stick utensils, water-proof clothing and fire extinguishers, as well as they are present in about 50-60 % of household items. These chemicals are non-stick and stain repellent, non-adhesive and have anti stain properties. Since they do not get destroyed quickly, they are also called 'Forever Chemicals' i.e. permanent chemicals.

# What is the problem with the atmosphere or rainwater due to them?

Rain water is considered potable in many places in the world. They are stored and used for drinking purpose. Rain water is generally considered the purest because it is free from all contamination. Due to sunlight, the water of oceans, lakes and rivers evaporates, so that no other substances or chemicals present in

the water reach the atmosphere through evaporation. Only pure water reaches the clouds in the form of steam. When these clouds reach another place and falls in the form of rain, it falls in its purest form. But now recently, scientists from the University of Stockholm, Sweden, in a research, have found rain in most places of the world is unsafe due to Forever Chemicals. As already mentioned, Forever chemicals do not break down in the environment. they are non-stick. Because of this, these chemicals are now getting dissolved in the rain water.

## Effect of Forever Chemicals (PFAS) on human body:

A lot of research has been done on how much effect PFAS have on the human body, but still there is accurate information. The research has shown that the presence of PFAS in the body increase the risk of serious diseases like kidney and testicular cancer and also reduces



immunity. Apart from this, it can also increase cholesterol and blood pressure and can cause changes in enzymes found in the liver. PFAS reduces the effectiveness of vaccines for children and may cause a slight weight gain in new-born babies.

#### What are the Solutions?

While some PFAS chemicals can be filtered out of water to a great extent, eliminating them is a difficult task, because for this these have to be incinerated at very high temperatures. This process consume a lot of energy and also pollute the environment with smoke. Actually the chemical bond of PFAS is so strong that it is very difficult to break it. This bond between carbon and fluorine is one of the strongest chemical bonds. In this, the atom of fluorine surrounds the atom of carbon in such a way that there is absolutely no space left for anyone to enter that place. Therefore it becomes almost impossible to break and destroy it.

# What new solution have scientists suggested about this?

The problem is that it is quite difficult to break the chemical bonds of PFAS. Scientists have found a solution to this problem and they have been able to break its chemical bond in a certain types of PFAS. They have found that weak link in the long chain of molecules from which it is easier to break. In fact, at one end of this chain are atoms of oxygen that can be targeted with commonly used solvents or reagents. For this, normal solvent or reagent can be used at 80-120 °C. In this way, only the entire molecule can be eliminated. However, this method is not useful for all PFAS.

## Are there any standards for Forever Chemicals?

There are specific guidelines around the world regarding Forever Chemicals as to how they should be used. In the last two decades, no new guidelines have been issued regarding the toxicity of Forever Chemicals.

That is, no new or positive changes have been taken in them. In the US, the level of guidelines regarding this chemical has decreased by 37.5 million times.

#### Way Forward:

However, as it was very difficult to eliminate these toxic chemicals, even this small success has a big meaning. Despite this, experts suggest that all the industries those use this chemical, have to reduce its consumption. Countries around the world have to pay attention to measures to clean water and new and strict guidelines are needed regarding PFAS. Also, there is no direct law in India regarding PFAS, which needs to be addressed now.

2

### J. K. E-Cop Application

#### Why in News:

 Recently, the police administration in Jammu and Kashmir has launched online mobile application JK E-Cop.

#### **About JK E-Cop Application:**

- It is a type of M-governance service in which mobile phones are used for government service.
- Jammu and Kashmir Police Mobile App 'J. K. 'E-Cop' provides easy interface that enables citizens to access a range of services from registering a complaint to downloading a copy of the FIR. A citizen can make requests such as obtaining a character certificate,
- employee verification or tenant/ PG verification through this app. Details about missing persons and unidentified dead bodies etc. can also be accessed through this portal.
- Other services related to traffic police are also made available to the citizens through this app. These services range from reporting traffic violations to reporting accidents. The information about the status of the highway in the app will help people.
- Due to online payment of challan through this mobile app, the work pressure on the departments will

also be reduced.

#### **About M-governance:**

 M-Governance refers to the coordinated use of communication and information technology to deliver government information and services to the citizens of the country through mobile applications.

#### **Mobile Based Services at present:**

 Kisan Call Centre, Complaint against Corrupt Officials, Indian Railways Services, Ambulance and Health Support to Patients, Legal Advice and Aid, Police Assistance, Solid Waste Disposal,



Road and Transport, License related issues, Complaints related to water supply, pesticide control, construction, encroachment etc.

#### E-Governance:

 The main objective of e-governance is to reach the citizens through online service for all government works so that they do not have to make frequent visits to government offices and save both their time and money.

## Difference Between E-Government and E-Governance:

 E-Government is an institutional approach to jurisdictional political operations. e-Governance is a procedural approach to co-operative administrative relations, i.e. the encompassing of basic and standard procedures within the confines of public administration. It is the latter that acts as the lynchpin that will ensure success of the delivery of e-services.

#### Merits:

 Trees can be saved by reducing the use of paper. Corruption can be eradicated. Government work will be done in less cost and in less time. It can be used by the public on their mobile and computer only. It gives ease and efficiency to the government in carrying out its functions.

#### **Demerits:**

It can be unsafe to share personal information on the Internet.

- Cyber attack is the biggest threat.
- Lack of internet in rural areas.
- Most of the people are deprived of the benefit of this facility due to lack of knowledge of computer and mobile.

#### Way Forward:

• E-governance is a very important servicestarted by the government, due to which the government and non-government works of the people are being done in a very short time. Along with this, corruption and bribery have also come down. Internet services in rural areas have improved due to the Digital India scheme of the Government of India.

# 3

### **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier: INS Vikrant**

#### Why in News:

 Prime Minister Shri Modi commissioned India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC-1) in Kochi.

#### **About INS Vikrant:**

The name 'INS Vikrant' originally belongs to India's first aircraft carrier that was a British-built aircraft carrier. It was in service from 1961 to 1997. INS Vikrant was a Majestic-class 19,500-tonne warship, which was acquired from the UK in 1961. It played a stellar role in the 1971 War with Pakistan.

- New Vikrant is the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy.
- INS Vikrant is designed by the Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).
- INS Vikrant, with a displacement of 42,800 tonnes, is powered by

- four General Electric engines. It can carry an air wing of 30 helicopters, fighters, and UAVs.
- The indigenous content of the project is approximately 76%.
- The 262 m long and 62 m wide 'Vikrant' has a maximum designed speed of 28 knots (about 52 km/h) with an endurance of 7500 nautical miles.
- The keel-laying of the Vikrant was done in 2009 and the ship was first launched in August 2013.
- The IAC is equipped with a skijump for launching aircraft, and a set of three 'arrester wires' for their recovery on board.
- It works on Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) technology.

#### STOBAR System:

 STOBAR stands for Short Takeoff But Arrested Recovery. In this type of carrier, the frontal part

- of the deck is elevated forming a curve. This is called the 'Ski-jump'.
- Thus when an aircraft leaves the deck at the end of the runway, it is thrown upward due to this curve.
- This helps aircraft in gaining height during the initial period. In the meantime aircraft engines with afterburners start generating the required thrust and it gets stabilized in its flight. Here aircraft uses its own power to launch and is assisted by Ski-jump.
- Indian Navy's carriers INS Viraat (decommissioned) and INS Vikramaditya (currently operational) are also STOBAR type.
- British Royal Navy's HMS Queen Elizabeth, Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, and Chinese Type 001 and Type 002 use the same system.





#### **Arrested Recovery:**

- The runway on carriers is again too short for an aircraft to land. Thus arrested recovery technique is used.
- The high-strength arrestor wires are placed on deck. The aircraft has a tailhook under its fuselage. Thus tail-hook gets arrested in one of the three wires on the deck.
- Due to this Aircraft is decelerated rapidly in a short distance. If the aircraft misses all the wires, then it takes off again instantly and reattempts the landing.

## Weapons and Equipment of INS Vikrant:

• The official release said the ship

will be capable of operating 30 aircraft including MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, MH-60R Seahawk multi-role helicopters, Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and LCA Naval.

- The new warship will offer an "incomparable military instrument with its ability to project Air Power over long distances, including Air Interdiction, Anti-Surface Warfare, offensive and defensive Counter-Air, Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare and Airborne Early Warning".
- The shipborne weapons include Barak LR SAM and AK-630, while it has MFSTAR and RAN-40L 3D radars. The vessel has a Shakti EW

(Electronic Warfare) Suite.

#### **Other Important Points:**

- The 'INS Vikramaditya', which was commissioned in 2013 and which is currently the Navy's only aircraft carrier, started out as the Soviet-Russian warship 'Admiral Gorshkov'.
- India's two earlier carriers, the 'INS Vikrant (1961)' and the 'INS Viraat' (1987), were originally the British-built 'HMS Hercules' and 'HMS Hermes'.



## **India's First Commercial Observatory to Monitor Space Activity**

#### Why in News:

- India's first commercial space situational awareness'(SSA) observatory, to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth, will be set up in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand by Digantara (Bengalure based space startup).
- Currently, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.

#### **About SSA Observatory:**

- The observatory will be the first-of-its-kind in the region, set up to augment Digantara's SSA capabilities and strategically positioned to serve global space traffic management operations.
- The Digantara is a Bengaluru based start-up which has signed an agreement with the

government of Uttarakhand for SSA.

# Significance of the Upcoming SSA Observatory:

- High-quality observations: It will help along with its ground-based sensor network & would help improve its ability to monitor events occurring in deep space. It will be able to supplement its space-based sensors in its mission to monitor satellites and debris in orbits ranging from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO).
- Reduced Collision Rates: SSA
   would be able to reduce the
   potential collisions between
   satellites and other spacecraft
   by making more accurate
   predictions of their location,
   speed, and trajectory.
- Enhancing IndigenousCapabilities: Promoting

development of such critical technology and infrastructure is necessary towards building indigenous resilient capabilities and compete on the global stage.

- Data: It will result in the creation of a hybrid data pool that will serve both the commercial and the defence sectors of the space industry.
- Supplement Global Networks:

   A data gap has been witnessed due to the lack of dedicated SSA sensors between Australia and southern Africa.
- Global networks of SSA sensors will be supplemented by this observatory to offer constant tracking of objects over this part of the globe.
- The observatory will play a vital role in monitoring space activities above the Indian subcontinent, relaying real-time data essential to safeguard the Indian assets.





#### **Space Debris:**

- Space Debris consists of rocket bodies that are used to launch satellites, defunct satellites, materials released during mission operations, fragments from onorbit breakups of space objects, and fragments from Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests.
- Nodal Agency: ISRO's efforts towards SSA is coordinated by the SSA Control Centre in Bengaluru and managed by the Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management (SSAM) at the ISRO headquarters.
- Space Situational Awareness

**(SSA):** It deals with the comprehensive knowledge of the space environment, assessment of any threats to space activities and the implementation of necessary mitigation measures to safeguard the space assets.

SSA is generally understood as covering three main areas:

- » Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) of man-made objects.
- » Space Weather (SWE) monitoring and forecast.
- » Near-Earth Objects (NEO) monitoring (only natural space objects).
- ISRO has taken up the establishment of Space

Surveillance and Tracking network with RADARS and Optical Telescopes under the project Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA).

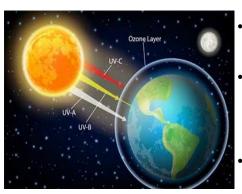
5

## **Integrated Ozone Depletion Metric (IODM)**

#### Why in News:

- Recently, researchers have developed a new system, the Integrated Ozone Depletion Metric, that tracks the ozone layer.
- The ozone layer protects us from the harmful ultra-radiation of the sun. So the scientists want to develop an effective system to investigate the degradation of the ozone layer, based on the findings, Can work towards filling the gap in the ozone layer.
- To save the earth from carcinogenic conditions, it is necessary to have a strong system that tracks the ozone layer.
   Keeping this in mind, researchers have developed a new system that tracks the ozone layer.
- The name of this new system is Integrated Ozone Depletion Metric (IODM).
- The most important feature of this system is that it can tell

how uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions are affecting the ozone layer and how effective or ineffective are the steps taken to protect the ozone layer.



# The IOD can describe the impact of new emissions based on three points:

- 1. Emission strength.
- How long will it remain in the atmosphere.
- 3. How much ozone is expected to be destroyed.

- The IOD can measure the impact of any type of emissions on ozone layer recovery, whether it is the effect of chlorofluorocarbons or any other greenhouse or nongreenhouse gas.
- The size of the emissions and their chemical lifetime can be ascertained through the IOD.
- The IOD metric is based on a computer model of the atmosphere. The name of this model is UK Chemistry and Aerosols Model.
- Information on this new system has been published in the journal The Nature. Luke Abraham, coauthor of the paper published in this, says that through the UK chemistry and aerosols model, the effect of chlorofluorocarbon deposits and other substances in the ozone layer can be easily detected.





## **ECONOMY**



### SC Strikes Down Criminal Provisions under Benami Transactions Prohibition Act

#### Why in News:

The Supreme Court of India stated the provision of the Benami Transaction Amendment Act "unconstitutional" on the grounds of being "manifestly arbitrary".

#### **Background:**

- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016, was declared not to have retrospective effect by the Calcutta High Court in December 2019.
- The decision of the Calcutta High Court was then appealed by the Central government to the Supreme Court.
- This issue came up with respect to the poor legislative rigour in the framing of Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016.
- Chief Justice N.V Ramana stated that the Benami Transactions Amendment Act of 2016 should not be applied retrospectively.
- The court declared some provisions of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988 and the 2016 amendments to the Act unconstitutional.

#### What is Benami Property?

- "Benami" means "no name" or "without name".
- Benami properties are those that are held by an owner through proxies. The property is purchased in the name of or held in the name of a person who has

- neither paid for it nor actually enjoys it.
- It may even be held in the name of a non-existent person.
- Such front person is known as 'Benamidar'. This name is only an alias for the actual owner, the 'Beneficial Owner'.
- Thus, the Benami property transaction is where the 'Beneficial Owner' buys the property in the name of a Benamidar but seeks to enjoy it himself.

### Law in India against Benami Property:

# Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988:

- » It is an act of the Indian parliament that disallows certain financial transactions.
- » This act labels a 'benami' transaction as any transaction in which property is transferred to one person for the amount paid by another person.
- » In legal terms, it means any transaction in which property is transferred to one person for a consideration paid or provided is called a 'benami transaction'.
- » The act establishes four authorities to conduct inquiries or investigations regarding benami transactions and also has provisions for an Appellate Tribunal.
- » Section 5 of the act said that "any benami property shall be liable to be confiscated by the

Central Government".

## Benami Transaction Amendment Act 2016:

- » In 2016, the government of India amended the Benami Transaction Act 1988. The motive of this amendment was to curb black money in India.
- » The Act defines a benami transaction.
- W Under the Amendment Act, the term "property" will cover movable, immovable, tangible and intangible properties. In case of joint ownership of property, the taxpayer will have to show financing sources.
- » It provides an Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals against any orders passed by the Adjudicating Authority. Appeals against orders of the Appellate Tribunal will lie to the high court.
- » The special court should conclude the trial within six months from the date of filing of the complaint.
- » The amendment inserted a sub-section 2 in section 3 of part 3 of the act. It specified that whoever enters a Benami transaction shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term of up to three years or a fine or both.
- » The new punishment was also being applied retrospectively to the transactions that took place before 2016.



## Judgement made by the Supreme Court:

The declarations made by the Supreme Court are as follows:

- The Supreme Court's ruling confirmed the Calcutta High Court's ruling that the 2016 Benami Transactions Act modification cannot be enforced retroactively.
- The Supreme Court also invalidated the provisions of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988, which threatened people who engaged in "benami" transactions with up to three years in prison, a fine, or both.
- Supreme Court also declared the forfeiture provision under Section
   5 of the unamended Act of 1988, prior to the 2016 Amendment
   Act, as unconstitutional for being

- manifestly arbitrary.
- Supreme Court also declared that concerned authorities cannot initiate or continue criminal prosecution or confiscation proceedings for transactions entered into prior to the coming into force of the 2016 Act. As a consequence of the above declaration, all such prosecutions or confiscation proceedings shall stand quashed.

# Why Supreme Court held Certain provisions of the Act Unconstitutional?

- The Supreme Court of India stated that the provision of the act violated Article 20(1) of the Indian Constitution.
- The CJI said, "Section 3 (criminal provision) read with Section

2(a) and Section 5 (confiscation proceedings) of the 1988 Act are overly broad, disproportionately harsh, and operate without adequate safeguards in place. Such provisions were stillborn law and never utilised in the first place. In this light, this court finds that Sections 3 and 5 of the 1988 Act were unconstitutional from their inception.

Benami Provisions Act 2016
 has section 5 which states that
 "any property which is a subject matter of a benami transaction shall be liable to be confiscated by the central government." The Supreme Court announced that this provision cannot be applied retrospectively.

## 2

## NABARD gave 230 crore Fund to Mizoram

#### Why in News:

Recently, NABARD has approved a grant of Rs 230 crore for infrastructure projects in Mizoram.

#### **Main Points:**

- The 677 projects in Mizoram to which NABARD has given a grant of Rs 230 crore with the help of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) are as follows:
- Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Mechanization of Agricultural Works. Dedicated Village Industries Estates. Separate Feeder Lines, Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants, Solar Energy, Energy Conservation, Infrastructure Works Related to Wind Energy, Information Technology in Rural Areas Infrastructure, Village Knowledge Centre, Major Irrigation Projects, Plantation and Horticulture, Market Yard, Godown, Mandi, Gramin Haat,

Marketing Infrastructure, Cold Storage, Watershed Development, Soil Conservation, Solid Waste Management, of Anganwadis, Construction For Rural Education Institutions Infrastructure, Drinking water, Public health institutions, Rural connectivity, Rural bridges and Rural roads.

#### **About NABARD:**

 NABARD is the acronym for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. It is the most powerful financial institution in the country that provides financial loans to the states for the construction of infrastructure projects. It was established on July 12, 1982 on the basis of the recommendations of the Sivaraman Committee under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, with a paid-up capital of Rs.100 crore. Its headquarter is in Mumbai.

#### Purpose:

- Providing refinance to lending institutions in rural areas.
- To promote institutional development.
- Evaluate, monitor and supervise client banks.
- To promote various developmental activities in rural areas.
- Coordinating with the rural financing activities of all the institutions which are primarily involved in the work of development at the grassroots level.
- To maintain synergy with the Government of India, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India and other national level institutions involved in policy making matters.
- To assume the responsibility of





monitoring and evaluating its refinance projects.

About Rural Infrastructure

#### **Development Fund (RIDF):**

 It was created in the year 1995-96 with an initial corpus of Rs 2,000 crore. This fund is managed by NABARD.

3

### **Mixed Signs of Indian Economy**

#### Why in News:

- The Reserve Bank of India in its latest update has forecasted a growth of 16.2 per cent for the quarter.
- For the full year, it expects the economy to grow at 7.2 percent, slightly lower than the International Monetary Fund's most recent forecast of 7.4 percent.

# Many conflicting impulses in the economy

#### Informal labour sector crisis:

- While the economy has passed its pre-pandemic level, the labour market, especially the informal segment, is yet to emerge from the crisis.
- The constant struggle of micro, small and medium-sized firms suggests that the labour market, especially the informal segment, is not looking to emerge from the crisis in the recent time.

#### Low pay rise

 The crisis in the informal labour market has led to an increase in low wages because most of the labor market occurs in the informal segment. On the contrary, there are signs of tightening of labour market in the formal segment and wage increase is also expected.

#### Fall in people's income:

 The lack of employment opportunities and the reduction in wage growth means that household incomes decline and inequality is likely to increase during this period.

#### **High profits for companies:**

- Corporate profits are at record high, even as business sentiment, as measured by the central bank's Business Assessment Index, is lower than it was almost a year ago.
- One possible explanation for these opposing trends is that even though larger formal firms have gained market share at the expense of smaller players, job prospects have diminished and sluggish wage growth means that the overall size of the market is less than expected.

#### Low investment:

 Central bank surveys show that capacity utilization rates have

- risen to levels well above their long-term average, yet there are not enough concrete signs of a broad-based pick-up in private investment in many sectors.
- Investment activity, projected by bank credit and internal accruals, remains subdued. Firms seem to be hesitant to commit to fresh investments.

#### **Conclusion:**

- The finer picture that has emerged is the continued decline in job opportunities, low wage growth, limited mobility and growing inequality, pessimistic consumers and uncertain business prospects. This implies that economic activity is not as fast as is being predicted by the people.
- The extent to which these contractions deepen or resolve will determine the country's medium-term growth prospects.
- Yet, India is slowly but surely on the path of economic recovery and consistent investment is the way to sustain this growth momentum.



# Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to set up 300 Sewing Schools

#### Context:

- SIDBI in association with Usha International Limited (UIL) has launched the 5th phase of its flagship initiative Mission Swavalamban to set up 300
- Swavalamban Silai Schools in ten districts across 6 States/UTs.
- These schools were opened in Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Goa, Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to empower
- rural women and help them develop into Homepreneurs (entrepreneurs who operate their businesses from their homes).
- Through this programme, women entrepreneurs are trained in



- tailoring, maintenance and repair of sewing machines apart from life and entrepreneurial skills by expert trainers from UIL.
- SIDBI aims to open 5,000 schools across the country under this initiative and encourage these entrepreneurs to play a role in the readymade garments sector by involving them in embroidery and fashion designing. Through this initiave 2700 school have been established till date.

#### Benefits of this programme:

- It can generate women entrepreneurship in rural areas.
- It can benefit the poor and marginalized section of the society.
- It can uplift the women of the deprived sections of the society.

#### Success of this program:

 The initiative has uplifted women from underprivileged sections of the society. Out of 2,700 women entrepreneurs, 40 percent women belong to the Other Backward Classes category, and 39 percent of the women belong to the SC/ST category. In addition, 60 per cent of the women who have set up sewing schools are from the below poverty line category.

#### **Mission Swavalamban:**

- Mission Swavalamban was launched in 2018 by SIDBI to spread entrepreneurship culture and transform youth from "Job Seekers" to "Job Makers".
- Its goals were to reduce rural to city migration, sustainable development in rural areas, create employment opportunities for the poorest people, and promote MSMEs.

#### **About SIDBI:**

 Small Industries Development Bank of India is an independent financial institution of India which was established with the goal of development of micro, small and medium industries. It is the principal development financial institution for promotion, financing and development of the small scale sector and coordinating the work of other institutions engaged in similar activities. It is headquartered in Lucknow and has offices across the country.

- SIDBI was established on 2nd April 1990 under the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989.
- It works for financing and development, poverty alleviation, job creation, promotion of entrepreneurship and promoting competitiveness in the MSME sector.

#### Conclusion:

 Women have equal contribution in the society and play an important role in the development of the country. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that women should be encouraged for entrepreneurship so that positive changes take place in the society.

# 5

### **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**

#### Why in News:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
  may soon bring the digital rupee
  in the market. Digital Rupee, also
  known as Central Bank Digital
  Currency (CBDC), can be started
  first in wholesale trade.
- The RBI had proposed amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, under which the RBI would launch a digital rupee.

## About Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):

 CBDC is a digital form of paper currency that is legal tender issued and backed by a central bank. It is similar to fiat currency

- and is exchangeable with fiat currency. Digital fiat currency or CBDC can be transacted using wallets backed by the block chain.
- Although the concept of a CBDC was directly inspired by bitcoin, it differs from de-centralized virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not state-issued, and lack legal tender.

#### **Purpose:**

- Minimizing the risk involved in real currency.
- It reduces the cost of handling of notes to transportation and replacement of torn notes.
- It will also move people away

from crypto currencies as a means of money transfer.

#### Global landscape:

- The Bahamas is the first country to launch its nationwide CBDC Sand Dollar.
- China became the first major economy in the world to operate the digital currency e-CNY in April 2020.

#### **Advantages:**

- CBDCs may gradually bring about a cultural shift towards virtual currencies by reducing currency management costs.
- CBDCs can provide an easy



- means for a reliable sovereign backed domestic payment and settlement system.
- It can also be used for crossborder payments, eliminating the need for an expensive network of correspondent banks to settle cross-border payments.
- It can also pave the way for furthering financial inclusion.

#### **Challenges:**

- Potential cyber security threats may increase.
- Lack of digital literacy of the population can also make it difficult to adopt.
- The introduction of digital currency may also pose various challenges in regulation, tracking investments and purchases, taxing individuals, etc.
- The threat to privacy is also a significant problem.

The need for an appropriate technical and legal framework is also a major problem before a digital currency is issued.

#### Way forward

 The launch of CBDC by RBI can play an important role in India's financial inclusion and development.

## **ART & CULTURE**

# 1

## 'Garba Dance' nominated for UNESCO Intangible Heritage List

#### Why in News:

- The famous traditional dance of Gujarat 'Roop Garba' has been nominated by India for inclusion in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.
- According to UNESCO, India's Garba dance will be included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List by November 2022.

#### **Garba Dance:**

Garba is a famous folk dance of Gujarat which is performed in honour of Goddess durga. The word Garba is derived from the Sanskrit word 'garbh-dweep'. For this dance it is necessary to have at least two members. 'Dandiya' is used in this dance. While performing this dance, the Dandiya is collided with each other. In Garba dance, Tali, Chutki, Khanjari, Danda, Manjira etc. are used to give rhythm and in this, women dance in different ways in groups of two or four and also sing goddess songs.

## 14 Intangible Cultural Heritage in India:

- 1. Tradition of Vedic chanting.
- 2. Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana.
- 3. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre.
- Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India
- 5. Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
- 6. Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
- 7. Chhau dance
- Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India
- Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
- Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India
- 11. Yoga
- 12. Nawrouz
- 13. Kumbh Mela
- 14. Durga Puja in Kolkata.

#### **UNESCO:**

• UNESCO is a unit of the United Nations Organization that was established on 16th November 1945. Its purpose is to promote international peace, development and relations through the promotion of education, culture and science. It sponsors literacy-enhancing programs and also supports the conservation of World Heritage buildings and parks. Its headquarter is in Paris.

#### **UNESCO** and India:

- India is a member of UNESCO since 1946. India has been elected to the Inter-Governmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage for the period 2022-2026.
- India's 12 biosphere reserves have been included in the International Human and Biosphere (MAB) program by UNESCO.
- As of April 2022, there were a total of 40 World Heritage Sites in India. There are 30 in the 'Cultural'



category- Ajanta Caves, Fatehpur Sikri and Hampi Monuments etc. and 7 in the 'Natural' category-Kaziranga, Manas and Nanda Devi National Park etc. India's first and only site 'Kangchenjunga National Park of Sikkim' is included in the list of Mixed World Heritage Site.

The Harappan city of Dholavira in Gujarat is the 40th World Heritage

Site in India while the Ramappa Temple in Telangana was the 39th World Heritage Site of India.

2

### **National Virtual Library of India (NVLI)**

#### Why in News:

 Union Culture Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy informed that a total of 3.04 lakh digital artefacts and more than 34.91 lakh bibliographic entries have been included in the National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) till August, 2022.

## About National Virtual Library of India:

 The National Virtual Library of India is an Indian Culture Portal (ICP) showcasing all the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India which was launched on December 10, 2019.

The following is a summary of the current status of this portal:-

- It contains a total of 3.04 lakh digital artefacts with metadata.
   It also has over 34.91 lakh bibliographic entries.
- Its content is presented in 18 curated categories. These include rare books, e-books, archives,

gazetteers and gazetteers, manuscripts, museum collections, paintings, audios, intangible cultural heritage, photo archives, pictures, videos, UNESCO materials, research papers, Indian national bibliographies, reports and proceedings, The Federal List and other lists are included.

- There are also 12 categories of content built into it. These include Stories, Snippets, Photo Essays, Forts of India, Textiles and Clothing of India, Historical Cities of India, Musical Instruments of India, Food and Culture, Virtual Walkthrough (Rehearsal), Freedom Archives Forgotten Heroes, Ajanta Caves and North-South archives. Presently, this portal is available in both English and Hindi languages.
- An outreach team has been constituted under the National Virtual Library of India to promote the Indian Culture Portal in educational institutions across

the country. Presentations and programs etc. are organized on daily basis in various educational institutions to promote Indian Culture (NVLI Project).

#### **Key Objectives:**

 Its main objective is to collect, standardize and collate digital information about all available digital assets and/or physical assets in an easily searchable form.

#### **National Mission on Libraries:**

- The National Mission on Libraries (NML) scheme was prepared by the Union Ministry of Culture in 2012.
- It was prepared in pursuance of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission for continued focus on the development of the libraries and information science sector.

3

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Comic Book on 20 Tribal Freedom Fighters

#### Why in News:

- The Ministry of Culture released the third comic book based on the stories of 20 tribal freedom fighters during the Tiranga Utsav celebrations in New Delhi on 2nd August.
- This collection of stories contains the stories of the sacrifices of the brave men and women freedom fighters that inspired their tribal

comrades and sacrificed their lives for the struggle against the British Raj.

# Freedom Fighters who have been included in the comic book

 Tilka Manjhi: He was a member of the Pahariya tribe and he, along with his community, raided the company's treasury.

- Thalakkal Chanthu: He was a member of the Kurichiyar tribe and actively participated in the Pazhassi Raja's war against the East India Company.
- Budhu Bhagat: He was a member of the Oraon tribe. He, along with his brother, seven sons and 150 members of his tribe were shot dead in one of several encounters



with British officers.

- Tirot Singh: Tirot Singh, the head of the Khasi community, came to know about the dual policy of the British, so he started a struggle against them.
- Raghoji Bhangre: He was a member of Mahadev Koli tribe. He revolted against the British and continued his struggle despite his mother being imprisoned.
- **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu:** They were the members of the Santhal tribe who revolted against the British.
- Rendo Manjhi and Chakra Bisoi:
   They were members of the Khond tribe. Who opposed the British authorities for interfering in the customs of their tribe.
- Nilambar and Pitambar:
   Nilambar and Pitambar of the Bhogta community of Kharwar tribe participated freely in the Indian rebellion that started in Meerut.
- Ramji Gond: Ramji Gond of

- the Gond tribe opposed the feudal system, in which the rich zamindars, along with the British, persecuted the poor.
- Telanga Kharia: Telanga Kharia of Kharia tribe refused to accept the tax system and rule of the British.
- Tantia Bhil: Tantia Bhil, popularly known as Robin Hood of the Central Provinces, robbed the trains carrying British property and distributed that property among the people of his community.
- Major Paona Brajabasi: Major Paona Brajabasi of Manipur fought to defend the kingdom of Manipur.
- Birsa Munda: Birsa Munda of Munda tribe was the hero of the struggle against the British. He led the Munda people in many conflicts against the British.
- Matmur Jamoh: The Matmur Jamoh of the Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh fought against the arrogance of the British rulers.

- Tana Bhagat: Tana Bhagat of Oraon tribe used to tell his people about the tyranny of the British feudal lords.
- Malati Mem: Malati Mem of the tea garden working community got influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha movement and joined it.
- Laxman Naik: Lakshman Naik of Bhuyan tribe was also inspired by Gandhiji and he inspired the people of his tribe to join the freedom movement.
- Helen Lepcha: Helen Lepcha of the Lepcha tribe was a great follower of Mahatma Gandhi. Her influence over her people made the british restless.
- Pulimaya Devi Podar: Despite strong opposition from her family, she not only took part in the movement herself after finishing her studies but also encouraged other women to do the same.

# 4 F

## **Rang Swadheenta**

#### Why in News:

 Sangeet Natak Akademi organized 'Rang Swadheenta' to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. It was a festival to cherish the memories of the freedom fighters who laid down their lives to free India from the shackles of imperialism.

#### **Rang Swadheenta Celebration:**

- Rang Swadheenta showcases folk music traditions from across the country.
- This year the first day of 'Rang Swadheenta' started with a

- presentation on "Keherwa Taal" by Subhash Nagada & Group.
- The festival was held from 27 to 29 August 2022 at Meghdoot Auditorium.

#### Sangeet Natak Akademi:

- Sangeet Natak Akademi was set up in 1953 for the preservation and promotion of the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance and drama.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi is the apex body in the field of

- performing arts in the country. The registered office of the Akademi is at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

#### Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards:

 They are the highest national recognition conferred on practising artists.

### **NEWS OF NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL IMPORTANCE**

#### 1. License of Rupee Co-Operative Bank cancelled

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Pune's Rupee Co-operative Bank. Co-operative banks are formed and operated on a cooperative basis. Co-operative means working together. The primary goal of co-operative banks is not to earn maximum profit, but to provide better services and products to its members. Co-operative banks are established as per the "State Co-operative Societies Act". They are registered with the "Registrar of Co-operative Societies". Their administration is done by the state government, while the work of regulating them is done by the Reserve Bank of India.



#### 2. Medicine from the Sky



Recently a program named 'Medicine from the Sky' was started in Arunachal Pradesh. Under this program, medicines will be supplied through drones. Under its pilot project, the drone service has successfully flown from Seppa in East Kameng district to Chiang Tajo. The pilot project has been funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and executed by Bengaluru-based startup Redwing Labs. The state government has got the support of the World Economic Forum for this project. It is worth mentioning that last year the 'Medicine from the Sky' program was first launched by the Telangana government. The central government has set a target to develop India as an international drone hub by 2030.

#### 3. Har Ghar Jal Utsav

Recently, Har Ghar Jal Utsav was organized. On this occasion, the Prime Minister said that 10 crore rural households of the country have been connected with the facility of piped clean water. Goa has become the first state in the country to be certified as 'Har Ghar Jal'. Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu have also become water certified Union Territories. Jal Jeevan Mission was announced in 2019, which aims to provide potable tap water in sufficient quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular and long-term basis to every rural household of the country by 2024.



#### 4. Ulchi Freedom Shield Exercise



South Korea and the US have started their largest joint military exercise. Both countries have started this exercise with the resumption of field training. This time the annual summer exercise has been renamed Ulchi Freedom Shield. This exercise will continue till 1st September 2022. For the first time in four years, the two armies are conducting this exercise to prepare to respond to an attack by North Korea. Apart from this, from 22 August, South Korea also started a separate four-day Ulchi civil defense exercise. It has been organized to enhance the preparedness of the government for the first time since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. The military and civilian exercises are aimed at improving preparedness to adapt to the changing modes of warfare, along with combating cyber threats at key facilities such as chip factories and supply chains.

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#### 5. National Awards Portal

The Central Government has launched the National Awards Portal to bring all the awards of various Ministries, departments and Government Agencies on a single platform. This has been done to bring transparency in award distribution and ensure public participation. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, this common portal provides the facility to nominate individuals or organizations for the awards. The portal will be managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and can be accessed through www.awards.gov.in.



#### 6. Aqua Bazaar



Recently, in the meeting of National Fisheries Development Board, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy launched online market place feature "Aqua Bazaar" in "Matsyasetu" mobile app. This app is jointly developed by Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Central Freshwater Livelihood Research Institute. This "Aqua Bazaar" will help fish farmers and other stakeholders in getting the necessary services for fisheries, inputs like fish seeds, feed and medicines.

#### 7. Antim Panghal India's First ever U-20 World Wrestling Championship

Haryana's 17-year-old Antim Panghal has become the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Under-20 World Wrestling Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria. She defeated Atlin Shagayeva of Kazakhstan by 8-0 in the 53kg category. This gold medal for India is historic as India had not yet got any gold medal in women's wrestling of the Under-20 World Championship. Antim Panghal is a resident of Bhagana village of Hisar district in Haryana. Apart from this, Sonam Malik won silver medal in 62 kg and Priyanka in 65 kg category.



#### 8. Pulitzer Prize for Fahmida Azeem



Bangladesh-born illustrator and story writer Fahmida Azeem, who works for America's online magazine 'Insider', has been selected for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize. She is being given this award for the category of Illustrated, Interpretive Reporting and Commentary. The Pulitzer Prize is an annual honour given in the United States as per the will of Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian resident. It is awarded to those who have done remarkable work in the field of newspaper journalism, literature and music composition. It was first announced on 4 June 1917. This award is given in a total of 21 categories. Along with this, scholarship is also given. The recipient of this honour is presented with a certificate as well as a cash amount of US \$ 15,000. A committee consisting of 5 members decides who will be given the award.





#### 9. Tomato Flu

Hand foot and mouth disease (Tomato flu) is a viral disease in which tomato-shaped blisters appear on the body. It is caused by coxsackievirus A16. It belongs to the enterovirus family. Most of its symptoms are similar to other viral infections. These include fever, rash, joint pain, tiredness, swollen joints, sore throat. This infectious disease caused by an intestinal virus is more common in children, while it is rare in adults. Adults usually have an adequate immune system to defend against the virus. The government has issued a detailed report and has also told about the symptoms of Tomato Flu and its treatment.



#### 10. UNESCO Peace Prize for Angela Merkel



Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the 2022 UNESCO Peace Prize for her efforts to welcome refugees. The UNESCO Peace Prize is also known as the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize. The award was initiated by a resolution supported by 120 countries and adopted by the UNESCO Convention at its 25th session. The award, instituted in 1989, is given to honour living individuals and active public or private bodies or institutions that have made significant contributions to peace. Angela Merkel was born on 17 July 1954 in Hamburg, Germany. Her name was Angela Dorothea Kasner, which changed after marriage. Germany's first female chancellor, Angela Merkel held this position from 2005–2021.

#### 11. Air Quality And Health In Cities

Recently, the Health Impact Institute (HEI) released a report on air quality titled Air Quality and Health in Cities. The report includes a comprehensive and detailed analysis of air pollution and global health impacts in more than 7,000 cities around the world. It focuses on two harmful pollutants, namely- fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide ( $NO_2$ ).

#### Main points of the report

- Delhi and Kolkata ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM 2.5 levels were compared.
- The greatest health effects of air pollution can be seen in cities in Asia, Africa and Eastern and Central Europe.
- Due to rapid urbanization, reducing the health effects of air pollution will be challenging, especially in low and middle income countries.
- Cities in low and middle income countries have higher exposure to fine particulates or PM2.5 pollution. At the same time, exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>3</sub>) is also higher in high-income cities.

#### 12. Exercise Pitch Black



The Indian Air Force, along with 16 other countries, has joined Exercise Pitch Black, conducted by the Australian Air Force. It is a biennial exercise to enhance interoperability and strengthen ties between the participants. The exercise will provide a unique opportunity to the Indian Air Force to exchange knowledge and experience with these countries in a dynamic combat environment. The participating countries this year include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, UK and US etc.

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### **Current Affairs at a Glance**

- 1. The Government of India has nominated Garba Dance for inclusion in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.
- 2. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit (U. U. Lalit) has been sworn in as the 49th Chief Justice of the country.
- 3. 'Mokshadham Yojana' has been started by Himachal Pradesh, In August 2022.
- 4. The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell bus in Pune.
- 5. Bangladeshi painter and story writer Fahmida Azim has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for 2022.
- 6. India's leading mining company NMDC in association with FICCI organized a conference on Indian Minerals and Metals Industry on the theme 'Transition Towards 2030 & Vision 2047' in New Delhi.
- 7. The Punjab and Haryana governments agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport as Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Airport.
- 8. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, in January 2023, the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be organized in Indore.
- 9. In August 2022, Vistara surpassed SpiceJet to become India's second largest domestic airline.
- 10. NCB launched India's first portal named 'NIDAAN', related to drug narcotics offenders.
- 11. 20-year-old Manisha Kalyan of India has become the first female football player in the country to play in the UEFA Women's Champions League.
- 12. The Maharashtra government has announced to give adventure sports status to the 'Dahi Handi' competition to be organized during Janmashtami.
- 13. On August 16, 2022, the Government of Assam launched 'Vidya Rath: School on Wheels'.
- 14. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appointment of former Grenada minister Simon Stiell as the UN climate chief.
- 15. On August 11, 2022, Dadabhai Naoroji's London house was awarded the 'Blue Plaque' by the English Heritage Society. The 'Blue Plaque' award is an honour given to buildings of historical importance in London.
- 16. Ratan Tata unveils India's first friendship startup'Good Fellow' for senior citizens.
- 17. Chess Olympiad will be organized by FIDE in Uzbekistan in the year 2026.
- 18. Microsoft has become the first big tech company to join the Open Network for Digital Commerce.
- 19. India's first 'Digital Lok Adalat' was launched in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- 20. India's first 'Himalayan Spice Garden' has been inaugrated in Ranikhet.
- 21. In August 2022, the Uttar Pradesh government has started 'Panchamrut Yojana' to increase the yield of sugarcane.
- 22. The world's first vertical city named 'The Line' which is part of NEOM project, will be set up in Saudi Arabia.
- 23. CERVAVAC; India's first indigenously developed vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer.
- 24. Collection of forensic evidence in crimes punishable with sentence of over six years mandated in Delhi.
- 25. U.N. says China may have committed crimes against humanity in Xinjiang.

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# **BRAIN BOOSTER**





- A beautiful 'Mandala' art installation was unveiled on August 12 in Halewood Park at Liverpool in the United Kingdom.
- The piece of land art called "The Knowsley Mandala" has been prepared from natural elements, by James Brunt.

#### 2. The Art Form:

- Mandala patterns are motifs that are centuries old, and are used to depict the cosmos.
- It can also be created in the shape of a square, a mandala pattern is essentially inter-connected.
- Mandala is rooted in Hinduism and Buddhism.
- Mandala imagery first appeared in the Vedas (1500-500 BC).
- Buddhist missionaries travelling along the Silk Road are believed to have taken it to regions outside India.
- By the sixth century, mandalas were recorded in China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Tibet.

#### 4. Mandala in Modern Indian Art:

- Deep-rooted in ancient philosophy, the mandala has attained varied forms in the hands of modern and contemporary Indian artists.
- While it continues to appear in Buddhist Thangka paintings, it has a central place in the works of even mainstream artists associated with tantric and neo-tantric spiritual movements.
- Indian artists, Sohan Qadri and Prafulla Mohanty, in the 1960s gained widespread recognition,

for their works that were imbibed with tantric symbolism such as mandalas, which are also used in rituals of tantric initiation.

- While in some of his works Qadri represented the pictorial symmetry of the mandala, in others he arguably merged the concept with a symbolic representation of Kundalini, the divine energy believed to be located at the base of the spine.
- G.R. Santosh often brought together aspects from mandala and geometric forms to create human figures.



#### Mandala Art

## the shape of a square with a circle at its centre.

- A traditional Buddhist mandala is a circular painting that is meant to help its creator discover their true self.
- There are various elements incorporated within the mandala, each of which has its own meaning.
- The eight spokes of the wheel (the Dharmachakra) represent the eightfold path of Buddhism that brings liberation from the cycle of birth and death
- The lotus flower depicts balance, and the sun represents the universe.

### 3. Its Meaning:

- Mandala means "circle" or the "centre" in Sanskrit.
- Mandala is defined by a geometric configuration that usually incorporates the circular shape in some form.
- It is believed that by entering the mandala and moving towards its centre, one experiences a cosmic process of transforming the universe and that of moving from emotions of suffering to the feeling of joy.
- In Hindu philosophical systems, a mandala or yantra is usually in

#### 5. Mandala in Therapy:

- As part of art therapy, participants are encouraged to create and colour mandalas.
- Studies have also been conducted to understand if mandalas can help reduce stress.
- Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Carl Jung explored the psychological effects of mandalas and introduced it in psychotherapy.

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• Two-third of Europe is under some sort of drought warning, in what is likely to be the worst such event in 500 years.

## 2. Global Drought Observatory Report:

- The report states that 47% of the continent is in "warning" conditions, meaning soil has dried up.
- Another 17% is on alert meaning vegetation "shows signs of stress".
- The report warns that the dry spell will hit crop yields, spark wildfires and may last several months more in some of Europe's southern regions.
- Compared to the average of the previous five years, EU forecasts for harvest are down 16% for maize, 15% for soybeans and 12% for sunflowers.
- The drought observatory is part of the European Commission's research wing.
- The report warned that nearly all of Europe's rivers have dried up to some extent
- Dry rivers are hitting the energy sector, with hydroelectric power down by 20%
- A "severe drought" has been present in many places all year, but has been further expanding and worsening as of early August.
- It has exposed relics of the past including so-called "hunger stones" and the sunken remains of WW-II Nazi ships.
- In UK, some trees have turned an autumnal shade of auburn - in what's considered a "false autumn" due to the heat.

#### 3. Impact of Drought:

- Disruptions in coal supply has hit power production, leading to electricity shortages and a further increase in energy prices already pushed high by the war in Ukraine.
- Food is getting more expensive in many countries, and drinking water is being rationed in some regions of the Europe.
- Disruption of Waterways: Europe depends heavily on its rivers to move cargo and other items in an economical manner. Most large / ships have been rendered unusable.
- Lack of adequate water has badly

- impacted the operation of nuclear power plants, as they use large amounts of water as coolant.
- Shortage of electricity and an unprecedented rise in energy prices.
- Increased events of Wildfires.

#### 4. Drought:

 Drought is a rainfall-scarce period which affects the availability of water for irrigation, drinking as well as for other purposes.



### **Drought in Europe**

#### 6. Situation World-wide:

- Many regions of China too are experiencing drought, being described as the worst in last 60 years.
- The country's longest river, Yangtze, and biggest freshwater lakes- Poyang and Dongting, are touching their lowest levels.
- Over 40% of the area in the United States too is under drought conditions currently, affecting about 130 million people, according to the US government.

#### 5. Types of Drought:

- Three types-
  - » Meteorological drought: Prolonged dry spell in periods when rainfall is expected.
  - » Hydrological drought: Scarcity of water begins to hit normal supplies in the system.
  - » Agricultural drought: Scarcity of water begins to affect the agricultural production.
- In Europe, all the three kinds of drought are being observed with varying degrees in different areas.

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- NASA'S latest and most powerful telescope- The James Webb Space Telescope, has captured new images of our solar system's largest planet- Jupiter.
- Giant storms, powerful winds, auroras, and extreme temperature and pressure conditions, have been observed on Jupiter's surface.

#### 2. Who Led the Observations

- De Pater led the observations of Jupiter with Thierry Fouchet, a professor at the Paris Observatory, as part of an international collaboration for Webb's Early Release Science program.
- Judy Schmidt of Modesto California processed these new views of Jupiter.

## 3. About James Webb Telescope:

- James Webb Telescope was developed by NASA, with the assistance of the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.
- It was launched to space on December 25, 2021.
- It is currently observing from Lagrange point 2 which is approximately 1.5 million km beyond Earth's orbit around the Sun.
- The telescope had released its first image on July 11 2022.

#### 4. About the Technology

 The two images come from the observatory's Near - Infrared Camera (NIRCam), which has three specialized infrared filters

## 5. Observation by the Webb Telescope

- In the standalone view of Jupiter, auroras extend to high altitudes above both the northern and southern poles of Jupiter.
- The auroras shine in a filter that is mapped to redder colors, which also highlights light reflected from lower clouds and upper hazes.
- A different filter, mapped to yellows and greens, shows hazes swirling around the northern and southern poles.
- A third filter, mapped to blues,

- showcases light that is reflected from a deeper main cloud.
- The Great Red Spot, a famous storm so big it could swallow Earth, appears white in these views, as do other clouds, because they are reflecting a lot of sunlight.
- Webb sees Jupiter with its faint rings and two tiny moons called Amalthea and Adrastea.



### Jupiter From The Lens Of James Webb Telescope

- that showcase details of the planet.
- Since infrared light is invisible to the human eye, the light has been mapped onto the visible spectrum.
- Generally, the longest wavelengths appear redder and the shortest wavelengths are shown as blue.
- Scientists collaborated with citizen scientist Judy Schmidt to translate the Webb data into images.

## 6. Why is it Difficult to Observe Jupiter:

- Jupiter is actually harder to work with, than more distant cosmic wonders because it rotates fast.
- Combining a stack of images into one view can be challenging when Jupiter's distinctive features have rotated during the time that the images were taken and are no longer aligned.

## 7. Importance of the tobservation:

- We can see details on Jupiter together with its rings, tiny satellites, and even galaxies in one image.
- Webb's Jupiter observations will give scientists even more clues to Jupiter's inner life.





 Two of the parents, one in San Francisco and another in Texas, have lost access to their Google accounts after the system flagged private images of their children as child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

#### 3. Finding CSAM by Google

- Google relies on automated detection and human review, in addition to relying on reports submitted by users and third parties, such as NGOs, to detect, remove, and report CSAM on their platforms.
   Primarily two main technologies to
- scan and tag CSAM.
- First technology is hash matching, it includes YouTube's CSAI (Child Sexual Abuse Imagery) match technology.
- CSAI Match is technology deployed on YouTube to fight videos of child abuse, and can spot re-uploads of previously identified child sexual abuse material in videos.
- Every time Google detects an image potentially identified as CSAM, it is assigned a hash or numeric value, and then it is matched against an earlier hash from an existing database.
- Companies like Microsoft, Facebook, Apple also deploy similar techniques.
- Second technology Google deploys is machine learning tools to search for CSAM.
- The technology relies on machine learning and deep neural networks for image processing.
- The advantage of this technology is that we can find content that might not be part of the hashed database.

### 2. Background

- A father in San Francisco had taken a picture of his son's genitalia to send to a doctor. He was using an Android phone, and the picture also got backed up to his Google Photos account.
- But Google's system flagged this as CSAM, and his account access was suspended.
- This is not the first time this issue of Google automatically scanning photos and detecting CSAM has been reported.
- In 2020, Forbes reported how a warrant was issued against an artist based in Kansas after Google identified some of his art works as CSAM.
- According to Google's own transparency report, it reported over 3.2 million pieces of content during the period of June to December, 2021.
- 140,868 accounts were disabled during the same period.
- Perhaps this is another reminder that users should also save some of their content offline if the worst happens and their account access is taken away.



### Google Against CSAM Works

#### 5. Delay in Restoring Access:

- That is what the debate is about.
   While CSAM remains a serious problem, balancing user privacy and fighting problematic content is clearly easier said than done.
- In today's world, where parents, grandparents feel the need to record and document each move of their child, it is likely that some of the more candid moments could end up being recorded and uploaded to the cloud. These could later be marked as CSAM.
- And given how dependent we are on the cloud, losing access to one's Google account also means losing access to photos, memories, mails, etc.

#### 4. Google's Policy:

- Google's policy page mentions a list of content banned and can make you lose access to its services.
- Regarding the definition of child pornography, Google uses the one set by the US government.
- Any image sexually exploitative of a minor (under 18 years) is defined as child pornography.





- The National Cancer Grid (NCG)
  has established the Koita Centre
  for Digital Oncology (KCDO) to
  promote use of digital technologies
  and tools to improve cancer care
  across India.
- The Tata Memorial Centre and Koita Foundation formalized the collaboration by signing a MoU at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai.

## 2. About National Cancer Grid (NCG)

- The National Cancer Grid (NCG) was formed in August 2012 with an aim of linking cancer centers across India.
- A modest initiative, which originally had 14 cancer centers, has rapidly grown now to include more than 50 major cancer centers.
- It is amongst the largest cancer networks in the world.
- NCG today has over 270 hospitals in its network across India.
- It is Funded by the Government of India through the Department of Atomic Energy.

### 3. Mandate:

- The NCG has the primary mandate of working towards uniform standards of cancer care across India by adopting evidencebased management guidelines, which are implementable across these centers.
- Intended to facilitate the exchange of expertise between centers.
- To create a ready network of centers for collaborative research in cancer.

#### 4. Importance of NCG

- Cancer care is evolving rapidly, and digital tools are becoming indispensable in enhancing cancer care worldwide.
- The NCG attempts to reduce disparities in the standards of patient care in various geographic regions of India.
- Creation of trained human resource is an important mandate of the NCG.
- Immediate steps toward this goal

include exchange of expertise and mentoring between the centers.

- The NCG provides a unique opportunity for the creation of research network which is aimed at:-
  - » Focusing on multi-centric studies.
  - » Translational and clinical cancer research, with the emphasis on cancers common or unique in India.
- It will also aim at identifying costeffective management strategies which can be implemented in all centers and accessible to the poorest of society.
- The NCG is uniquely positioned to shape cancer policy in India as the leaders in cancer care, education and research are members of the NCG



#### **National Cancer Grid**

- Similarly, use of healthcare data analytics across hospitals will enable tracking and benchmarking of clinical outcomes and effectiveness of different treatment and care pathways.
- KCDO will also partner with academic and research organizations to promote research and development in cancer care.

#### 5. Role of KCDO

- It will play an important role in driving digital transftormation across the cancer care continuum.
- KCDO will support NCG hospitals in sharing best practices in digital health, adopting digital health tools, and driving many common technology initiatives including EMR adoption, healthcare data interoperability, reporting and analytics.
- KCDO will also enable NCG and NCG hospitals adopt new technologies – including AI, machine learning, big data, automation, cloud, mobile.
- Embracing digital tools like telemedicine and remote patient monitoring will help make care more accessible especially in semi-urban and rural areas.

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- The Union government has introduced the Competition Amendment Bill 2022 on August 6, 2022.
- It proposes certain amendments to the Competition Act, 2002.

# 4. Time limit for approval of combinations:

 The bill also seeks to reduce the overall time limit of assessment of combinations to a period of 150 days from 210 days, with a conservatory period of 30 days for extensions.

## 5. The 'settlements' and 'commitments' mechanisms:

- The bill proposes a framework for settlements and commitments in cases relating to vertical agreements and abuse of dominance.
- The parties may apply for a 'commitment' before the Director General submits the report.
- 'Settlement' will be considered after the report is submitted and before the Commission decides.
- The Commission's decision regarding commitment or settlement will not be appealable after hearing all stakeholders in the case.

#### 2. Objective of the New Bill:

- To deal with significant growth of anti-competitive practices and monopoly in Indian markets.
- To provide a structural framework to deal with mergers, acquisitions and un-ethical market activities.
- As per report by India Brand Equity Foundation, the e-commerce market in India will expand by 21.5% reaching \$74.8 billion, thus becoming the third largest e-commerce market in the world.
- The country's e-commerce market is expected to reach \$350 billion by 2030.



Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022

#### 6. Appointment of Director General

- The Act empowers the central government to appoint a Director General to CCI.
- The bill empowers the CCI to appoint the Director General, with prior approval of the government.
- P The bill also seeks to amend Section 41 of the act giving power to the Director General to investigate cases pertaining to contraventions.

#### 3. New Norms For Combinations

- Any acquisition, merger or amalgamation may constitute a combination.
- Section 5 of the Act says that parties indulging in merger, acquisition or amalgamation need to notify the Commission of the combination only on the basis of 'asset' or 'turnover'.
- The new Bill proposes to add a 'deal value' threshold.
- It will be mandatory to notify the Commission of any transaction with a deal value in excess of ₹ 2,000 crore.

#### 8. Way Forward:

- By implementing these amendments, the Commission will be better equipped to handle certain aspects of the new age market and transform its functioning to be more robust.
- The government also needs to recognize that market dynamics change constantly, so it is necessary to update laws regularly.

#### 7. Other Key Amendments:

- A provision called 'Leniency Plus' in the bill allows the commission to give an additional waiver of penalties to an applicant who discloses the existence of another cartel in a market.
- For any false information filed, a penalty of five crore will be imposed, and for failure to comply with the Commission directions, a penalty of ₹10 crore will be imposed.
- For an appeal to be heard by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against the Commission's order, the party will have to deposit 25% of the penalty amount.

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 World Ozone Day, observed every year on September 16, is also known as the "International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer".

#### 2. History

- On September 16, 1987, the United Nations and 45 other countries signed the "Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone layer".
- On December 19, 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

#### 3. About Ozone layer

- The Ozone layer protects the planet from the Ultraviolet (UV) rays of the sun.
- Ozone is made up of three atoms of oxygen.
- It is a highly reactive gas and is represented by O<sub>2</sub>.
- It occurs naturally as well as a manmade product in the Earth's upper atmosphere i.e. stratosphere and lower atmosphere i.e. troposphere.
- The Ozone layer is present in Earth's atmosphere (15-35km above Earth) in the lower portion of the stratosphere and has relatively high concentrations of ozone (O<sub>2</sub>).
- Naturally, it is formed through the interactions of solar UV radiation with molecular oxygen O<sub>2</sub>.
- It reduces the harmful UV radiation reaching the Earth's surface.

#### 4. Causes of Ozone Depletion

 The main cause of ozone depletion and the ozone hole is manufactured chemicals, especially manufactured halocarbon refrigerants, solvents, propellants, and foam- blowing

#### 5. The Vienna Convention

- The Vienna convention, adopted in 1985, is the precursor to the Montreal Protocol.
- It is often called a framework convention, because it served as a framework for efforts to protect the globe's ozone layer.



#### **World Ozone Day**

#### 9. Significance of Ozone Day

 World Ozone Day spreads awareness among people about the depletion of Ozone Layer and to find possible solutions to preserve it.

agents like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs, HCFCs).

- Since the early 1970's, scientists observed reduction in stratospheric ozone and it was found more prominent in Polar Regions.
- Ozone Depleting Substances have a lifetime of about 100
   years.

#### 6. About Montreal Protocol

- It is an international treaty planned to protect ozone layer by reducing the production of substances that are responsible for ozone layer depletion.
- The Montreal Protocol phases down the consumption and production of the different ozone depleting substances (ODS) in a step-wise manner, with different timetables for developed and developing countries.
- India became a Party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 19 June 1992 and since then has ratified the amendments to the Montreal Protocol.

## 7. Major Amendments to the Montreal Protocol

**The London Amendment (1990)** – It called for complete phase out of CFCs, halons, and carbon tetrachloride by 2000 in developed countries and by 2010 in developing countries.

The Copenhagen Amendment (1992)— It incorporated complete phase out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) for developed countries.

**The Montreal Amendment (1997)-** It included the phase out of HCFCs in developing countries.

**The Beijing Amendment (1999)**— It tightened controls on the production and trade of HCFCs.

**The Kigali Amendment (2016)**-It targeted to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

#### 8. World Ozone Day 2022: Theme

The theme for the 2022 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is - Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth.

## **Mains Special**

# (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude [Philosophy & Social Psychology], Case Studies)

1. Clinical trials play a critical role in drug/ vaccine development, at the same time there is severe risk to the life and well-being of the trial subjects as well. Identify the ethical issues involved in clinical trials and also discuss how a morally defensive clinical trial can be conducted?

#### Ans.

Clinical trials refer to administration of new drugs on human subjects so as to test the efficacy of the drugs and identify the side-effects of the drugs if any. It is most significant, critical and as well as ethically sensitive stage of drug development as the subjects involved are human, and damages can be irreversible.

Clinical trials require consideration of numerous ethical issues and they must be addressed adequately for justified drug development. They are;

- Fair distribution of benefits and burden between the subjects, drug developer and target users of the drugs.
- 2. Free will and informed consent of the individuals undergoing trials.
- 3. Tendency of large pharmaceuticals company to deliberately conduct trials in under-developed and developing countries due to poor regulation there.
- 4. Ethicality of applying utilitarian concepts in matters concerning right to life.
- 5. Adequate insurance cover, compensation and rehabilitation package for the trial subjects.
- 6. Transparency and accountability in the process of clinical trials on part of the drug developer.
- 7. Adhering to the legal requirement prescribing moral minimum v/s adherence to ethical and human values being comprehensive.

Conducting the clinical trials appears to be the necessary evil for the development of the common good. However, they can certainly be humanised and made morally defensive through following measures:

- To begin with selection of subjects must be random, and not only from poor, deprived and destitute or only from under-developed/ developing countries.
- 2. Consent of the trial subjects must be free as well

- as informed. They must be aware of the risks involved.
- 3. Drug development company must have an unconditional lifelong responsibility of the well being of the subject and their dependent, in case of drug related disease, disability or death.
- Efforts should be there to minimise the number of trials as human life is sacrosanct. This is possible through sharing of clinical trial data, pooling of trials etc.
- 5. Compensation paid to the subjects must be sufficient and if possible, should be made a stakeholder in the developed drug. This would ensure justice for all.



Thus, adopting above measures would not only enable mankind to respond to the emerging diseases and pandemics like Covid-19 but is also going to humanise and democratise the process of clinical trials. Although these steps might increase the cost of drug development in the short run but in long term it will help in brand building of the company and thus easier to attract volunteers for clinical trials.

2. Apart from the economic loss and devastation of the infrastructure, Russia-Ukraine conflict has led gross human rights violation. In this context discuss the tenets of 'a just war'.

Ans.

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Mankind since its emergence on the earth have witnessed numerous wars being fought, many smaller and some huge, for example two World Wars involving entire humanity. One common lesson that humans have learned from all these wars is that there are no victors in war, for ex-mutually assured destruction in nuclear war.

Despite this knowledge, war among communities and nations are common, the most common reason for the wars includes fight for limited resources, narrowly defined national interest and dominance in the global order. Two developed and civilised nations like Russia and Ukraine fighting each other is the manifestation of same malice.



# Wars often involve following ethical and human rights issues:

- 1. Loss of significant human lives on both sides.
- 2. People losing right to live a dignified life.
- 3. Most common victim of wars are women. Women are abducted, slaved and raped during wars.
- 4. Loss of temperance leads to war which is a threat to the peace and harmony.
- 5. Diversion of critical resources towards weaponization and militarization. This could otherwise have been used to eradicate poverty, hunger, illiteracy etc. which are curse on mankind.
- Children loses their right to education and healthy development during and after the war.
   Considering above issues it is advised to all nations to avoid wars. If the war seems inevitable it must satisfy following tenets to
- 1. All non-violent options must be exhausted as a just war can be waged only as a measure of last

- resort.
- 2. A war can be termed just only if it is waged by a legitimate authority.
- 3. Cause of a just war can only be redressal of wrong suffered, for ex self-defence against armed attack.
- 4. War can only be justified if there is a reasonable chance of victory.
- 5. Ultimate goal of a just war must be to reestablish peace.
- 6. Violence used in the war must be proportional to the injury suffered.
- 7. The weapons used in the war must discriminate between combatants and non-combatants.
- 8. Internationally agreed conventions, like Geneva convention, regulating war must be obeyed.
- 9. The possibility of reconciliation must be kept open in the course of war.

With regard to conflicts, communities and nations must remember and abide by the ideals of Ashoka the great, we must rely on "Dhammaghosha" (sound of peace) rather than "Bherighosha" (sound of war drums). In this, Ashoka stresses on conquest through dhamma instead of through war.

#### 'Positive attitude can move mountains', justify the statement. Also suggest ways to develop positive attitude in life.

#### Ans.

Attitude is a learnt tendency to act, think and feel in particular ways towards a class of people, objects, place or events. The above statement brings into focus the necessity of having a positive attitude in life to accomplish even those task that seems to be impossible.

Person having positive attitude believes that there is something positive even in the worst situation. For them every situation of crisis offers an opportunity. For ex — during Covid — 19 pandemic many people were forced to shut down their business. But even during these challenging times person with positive attitude remained firm and explored other avenues like producing masks, PPE kits etc. to keep business afloat.

Any change is a sign of growth for those having positive attitude as they are never threatened or disturbed by any change in their environment. For ex- for an optimistic student any change in syllabus provides him the chance to learn new things and thus grow. Other advantages offered by positive attitude are:

- 1. Increases the productivity as the individual is more interested in the object.
- 2. Helps to gain acceptance as a leader and

be called a just war:



- thus in mobilising team effort to accomplish momentous task. For ex positive attitude of MS Dhoni towards game helped him to gain respect.
- 3. Positive attitude helps individual to remain focussed on the goal and thus open to ideas and opinions for its accomplishment.
- 4. Positive attitude act as a source of constant motivation to accomplish any task. For ex an aspiring Civil servant remain motivated even after repeated failures because of the positive attitude towards services.
- 5. It is positive attitude only which helps to overcome consistent obstacles and stress in the path of the task, common for a civil servant.

#### Ways to develop positive attitude are:

- 1. Develop an optimistic attitude towards life.
- 2. Reading biographies and autobiographies of great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, Swami Vivekanand etc.
- 3. Positive self-talk and interaction with individuals having positive attitude.
- 4. Removing prejudices and biases and by bringing coherence in cognitive, affective and behavioural component of attitude.
  - Thus having a positive attitude is essential for every individual aspiring to achieve unthinkable in general and civil servants in particular as they are often required to accomplish gigantic task like safe management of pandemic with scarce resources and lot of obstacles.

# 4. What is the difference between attitude and aptitude? Is it a pre-requisite for Civil Servant to have both attitude and aptitude?

#### Ans.

In order to excel in any field, a person must possess both aptitude and a positive mindset. However, because of how they affect society, they become more significant in the civil service. Despite this, there are few significant distinctions between aptitude and attitude.

#### Difference between attitude and aptitude:

- Aptitude is a person's natural ability to learn something, while attitude is a person's feelings, opinions or perspectives about something.
- Aptitude measures a person's ability to acquire a new skill or ability. Attitude, on the other hand, is one's mental perspective about a particular issue or person.
- While aptitude is related to talent, attitude is related to character and personality.
- Aptitudes can be mental or physical while attitudes are mental.

## Is it a pre-requisite for Civil Servant to have both attitude and aptitude?

- For a civil servant both these qualities, i.e., aptitude and attitude are of equal importance as they go hand in hand in developing a personality which inculcates a sense of service.
- The variety of challenges faced by a civil servant during his tenure like political pressure, posting in an insurgent afflicted area, etc. requires a right kind of attitude to face challenges with a positive outlook and a combination of intellectual, emotional and moral aptitude.
- The dynamic field of new public administration with increasing use of technology requires not only an attitude to adapt oneself to the changing environment, but also an aptitude to learn quickly to perform one's job in the most efficient way.
- In public service, a civil servant deals with a variety of stakeholders (seniors, politicians, subordinates, etc.) with different temperaments.
   Here, attitudinal attributes like flexibility, patience, perseverance are as much important as aptitude related qualities like focus, prudence and negotiation ability for efficient discharge of the duty.
- In a diverse country like India, where social and religious tensions and conflicts are present which requires the positive attitude along with aptitude in a civil servant. A civil servant would require not only an attitude of tolerance, but also skills of leadership and persuasion to establish peace and order.

Attitude and aptitude often reinforce each other. A person lacking one is often driven to supplement the other. A civil servant should be high on both of these vital parameters in order to fulfill his mandate of public welfare.

5. Digital Media is enabling individuals and speeding up the democratization of knowledge. However, hyperconnectivity has the potential to change patterns of social interaction. In the light of the above statement critically analyse the impact of digital media on the ethical behaviour of individual.

#### Ans.

Digital media platforms have fundamentally transformed the way of knowledge sharing as well as social interactions. Due to contactless access, anonymity, large volume and high velocity of data sharing, barriers to knowledge access like remoteness, class, caste, and gender barriers have been significantly scaled.





## Good impacts of digital media on individual's ethical behaviour are:

- Increased sensitivity of people towards critical issues like gender rights, sexual orientation, caste discrimination etc. due to increased awareness.
- Development of liberal outlook in an otherwise traditional society due to global sharing of values.
   For ex – acceptance of same sex relationship in Indian society.
- 3. Digital media have helped to establish communication channels, thus, overcoming prejudices and biases. For ex reducing biases against African people, people from North east.
- 4. Digital media enabled and facilitated novel initiatives like crowd funding, thus promoting compassionate and altruistic attitude.
- Digital campaigns like "#Me too" gave voice and courage to women to seek justice and confronting the evils of the society.

## Adverse consequences of digital media on ethical behaviour are:

- 1. Declining respect for privacy of individual evident from numerous cases of stalking, theft and leak of sensitive personal information.
- Increased screen time have led to reduction in care of elderly and other needy people in real world in our surrounding.
- Phenomenon like closed chamber and AI based recommendation of feeds have intensified feelings like communalism, hatred, misogyny etc.
- 4. Unregulated access to age-inappropriate content is a threat to the individual as well as societal moral fabric.
- 5. Fake news, paid news etc. are misleading people to subscribe even to unethical practices.
- 6. Reducing spirit of brotherhood and harmony due to hate spread through digital media. Digital media offers a mixed bag of opportunities for the ethical competence of the individuals. Technology has always been described as the double aged sword by the intellectual people. Therefore, attempt of the society and government should be mild regulation of digital media. This will facilitate development of digital media along with adequate safety measures.
- 6. Differentiate between (i) Persuasion and Social influence (ii) Good governance and Ethical Governance.

Ans.

Persuasion and Social influence: Social Influence:

- It is described as the change in person's behaviour, thoughts, feelings and attitudes that results from interaction with another individual in society. It can be intentional or unintentional.
- Many psychologists affirmed that social influence is the process by which individuals make real changes to their outlooks and behaviours as a result of communication with others who are perceived to be similar, desirable, or expert.
- People adjust their views with respect to others to whom they feel similar in accordance with psychological principles.

#### Persuasion:

- Persuasion is symbolic process in which communicators try to convince other people through transmission of a message to change their attitudes or behaviours.
- Thus, Persuasion is one form of social influence on attitude; in fact it represents the intersection of social thinking and social influence of everyday life.
- It involves a deliberate attempt to influence others.

Social influence is the way in which external factors produce change in an individual. It guides the way person form his/her thoughts and organize overt behavior and actions. Along with persuasion it can bring drastic results in altering the moral compass of individuals.

# Good governance and Ethical Governance. Good governance' implies

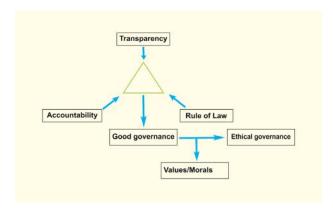
- Responsive, accountable, sustainable and efficient administration at all levels.
- Transparency, accountability, rule of law, principle of subsidiarity and citizen first form basics of good governance.
- For ex.- delivery of services like PDS shall be quick, devoid of middlemen, reach even the most marginalised at minimum cost.

## Whereas, the concept of 'ethical governance' is value laden, it means -

- Administrative procedures and policies shall fulfill criteria of ethical handling of public affairs
- There can be several approaches for ethical governance. For example: Utilitarian approach (Bentham's approach) is followed to serve maximum good and difference between ethical-legal is handled appropriately.
- Both Good governance as well as ethical governance need each other i.e. without



ethical governance there cannot be good governance.



Persuasion and social influence are important tool for building one's behavior. A good and ethical type of government uses right type of persuasion to bring about ethical behaviour from the citizens.

7. Recently two senior Civil Servants were reported to use a Sports Stadium for jogging with their dog in the evening, to the exclusion of the players practicing there. In this context, discuss any four Civil Services Value in which they were lacking?

#### Ans.

A civil servant serves every class of society. The power and authority that they get while in the office is to be used for the welfare of the people. However, we often witness gross misuse of those powers to the detriment of the society. To cure such a situation, we need to inculcate few values in the civil servants, like:

- 1. Selflessness: It means holder of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. It is also mentioned in Bhagavad Gita- "Karmanyevadhikaraste ma phaleshukadachana" which means we should keep doing our action without worrying about the rewards. Such an attitude of civil servant will lead to responsive and empathetic civil servant. Selfless service leads to welfare of the people and society especially the downtrodden.
- 2. Accountability: It implies that holder of public office is accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this. Accountability failures lead to absenteeism, incompetence, inefficiency and corruption

- characterize every core service that the state is obliged to deliver to its citizens. The lack of accountability is the first step towards uncontrolled use of power and it is breeding ground for corruption.
- 3. Objectivity: It means that the holder of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. An objective person assesses the situation based on facts and the decision that comes out of it often serves the general wellbeing. Restricting several players from training in the ground only due to the fact that the civil servant wanted to walk his dog depicts clear lack of objectivity on the part of the civil servant.
- 4. Integrity: Integrity is the trait of being trustworthy and possessing high moral standards. Consistency of conscience, thoughts, values, words, and deeds is implied by this. A public servant must act in accordance with her conscience and maintain her integrity under all circumstances. Utilising the public resource for personal gain implies lack of integrity on the part of civil servant. The civil servants are there to serve public at large, therefore their actions, speech as well as thought must be aligned towards this very purpose.

When a person gets some authority, they tend to misuse it. If not accounted for, power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. So, the need to maintain composure becomes important. In this regard inculcation of right values throughout the long career of civil servant may prove beneficial for the society.

8. It is often said that Citizen Charter helps in strengthening demand side of public service delivery. Illustrate with suitable examples. Also list the characteristics of an ideal citizen charter.

#### Ans.

A citizens' Charter is a document of commitments made by the government agency to the citizens in respect of the services being provided to them. John Major, former Prime Minister of United Kingdom, while introducing the Citizens' Charter scheme have famously said that the aim of the scheme is to strengthen demand side of the public service delivery by empowering the citizen.

In public service delivery the quality of service





delivered is often very poor and one of the main reasons is treating citizens as mere beneficiary having no say. Citizens' Charter seeks to eliminate this anomaly and empower citizens by following ways:

- By introducing a rights-based approach to service delivery, it transforms the citizen from passive beneficiary to active consumer of service.
- It envisages to provide full detail of the timelines and quality vis-à-vis service and therefore citizen may demand clarification and compensation for any variation.
- Feed back mechanism in the charter enables to accommodate demand side expectation in the service delivery, thus improving its quality.
- It also lists out the duties of a responsible consumer of public service, so that in future agency does not make an excuse that the citizen has not fulfilled their end of commitment.
- Citizen as an active consumer may keep on demanding and thus forcing the government agencies to improve the service quality.
- Citizens' charter aims to promote accountability, timeliness, and responsiveness in public service delivery.

#### Key Principles of Citizen Charter

#### Six principles of original Citizens' Charter Movement

- Quality improving quality of
- Choice wherever possible
- Standards specify what to expect
  and how to set if strandards are not met.
- and how to act if standards are not met
- Value for the tax payers money
   Accountability- individuals and
- organizations
- Transparency rules/ procedures/ schemes/ grievances

#### Nine principles of 'Service First' (1998) framed by Labour govt., UK

- Set standards of service
- Be open, provide full information
- Consult and involve
- Encourage access and promotion of choice
- Treat all fairly
- Put things right when they go wrong
- Use resources effectively
- Innovate and improve
- Work with other providers

#### Characteristics of an ideal Citizens' charter are:

- 1. Prepared in a participatory manner and is not just simply a top-down managerial charter.
- 2. Must have clear cut timelines vis-à-vis services. For ex many charters mention as soon as possible, this is vague.
- 3. Charter should be regularly updated to be responsive and accommodative of citizens' expectation.
- 4. It should not be a copy of the model charter. Each agency must prepare their own separate charter. For ex Ministry of Youth and Sports

- Affairs have simply copied the model charter proposed by DARPG.
- 5. There should be inbuilt grievance redressal mechanism so as to correct any deviance or inefficiency.
- 6. If possible, citizen charters should be given a legal backing so as to have mandatory charter in all the organizations.
- 7. Along with this there should be some mechanism to rate and reward the best charter to incentivize the agency.

Thus, having an updated and responsive Citizens' charter in every government organization could go a long way in improving the quality of public service delivery, reforming the work culture and establishing the values of accountability, answerability, and commitment to public service in governance.

#### 9. Government of India has launched Mission Karmayogi – National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. Discuss any five Civil Services values that it will promote and strengthen?

#### Ans.

The mission Karmayogi is a nationwide program to lay the foundation for capacity building of civil servants, so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture while they learn the best practices across the world.



### Five civil services values promoted and strengthen by Mission Karmayogi:

- Accountability: It aims to create accountability
  mechanism through objective and real time
  evaluation and use of technology in governance.
  It will empower an official with tools to take
  charge of one's own professional learning
  journey, making officials accountable for their
  own career trajectory.
- 2. Citizen centricity: It intends to reduce the gap



- between citizens and government. Civil servant will be goal driven along with developing behavioral competencies. This will make civil servants more empathetic towards the demands and needs of citizens.
- 3. Probity: Mission Karmayogi exhorts the civil servant to maintain a very high standard of conduct and behaviour so that he earns the trust of the people and is emulated by his peers and subordinates.
- 4. Efficiency and effectiveness: It aims to make civil service 'fit for purpose' and 'fit for future'. For this competency driven capacity building approach has been envisaged.
- 5. Transparency: Itaims to bring about a transparent civil service. Use of multiple technologies will aid to bring about a transparent governance.

Civil servants are the backbone of governance therefore their functioning has a direct impact on the welfare of the citizens. The mission Karmayogi will help make Civil Servant more efficient, effective, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the citizen as the capacity of Civil Services plays a vital role in achieving better governance.

10. Public procurement and public or publicprivate partnership project funding in India are generally characterized by leakages and irregularities. This phenomenon in utilization of public funds is not only an administrative issue but also involves many ethical issues. Elucidate?

#### Ans.

Success of public projects, government schemes and policies rely on the efficient and effective utilization of the allocated fund. Thus, it is the duty of the civil servants to ensure utmost probity in the fund appropriation and utilization related to schemes, procurements, and PPP projects. This becomes all the more critical as highest level of corruption are reported in PPP projects and public procurement.

Administrative issues in utilization of public funds:

- Ensuring that funds utilized matches the funds allocated for the purpose.
- Preparing detailed and accurate report of fund utilization under different heads.
- Adhering to the constitutional provisions and rules of service book vis-à-vis using funds from treasury.
- Ensuring free and fair bidding for better price discovery of procured goods and cost estimation of projects.

#### Ethical issues involved in proper funds utilization:

• Any leakages or misappropriation of public funds amounts to corruption.

- It is the moral duty of the government to ensure transparency in public procurement as well as awarding contracts to private bidder.
- Appropriate fund utilization requires transparency and accountability of concerned authority.
- Siphoning of public fund is a fraud to the citizens of India as they have entrusted the fund to the Government, which is required to act as an impartial and honest custodian.
- Every act of leakage or misappropriation would be a compromise on the quality of the PPP project like infrastructure and procurement of cheap quality goods. This adversely affects public service delivery.
- As corruption is addictive and contagious in nature, such irregularities are likely to have a multiplier effect and thus adversely affecting the work culture vis-à-vis fund utilization.
- Such phenomenon is also responsible for generation of black money, unholy nexus of politicians-corporate-bureaucrats etc.
- It adversely affects the culture of transparency and accountability expected in fund utilization.

Kautilya in his Arthashastra has given great significance to "Kosh" (treasury) and its utilization. He even prescribed strict penalties and punishment for any irregularity in fund utilization. He highlighted the significance of just and efficient use of treasury for promoting the welfare of the people and prosperity of the State.

11. A strong work culture may be both positive as well as negative. Discuss the significance of strong and positive work culture in public organization? Also enumerate some of the measures adopted by the Government of India to enforce positive work culture.

#### Ans.

Work culture is the mix of organisation's leadership, values, traditions, beliefs, interactions, behaviours and attitudes that contribute to the emotional and relational environment of the workplace.

It is the work culture which decides the way employees interact with each other and how an organization functions.

Significance of strong and positive work culture in public organization:

- It will promote transparency, innovation and discipline in an organisation.
- It will help in reducing conflicts among individuals/team during work by promoting effective communication.
- It will enable individuals and teams to become self-organized which in turn improves quality





- and productivity.
- It will promote good work culture (peer respect, recognition of hard work, and freedom to bring new ideas). This will help in long term prospects of the organization.
- It will allow employees to better understand what is expected of them and how they can achieve their professional goals.
- It will also promote openness and encourages employees to voice their opinions and chase after the values they believe in.

### Measures adopted by the Government to enforce positive work culture:

- Mission Karmayogi to lay the foundation for capacity building of civil servants.
- RTI Act sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information.
- e-Governance-use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) at various levels of the government and the public sector and beyond, for the purpose of enhancing governance.

#### Conclusion:

Public administration in India faces immense challenges. The development of positive work culture with full of ethical values in public administration or government offices is vital to address all challenges.

#### 12. "Nationalism is the greatest enemy of peace". Do you agree with the view? Suggest ways to reconcile "national interest" with global peace and harmony.

#### Ans.

George Orwell, a popular English Novelist of 20<sup>th</sup> century has said the above statement in order to caution the world with dangers that may arise from nationalism. Nations of the time were indulged in intense rivalry amongst each other due to nationalism and associated phenomenon of jingoism.

It seems to be true that nationalism is the greatest enemy of peace when understood in contrast to related idea of patriotism. Nationalism is a feeling that one's own country is superior to another in all respects. Whereas patriotism is merely a feeling of admiration for a way of life.

Nationalism leads to a sense of rivalry with others, and disrespect and intolerance for others whom nationalist treats as "subordinate". While patriotism is based on empathy and valuing a value system towards its nation. To put simply, a patriot loves his/her people, but at the same time respect others, respects diversity, while a nationalist loves his/her own so much that he/she can't think of others.

Nationalism in contrast to patriotism, which is passive, can be a little aggressive. At times nationalism appears

to be rooted in rivalry and resentment. It then appears to be militant in nature.

However, nationalism by itself is not wrong rather it is good. This is so as nationalism encourages all of us to set aside our differences and share a common bond of fraternity. It helps to reconcile individual and community rivalry for the greater good of the nation. For ex – all the people irrespective of their caste, religion, language, state, gender etc. come together to cheer our players in the sports event like Commonwealth games. This is due to the influence of nationalism.

It is those in power who influences people and abuses sentiment in the name of nationalism to promote enmity and hatred towards others. They try to make jingoistic and thus altering nationalism. For ex — war cry and subsequent invasion of Ukraine by Russian leadership in the name of national interest. China's — One China Policy in the name of nationalism is a trouble for nation's like Taiwan.

### National interest can be reconciled with global peace and harmony through following measures:

- Mutual respect for the sovereignty of every nation.
- Peaceful resolution of disputes, arising from any infringement of national interest, through dialogues and diplomacy.
- In the name of nationalism there is a mad race for arms and ammunition, including weapons of mass destruction. A global consensus against development of weapons of mass destruction.
- All nations shall respect international laws and should not use pseudo national interest as an excuse for violation of such laws. For ex — China's violation of UN Convention on Laws of the Sea in South China Sea.
- Promotion of values like "VasudhaivKutumbakam" (world is our home), "SAGAR" (security and growth for all) etc. at global forum.
- Use of common but differentiated responsibility in addressing global challenges like climate change.

Contemporary events like Russia-Ukraine conflict, China-Tension etc. highlights the dangers of ultranationalism and the significance of the thought of visionary novelist George Orwell. Even these issues have potential of engulfing entire globe and turning into world wars.

13. Raja is a second year student in a prestigious engineering college. He belongs to a poor family and has taken educational loan to finance his studies. He is the only hope for a dignified future for his family. A fight has broken out between second- and third-year students on some minor personal issue in the college. Raja along with his friends of his batch actively participated in the fight. The fight has led to





the destruction of college property and has brought bad name to the reputed college. Raja has been caught red handed while damaging the college property in the CCTV footage by the administration. However, because of his good academic record he has been offered a deal. If Raja admits his mistake and also becomes the witness against his friends, he will not be rusticated and only minor punishment will be given. However, severe punishment will be given to Raja's friends who already have numerous serious complaints against themselves and the college administration is just looking for an opportunity to expel them from the college.

- (a) What options does Raja have?
- (b) Discussing the merits and demerits of each of the options suggest what should Raja do?
- (c) Can the relationship of friendship be a legitimate ground for giving ethicality to one's action? Give suitable example.

#### Ans.

Case represents an ethical dilemma faced by Raja in which he has to make a difficult choice between his personal well being and the trust of his friends. Other stakeholders of the case include:

- a. Raja's poor family
- b. Raja's friend involved in the fight
- c. College administration
- d. Other students of the college
- e. Reputed college
- In the given scenario Raja have following possible options before him:
- i) Accept the deal
- ii) Discuss the deal with his friends and then take decision
- iii) Reject the deal

### Merits and demerits of each of the choices are:

### A. Accept the deal Merits:

- Co-operation with administration will ensure discipline and order in the college.
- Would enable completion of college and subsequently get job and repayment of the loan.
- Will allow Raja to fulfil his responsibility towards his family.
- Action against Raja's friends, known for their notorious behaviour, might help to restore the reputation of college.

#### **Demerits:**

- Would be an act of disloyalty towards friends.
- Possibility of crisis of conscience within Raja due to his betrayal towards his friends.
- Raja may have to face the hostility of other students of his year for breaking the bonds of fraternity.

### B. Discuss the deal with the friends\_Merits:

- Would enable Raja to gather inputs from all the stakeholders, thus a democratic spirit in decision making.
- Possibility of getting some innovative solution from the friends like they offering unconditional apology to administration along with fine.
- This would offer a possible middle path to Raja and avoid taking the tough call on the deal by himself.

#### **Demerits:**

- College might revoke the deal.
- Friends might not appreciate Raja's honest intention and might develop hostility towards Raja.

#### C. Reject the deal

#### Merits:

- In line with the principles of justice, equality of treatment in equal circumstances.
- Will help Raja to preserve life long bonds of trust and friendship.
- Will allow Raja to accept his mistake and wrongdoing necessary for asking forgiveness.
- Raja will successfully preserve his integrity, critical for self- respect.

#### **Demerits:**

- Raja would be rusticated from the college.
- Financial and emotional suffering for Raja's family.
- College would fail to establish discipline among the students.

Considering the above merits and demerits, I believe that it would be prudent and upright for Raja to reject the deal as:

- This will help Raja to preserve self- respect and integrity, a lifelong asset.
- Will enable Raja to inculcate the values fortitude and stand for what he believes in even in the face of adversary.
- Besides he is a bright student and therefore can find other ways of completing his course.

In addition to rejecting the deal, he must also offer an unconditional apology to the



college administration. He can also appeal to the intellect of the college administration by reminding them that, to err is human. Therefore, college administration should show some mercy and in place of rustication give some other punishment.

Moreover, Raja should also consider it as an opportunity to reform his notorious friends. This is also the moral duty of Raja. Raja should encourage his friends to offer a sincere apology to the college administration and asking for a last opportunity from the college to reform themselves.

Certainly, friendship can be a legitimate ethical ground for ethical justification of an act. However, such friendship must be a friendship of virtue as explained by Aristotle. It should not be a friendship of pleasure or utility. For example – the unconditional support of Karna to immoral acts of Duryodhana cannot be defended ethically. But Raja's act of not accepting the deal in the given case can be defended ethically.

- 14. In a state having total prohibition on liquor, a minister's son was driving a vehicle in a very rash and erratic manner. The traffic constable on duty at a traffic intersection stopped the vehicle. Suspecting that the boy driving and his fellow passengers are possibly drunk, he calls the patrolling group. They came and subjected the boy and other passengers to breath analyser. The suspicion turns out to be true, all of them were drunk. All this action took about an hour. In the mean while the boy was throwing tantrums and dropping names. He also made few calls and tried to slap and manhandle the constable on duty. But the constable on duty remained calm and undeterred. On the arrival at the police station, where you are the SHO, you took the note of the situation but just before filing the case, you get a call from your superior to release the boy and his friends without any arrest or fine.
  - (a) What are the ethical issues and dilemmas involved?
  - (b) What is the best course of action in the given situation and why?
  - (c) Suggest measures to make police more transparent, accountable and duty bound.

#### Ans

Given case requires consideration of large number of ethical issues and dilemmas. These issues and dilemmas are very common for most of the police officials. They are:

- Integrity and honesty v/s my personal well-being for me as the SHO.
  - b. Duty towards rule of law v/s duty to take care of family members.
  - Upholding codified rules and laws v/s superior's command
  - d. Duty to maintain the motivation of subordinate staffs and boost their morale.
  - Remaining upright and integral in adverse situation.
  - f. Display of leadership to protect the self-respect of subordinates.
  - g. Issue of right precedent and subsequent work culture in the department.
  - h. Dignity of the concerned minister.
  - i. Integrity and moral authority of superiors.
  - j. Lack of respect towards the laws like prohibition in public in general and among the rich and powerful in particular.

    Being an SHO, my foremost duty is to uphold the rule of law so as to maintain order in the society. Under the given scenario it would be prudent and mandatory for me to lodge an FIR against the Minister's son and his friends and further action necessitated by the law. The reasons for same are:
  - It is in line with the code of conduct and other guidelines under the service manual of the SHO.
  - ii) It is my duty to allow law takes its own course and establish equality before law. There is no scope for preferential treatment, same is barred under Article 14 of the Constitution.
  - iii) Being a police officer, I will be constantly exposed to such unjustified demands and orders from superiors and political representative. Therefore, must learn the art to overcome such pressures.
  - iv) Respecting the hierarchy and command does not mean yielding to illegal and unlawful orders of superiors.
  - v) Subordinate staffs and that too traffic staffs are always under extreme pressure and in hostile environment. In such circumstances in order to maintain their dedication to public service, I as an SHO must take necessary action against minister's son.
  - vi) This would also set a right precedent and act as a deterrent against violation of laws by such mighty and powerful individuals.
  - vii) Establishment of healthy work culture require those at the position of power to take tough decisions even at the cost of some personal loss.



- viii) The issue at hand involves larger malice of illegal smuggling of the liquor into the state towards which zero tolerance is required.
- ix) If the news of taking no action against the minister's son reaches to public, they would lose faith in the police administration. Thus, in light of the above reasoning even if the superiors insist to release them, I as the SHO must ask for a written order from the superior. This would be in line with the SOPs provided in the code of conduct to take care of such situations. This would also give a clear message to others in the department that law is same for everyone.

### Measures to make police more accountable, transparent and duty bound:

- Enforcing Supreme Court's guidelines in the Prakash Singh case judgement like:
- Police Establishment Board for transfer, posting and appointment to remove undue political pressure.
- ii. Establish a complaints authority to receive complaints against the police officials.
- Constant training of police officials to make them aware of their powers, rules and regulation etc.
- 360-degree performance evaluation of police officials as against linear evaluation by superior in the current system.
- Preparing a Citizen charter for police stations and departments so as to develop a rights based approach in police services.
- Raising the awareness level in general public vis-a-vis their legal rights.
- Integration of technology for modernisation of police processes. For ex – e filing of FIR, complaints, assessing case development report etc. could help to promote accountability and transparency.

Thus, frequent cases of this nature highlight the kind of hostile environment and nature of pressure under which police administration has to work. It is the police officials which are the most important element of administration which helps in maintaining peace, harmony and law and order in the society. Therefore above reforms must be promoted and adopted to improve their capability to uphold rule of law.

15. Government of a particular state has set a target for itself to put each child in school within 5 years. You have been operating an education based Non-Governmental Organisation since last few years. You have been assigned

the task to identify the main bottlenecks in children not attending school in your district. You did extensive survey and found out two major reasons – (1) Lack of well trained and motivated teachers, (2) Lack of basic amenities like drinking water, toilet, playground, library etc. District Magistrate asked you to focus on the basic amenities' aspect, while task of teacher training was assigned to other officials. You whole heartedly started working towards providing the basic facilities in public schools. However, you are finding it difficult to find a contractor who can complete the task within stipulated time and money.

One day you met with your friend, named Mr. Y, who have been building toilets, drinking water facilities etc in private schools on contract basis since last few years. When Mr. Y came to know about your project, he showed interest and quoted his price for building these facilities. His quotation seemed affordable and he also promised to complete the work within the given time frame. However, after few days you found out that Mr. Y uses inferior construction material and even employs child labour.

Identify ethical dilemma faced by you in the above case.

Whether you will complain against Mr. Y? Justify your answer.

What steps would you take to timely complete the project?

Can we say that there is perpetual conflict between private values and public values?

Ans.

Education is the key to success in the future and to have many opportunities in our life. Education has many advantages for people. For instance, it illuminates a person's mind and thinking. It helps students to plan for work or pursue a higher education while graduating from university. Therefore education, especially child education must be provided in holistic manner.

A moral (ethical) dilemma is a situation that involves a choice, decision, act/action, solution that may include an unpleasant problem or situation where you feel do not know what to do or which way to turn. A response to a moral (ethical) dilemma is not always a matter of "right versus wrong," as both courses of action or decision could seem moral or ethical (or the "right thing to do").

(a) Ethical dilemma faced in the situation
On one hand I came to know about the inferior



material and child labour. This may have long term implications for the children — inferior material may prove disastrous in future and child labour defies the core aim of ours to put each child in school.

On the other hand, I have to ensure that the basic amenities in the schools are made available to make it more conducive for the children. And I have to do it within a particular timeframe as well as stipulated fund. Since I had faced difficulty in finding the contractor within my budget, Mr Y seems only possible hope for completing the task. Also, after the work gets completed there will be a larger benefit for the larger number of people. Besides, Mr Y is my friend so I cannot plainly ignore him.

### Thus here there are various values at clash, for example

- Efficiency vs Effectiveness: whether to complete the given task within given time and money or to ensure that the work is durable employing ethical means.
- Means vs End: Whether to give priority to the process (fair means) or the end (completing the amenities in the school).
- Majority vs Minority: Child laborers are fewer in number than the children who would take admission in the school.
- Public vs Private Responsibility: Mr. Y is friend and there is some sort of responsibility towards a friend. Can one ignore friend for public responsibility?

#### (b) Complain against Mr. Y

Mr. Y being my friend, I would first warn him to correct his mistakes first — avoid employing children and using the superior quality of material. If he agrees to correct his behaviour and promises to not repeat it in future, then I may not complain. However, if he did not agree to correct his behaviour then I will definitely complain against him.

Rationale behind it

"To err is human; to forgive, divine" – Alexander Pope

Since I also need to ensure that work gets completed in time, I may first warn Mr. Y so that the ongoing project did not get hamper. But if the behaviour is repeated then complain is necessary as the actions of Mr. Y may have negative consequences in future. If the safety of the amenities is compromised then it may put kids in danger. Also, inferior quality would need frequent repair which would again cost time and money.

The project for which Mr Y has been engaged is to ensure that all children go to school. By employing the child labour Mr Y is corroding the cause itself.

#### (c) Timely completion of the project

Case #1: If Mr. Y promises to correct his behaviour, then following steps can be taken to ensure timely completion of the project.

- Since Mr. Y has been using inferior material, he has to ensure that good quality material is available in sufficient quantity.
- Mr. Y should also replace the child labours with regular labours who are more skilled and specially suited for the job.

Case #2: If Mr Y refuses to comply and a formal complain has been lodged against him. Since this will impact the work progress, this will require steps like:

- I can rope in public spirited persons as volunteers for the job. Meanwhile, I will also be looking for alternate contractor.
- I may seek assistance from the other civil society groups to provide help in the given situation.
- I can also take up the issue with District Magistrate explaining the scenario in transparent and objective manner and ask for some more time. We can also arrange for the competitive bidding to complete the project in time.

#### (d) Private vs Public Values

Private value involves ethical and moral values adopted by person during his personal dealings. Private Relationships are informal in nature. They are based on emotional bonds rather than any formal procedure that regulates them and therefore, informal in nature.

Public values refer to the ethics that a person may adhere to in respect of their interactions and business dealings in their professional life. Public life has to be in the ethical framework. There has to be some special ethics for such persons. Hence, ethical framework has been prepared for the people in public life. They are supposed to be strictly guided by that ethical framework.

In the above case, private relation with Mr. Y is in conflict with public values. Often such a scenario arises when there is conflict between private and public values. No person can shed their biases completely while entering public office, after all s/he is product of those preferences and biases. This creates friction between private and public values.



But we cannot say that they are in perpetual conflict. No clear line can be drawn between private and public life. The ingredients which make the public values are also important for private values. Ex- trust is important for both private as well as public life. Likewise, responsibility, transparency and integrity etc. are the values that are important for both public as well as private ethics.

#### Conclusion

The above case had posed some genuine questions related to education, trust, integrity, honesty etc. While attaining these values we need to adopt the Gandhian approach which gives importance to both means as well as end. One cannot justify wrong means for the sake of right end. Using inferior material or child labour is no justification for upgrading school amenities

16. Aditya, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, is a transgender person aged 25 years. But their family was not ready to accept Aditya's identity. Aditya was not happy with the imposed masculine identity and subsequent restriction to their autonomy. Therefore, he fled his home and took shelter in one of the Garima Greh located in Delhi. Garima Grehs are the shelter homes established by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide basic facilities like shelter, food, medical care, skill development and entertainment to destitute and abandoned transgender persons. Aditya's family lodged a false complaint against the Shelter home for forcefully detaining Aditya. Based on this complaint UP police in connivance with Delhi police have forcefully entered the Garima Greh at midnight without any warrant. Then they forcefully taken away Aditya. When the management and the other transgender person reached adjoining police station to enquire about Aditya, police officials misbehaved with them. They were thrashed, verbally abused with lewd remarks and physically as well as sexually assaulted.

What are the ethical issues involved in the case? What do you think that why transgender community have to face such hostility in family as well as in society? Also suggest measures to bring changes in societal perspective vis-a-vis transgender person. Ans.

Aditya, mentioned in the case, is representative of numerous other such transgenders who lacks acceptance of their identity not only in the society but also in the family. Other stakeholders in the case are:

 Other fellow members of the Garima Greh who have to undergo the abuse and harassment at the hands of police.

- · Family members of Aditya not ready to accept his identity.
- Police personnel abusing and violating the rights of transgenders.
- · Society at large not ready to accept that even transgender person are fellow human beings and have every right that we all enjoy.

#### **Ethical issues involved:**

The case represents a typical orthodox Indian society having acceptance of only narrow gender identity as male and female. As such transgenders are regarded as lesser beings by the society impacting the way they are treated in their own family. Other ethical issues involved in the case are:

- Lack of respect for the dignity, identity and selfrespect of the transgenders.
- ii) Acceptance of the stereotypes and stigma vis-à-vis transgenders.
- iii) Undue pressure and limitations on the transgenders from the family, violating even the autonomy and bodily integrity of such person.
- iv) Lack of empathy and compassion towards the transgender within the police personnel in general.
- v) Violation of legal as well as the constitutional rights of transgenders by the police personnel itself, who are meant to protect their rights.
- vi) Presents a case of indiscipline and lack of respect to rule of law on part of the police personnel.
- vii) Failure of society to evolve its moral understanding as per the emerging understanding of gender and identity.
- viii) Use of unjustified force by police reflects the abuse of power.

### Reasons for the hostility faced by the transgender people are:

- Skewed gender understanding of the society as binary – male and female. Thus, treating transgender as diseased condition and lesser human being.
- Stigmas associated with transgender people like they are anti-social, contacts with them may lead to spread of sterility.
- Orthodox morality where non-binary gender identity is treated as immoral.
- Lack of rationality on part of Indian society to appreciate that transgender people are as natural human being as any other male and female.
- Traditional involvement of transgenders in begging due to lack of employment opportunities is responsible for skeptical attitude of people.
- Lack of awareness and scientific understanding of the biology of sexuality among masses.
- Lack of adequate legal recognition of identity as well





- as rights of transgenders for a long time.
- Low level of literacy among transgender is both a reason as well as the consequence of hostility against them.
- Even police administration views them as antisocial and treats them inhumanely.

### Measures to bring change in the societal perspective towards transgenders are:

- To begin with there is an urgent need of raising awareness vis-à-vis recognizing transgender as third gender. Measures could be introducing it as part of curriculum, roping in NGOs to spread awareness.
- Mere enactment of Rights of Transgender Person Acts is not sufficient. Dedicated machinery should be there to ensure its implementation at ground level.
- Intellectual appeal can be made to the civil society through texts from religious and ancient scriptures that acknowledges transgender as natural person.
- Raising level of literacy and providing them with alternate means of livelihood would go a long way in breaking the stigma attached to transgender.
- Encourage transgenders to give up begging and make use of schemes like Garima Greh to reform their lives. This will help to restore the dignity and self-respect of the transgender person.
- Training and sensitizing the ground level police and other civil administration to respect the rights of transgenders.
- It is high time and government must act now to give reservation to the transgender in educational institutional and public sector jobs.
- Making successful transgender person as the brand ambassador of government schemes to change the perception. For ex – Joyita Mandal (1st transgender judge), Prithikayashini (1st transgender police) etc

Transgender community have to face the hostility and discrimination for a very long time. Thus, as a citizen of a 'civilized' and democratic nation it is our duty to develop scientific temper vis-à-vis transgender and respect their right to a dignified life. The state and civil society is required to create enabling environment so that transgender does not remain mere beneficiary rather become partners in the development story.

17. An additional district judge (ADJ) commented upon the merit of investigation in a rape case by two sub-inspector rank policemen. The judge gave stern warning to those policemen in the court in front of large number of people including policemen's subordinate. The judge slightly got carried away and asked them that how they would

have reacted if their own daughter were raped. The two policemen took it as humiliation.

On a given day the two policemen first abused and then manhandled the judge. Lawyers and judicial staff who were around, on hearing the scuffle, rushed into the judge's chamber, rescued him, thrashed the policemen and took them hostage. As this gruesome news spread, senior state and district officers rushed to the spot in an attempt to diffuse the situation. The local Bar Association passed a resolution condemning the incident and termed it as an attack on the judiciary by the administration. On the other hand, the police stated that judge should not have used example of policemen's daughter. They further stated that no one saw what happened to the judge, but the blood stains on the uniforms of policemen were clearly visible and those who beat up the police in court premises must be punished.

- (a) Whose action is more just Policemen's or Judge's or Judicial staff's or none of them? Give sound reasoning to support your answer.
- (b) If you were to mediate in the given case, what steps would you take?
- (c) According to you should judicial branch be more empathetic and emotional while adjudicating cases? Give suitable arguments.

#### Ans.

Martin Luther King, jr stated "Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars." It holds more truth in the case of those who are responsible to uphold the criminal justice system. Rivalry among the judges, police and lawyers can wreak havoc on the well-being of the citizens.

#### (a) Who is just?

In the above case no one's actions could be stated as just and moral. Each one transgressed not only their legal duty but also general morality of society.

- Judge while delivering any judgement must remain objective. Empathizing with the victim is good but excess of empathy may cloud the rational judgement. Passing personal comment to police personnel in any particular case is not justifiable. If there was some issue with investigation, then it should have been dealt in more professional manner.
- Policemen who allegedly beat up the judge was in no way within the bounds of law or morality. Even though judge has passed personal comment, they could have taken another route to resolve their issue. Violence begets violence. Though it is natural that policemen have felt moral indignation, but revenge is not the answer for it. They could



have personally expressed their concern to judge in more polite manner. If the law upholder becomes a law breaker then no society can flourish.

• The acts of judicial staffs may at first instance prove to be correct as they were saving the judges. However, they did not have any right to commit crime to stop a crime. Gandhiji always emphasized on the means. End cannot justify means. Brutally beating up the policemen not only hurt the dignity of the policemen, but it also creates a downfall in morale of the police department. In future, they cannot act without fear which will compromise the criminal justice system.

Justice must only be done, but must also be seen to be done. If the persons responsible for delivering of justice are themselves responsible for injustice then it creates a classic case of hypocrisy.

#### (b) How to mediate?

Since the situation has escalated, one has to decide only after taking the viewpoint of each party involved. Following are the interests of the party in the given case:

- Judge: If the policeman has assaulted the judge, then such a situation should not repeat in future.
- Policemen: Their action of threatening judge needs to be investigated as well as the mishandling by judicial staffs also needs to be put to justice.
- Finally, the actions of judicial staffs also need to be put to judicial scrutiny.

#### In this regard following steps could be taken:

- The immediate action would be to ensure each party that the culprit would be put to justice.
   Representative from each side could be called upon to have a mutual dialogue. This may calm them for the time being.
- We have to also ensure that in future judge should not pass any personal comment on anyone. Though it would be too far conducting an inquiry upon the judge, we could at least demand an acceptance of wrong doing from the side of judge. Admitting one's own mistake make the person much stronger.
- A judicial inquiry could be conducted in the given case. There is need to ensure whether policemen actually assaulted the judge or not? One also needs to investigate upon the judicial staffs who were involved in assaulting the policemen.

Finally, we need to take steps so that such unfortunate incidents do not occur in future. This can be ensured by:

- Mid-career training to judges about emotional management and other such aspect.
- Ensuring that security architecture of judges is robust. CCTV cameras must be installed, a greater

- number of security personnel could be deployed etc.
- Judicial staffs should be sternly dealt so that they do not repeat such an act in future.

### (c) Should judiciary be more empathetic or emotional?

Emotion is a fundamental aspect of human existence. In normal, healthy people, feelings about options exert a powerful influence on choice. Intuition and anecdote suggest that people react more positively toward others whom they like or for whom they feel sympathy than toward others whom they dislike or for whom they feel disgust.

A judge must possess what is called 'judicial temperament', which means that while in office, a judge acts and thinks dispassionately, exhibiting a rational focus on the law and never straying in the emotional battlefield a courtroom can often be. Because judges decide in the name of the law and the state, which represents the common good, he or she cannot be influenced by the touching stories of the particular case.

What we need in the judges is not merely emotion but emotional intelligence. The two areas of emotional intelligence are personal competence and social competence. Personal competence demands judges to manage their emotions and behaviours while adjudicating upon any case. While social competence for judges would mean how they manage the emotions of others and build trust in the judge and judiciary.

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#### **MCQs Based on Current Affairs**

#### 1. What is Tu-160?

- A. India's first indigenous vaccine against lumpy skin disease
- B. Strategic Bomber Fighter Aircraft
- C. A new species of turtle
- D. A new species of flower called tulip

#### Answer: B

- 2. Which one of the following statements is not true regarding the highest single-arch railway bridge in the world, which was in news recently?
  - A. It is built between Bakkal and Kauri in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - B. It is being constructed under the Konkan Railway Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project.
  - C. The height of this rail bridge is 259 meters above the river level.
  - D. The goal of building this bridge is to boost connectivity in the Jammu and Kashmir Valley.

#### **Answer: C**

- 3. With reference to "Blockchain Technology", consider the following statements:
- 1. The country of Estonia is called the Blockchain capital of the world.
- 2. Blockchain technology is used in Cryptocurrencies. Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) neither 1, nor 2

#### Answer: C

- 4. Recently, which state has started a program named 'Medicine from the Sky'?
  - A. Rajasthan
  - B. Arunachal Pradesh
  - C. Tamil Nadu
  - D. Delhi

#### Answer: B

- 5. Recently, which is the first state in the country to be certified as 'Har Ghar Jal'?
  - A. Rajasthan
  - B. Goa
  - C. Bihar
  - D. Uttar Pradesh

#### **Answer: B**

- 6. What is "Aqua Bazaar"?
  - A. A kind of marine park
  - B. Online market place feature in "Matsyasetu" mobile app
  - C. An online marketplace for turtle exports
  - D. An online marketplace to sell medicines produced from mangrove forests

#### **Answer: B**

- 7. Which of the following ministry has launched 'National Awards Portal'?
  - A. Union Finance Ministry
  - B. Union Home Ministry
  - C. Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry
  - D. Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

#### Answer: B

- 8. Who is Antim Panghal?
  - A. New Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan
  - B. New Chief Justice of Kolkata High Court
  - C. Woman Gold Medalist in Under-20 World Wrestling Championship
  - D. India Open-2022 Women's Singles Category Winner

#### Answer: C

- 9. Which of the following statements is/are true regarding the 'Ulchi Freedom Shield' exercise?
- 1. This war exercise is being conducted between the air forces of South Korea and India.
- 2. It aims to balance the potential threat from North Korea.
  - A. only 1
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2





D. none of these

Answer: B

# 10. Where did the Annual Meeting of Defense Ministers of the member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) took place?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Shanghai
- C. Islamabad
- D. Tashkent

Answer: D

#### 11. Who is Fahmida Azeem?

- A. Painter selected for Pulitzer Prize (2022).
- B. 2022 Liberty Medal Awardee.
- C. Woman Gold Medalist in Under-20 World Wrestling Championship.
- D. Defense Minister of Ukraine who was killed in a recent attack.

Answer: A

### 12. Which of the following statement is false regarding tomato flu disease?

- A. It is also called hand foot and mouth disease.
- B. There are tomato-shaped blisters on the body in this.
- C. It is caused by Coxsackievirus A16.
- D. This infectious disease is caused by intestinal virus which is more common in adults.

Answer- D

### 13. Who among the following has been awarded the 2022 UNESCO Peace Prize?

- A. Journalist Ramkripal Singh
- B. Ex. German Chancellor Angela Merkel
- C. Scott Morrison
- D. Ilham Iliev

Answer: B

### **14.** With reference to One Nation One Fertilizer Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. This scheme is launched from October 2, 2021 across the country.
- 2. Brand names of public and private fertilizer

companies will be mentioned seperately.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1, nor 2

Answer: D

# 15. With reference to the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India Report, 2022 (NCRB), consider the following statements:

- 1. The percentage of daily wage labourers in total suicides is 25.6.
- 2. NCRB has celebrated its 37th Foundation Day in March, 2022.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1, nor 2

Answer: C

### 16. What is the percentage increase in crimes against women in the year 2021 as per the report of NCRB?

- A. 15.0 percent
- B. 15.1 percent
- C. 15.2 percent
- D. 15.3 percent

Answer: D

### 17. Recently, which state's police administration has launched JK E-Cop app?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: D





### T Prakasam "Andhra Kesari"



Many heroes emerged during the Indian independence struggle, who became the identity of their respective regions. Tanguturi Prakasam was one such hero associated with the Telugu identity. T Prakasam is popularly known as Andhra Kesari. He led the Salt Satyagraha at Devarampadu in Prakasam district in Madras Presidency.

In 1928, he opposed the Simon Commission and was targeted by the British police. He protested against the Simon Commission. Due to his courage, he became famous as **"Andhra Kesari".** 

In 1946, he became the Chief Minister of the United Madras Presidency. Earlier in 1937, when the first Congress cabinet was established in the country, T Prakasam joined Rajagopalachari's cabinet as the Revenue Minister.

When Andhra Pradesh was carved out of Madras Presidency in 1953, he became its first Chief Minister. Prakasam was born in the village of Vinodarayunipalem in Madras Presidency (now Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh) to a Telugu Niyogi Brahmin family of Subbamma and Gopal Krishnayya. He decided to go to England for legal studies. In 1904, he went to Britain.

In England he joined the Royal India Society. When Prakasam returned India after completing his barrister studies, he became a legal party in many big cases in the Madras High Court. He was one of the successful Telugu barristers because till then, most of the successful lawyers were either European or Tamil.

He was editor of Law Times for few days. He went to England twice to fight the case in the Privy Council.

When Bipin Chandra Pal came to Madras, he presided over their program. No one was ready to come forward in support of Bipin Chandra Pal due to fear of treason.

Since then, he went on getting involved with the activities of the Congress Party and the freedom movement. In 1921 he signed the Satyagraha Pledge and left the advocacy profession. He was the President of Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee for 13 years from 1921.

As the executive editor of 'Swaraj' newspaper, he raised the flame of independence movement in the whole of South India along with Telugu speakers. This newspaper was published simultaneously in Tamil and English along with Telugu. He was elected General Secretary of the Congress Party in 1921.

During the non-cooperation movement, he held a historic protest against the British rule in Guntur along with thirty thousand Congress volunteers.

The prestige and acceptance of Prakasam can be gauged from the fact that on May 5, 2000, his nine feet tall portrait was unveiled by the then President KR Narayan in the Parliament House Complex.

Not only this, a film has also been made on him named 'Andhra Kesari', which is directed by famous filmmaker Vijay Chander.

He died on 20 May 1957. His autobiography is titled **'The Journey of My Life'.** 

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#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OF PERFECT 7 CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE (FORTNIGHTLY)

#### **About Perfect 7:**

The role of Current Affairs in Civil Services has tremendously increased, in all the subjects of General Studies like Economy, Polity, Science and Technology, International Relations, Environment, etc.

Need: Knowledge of Current Affairs

Inadequate Solution: Monthly Magazines available in the Market.

#### Why Inadequate?

- → All magazines are monthly: This means that you get to know about the event after more than one month and students are unable to match the pace with newspaper and other media.
- Not suitable for Civil Services: Events are not analyzed as these magazines also cater to the one day exams and hence they provide only factual information's.
- Too much to read in one go: A student is suddenly burdened to cover too many events in a short time which leads to stress.

#### Solution to all the above three issues is PERFECT 7 Magazine by Dhyeya IAS.

- real time.
- 🖝 Detailed Analysis of every event: Civil Services demands a deeper understanding of events, concepts and its analyses and not just know the event and its date.
- Easy to study: Since the magazine is fortnightly, a student is saved from Information overload and can relate with the newspaper, TV and other media coverages with a profound understanding of the current happenings.

#### Features of PERFECT 7

Important conditions for an IAS/PCS centered magazine		PERFECT 7	OTHERS
• Fortnightly	Hindi	✓	x
	English	✓	×
Civil Services Exam centered	Hindi	✓	*
	English	✓	*
<ul> <li>Micro-Analysis of current issues</li> <li>&amp; not a mere compilation of facts</li> </ul>	Hindi	✓	*
	English	✓	*
Brain boosters for important issues	Hindi	✓	×
	English	✓	x
Multiple choice questions & their solution based on brain boosters	Hindi	✓	x
	English	✓	×
Case studies with model answers for Ethics	Hindi	✓	x
	English	✓	x
<ul> <li>Explanation of important theories through pictures &amp; graphics.</li> </ul>	Hindi	✓	×
	English	✓	x

(\* some institutes)

#### **Annual Subscription Fee along with Courier Charges:**

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Price After 25% Discount	Rs 810
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Total Charges:	Rs 1530

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#### AN INTRODUCTION



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

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

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

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

We feel that despite brilliance and diligence, most of the students are lacking proper guidance and aptitude needed to clear Civil Services Examination. This is why, we at Dhyeya IAS amalgamated the traditional as well as modern approach of teaching by incorporating best educators of the industry ably supported by Academic Associates, Class Notes and printed Study Material, routine as well as surprise Tests. Due to its arduous efforts, Dhyeya IAS is able to carve a niche among all the civil services coaching institutes in India. Access to an institution is as important as the quality of Institution. Our faith in this philosophy made us grow. With 12 Face to Face Centers located in different parts in India, Distance Learning Program, Live Streaming Centers and Residential Academy, we have made truly pan India presence. Ever since the foundation the institute has produced a heavy pool of bureaucrats both at central and state level. Dhyeya IAS not only aims at imparting the content of civil services in best way but also nurturing the aspirants as leaders of tomorrow who have a responsibility of fulfilling the dreams of around 1.4 billion Indians. Dhyeya IAS has guided over 50,000 aspirants with more than 4500 selections in civil services. Our journey is a small contribution for the development of the society and nation by nurturing the potential civil services aspirants.

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

₹45

For feedback write to us at :perfect7magazine@gmail.com









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