

PERFECT 7

**Weekly
Current Affairs**

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



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An Overview

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Need Equal treatment | 5 Deepening India-South Korea
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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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 and create path that are good not only for them, but also for the society, for the nation, and for the world as whole. To fulfill its mission in new and powerful ways, each student is motivated to strive towards achieving excellence in every endeavor. It is done by making continuous improvements in curricula and pedagogical tools.

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

Dhyeya IAS is an institution that aims at the complete development of the student. Our faculty are hand-picked and highly qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multi-disciplinary 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.

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

With immense pleasure I would like to inform you that the new version of 'Perfect 7', from the Dhyeya IAS, is coming with more information in a very attractive manner. Heartily congratulations to the editorial team. The 'Perfect 7' invites a wider readership in the Institute. The name and fame of an institute depends on the caliber and achievements of the students and teachers. The role of the teacher is to nurture the skills and talents of the students as a facilitator. This magazine is going to showcase the strength of our Institute. Let this be a forum to exhibit the potential of faculties, eminent writers, authors and students with their literary skills and innovative ideas.

Please do visit our website www.dhyeyaias.com and our youtube channel for regular and updated information on current affairs.



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

We have not only given the name 'Perfect 7' to our magazine, but also left no stone unturned to keep it 'near to perfect'. We all know that beginning of a task is most vital and full of challenges. So we met the same fate.

Publishing 'Perfect 7' provided us various challenges because from the beginning itself we kept our bar too high to ensure the quality. Right from the very first issue we had a daunting task to save aspirants from the 'misinformation' or 'overdose of information'. Focussing on civil services examination 'Perfect 7' embodies in itself perfect friend and guide in your preparation. This weapon is built to be precise yet comprehensive. It is not about bombardment of mindless facts, rather an analysis of various facets of the issues, selected in a systematic manner. We adopted the 'Multi Filter' and 'Six Sigma' approach, in which a subject or an issue is selected after diligent discussion on various levels so that the questions in the examination could be covered with high probability.

Being a weekly magazine there is a constant challenge to provide qualitative study material in a time bound approach. It is our humble achievement that we feel proud to make delivered our promise of quality consistently without missing any issue since its inception.

Your suggestions and popular demands always motivate us and keep our morale high.

May this version of 'Perfect 7' instill a new energy and a new spirit in you. We wish that the bond of affection between you and Dhyeya IAS reaches at a new height.



Send us your suggestions, comment, views and feedback for guiding us on

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PREFACE



Dhyeya family has decided to bring a new colourful and vibrant version of **'Perfect 7'** – a panacea for current affairs, which will add positive and dynamic energy in your preparation.

'Perfect7' is an outstanding compilation of current affairs topics as per the new pattern of Civil Services Examination (CSE). It presents weekly analysis of information and issues (national and international) in the form of Articles, News Analysis, Brain Boosters, PIB Highlights and Graphical Information, which helps to understand and retain the information comprehensively. Hence, **'Perfect 7'** will build in-depth understanding of various issues in different facets.

'Perfect7' is our genuine effort to provide correct, concise and concrete information, which helps students to crack the CSE. This magazine is the result of the efforts of the eminent scholars and the experts from different fields. **'Perfect 7'** is surely a force multiplier in your effort and plugs the loopholes in the preparation.

We believe in environment of continuous improvement and learning. Your constructive suggestions and comments are always welcome, which could guide us in further revision of this magazine.

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

As a proud jewel of Dhyeya IAS, **'Perfect 7'** now comes in a new coloured avatar. **'Perfect 7'** is a quintessential part of your preparation strategy for Civil Services Examination. A regular and manageable dose of current affairs will now reach you in new format, making it more reader friendly. Our humble attempt to serve you is surely rewarded by your appreciations. It encourages us to innovate and provide the best as per our ability.

A dedicated team of experts at Dhyeya IAS toils night and day to make your dream of Civil Services come true. I heartily thank and express my gratitude to the esteemed readers and all the people involved in making this magazine a shining star in the galaxy of Dhyeya IAS.

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7

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An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01

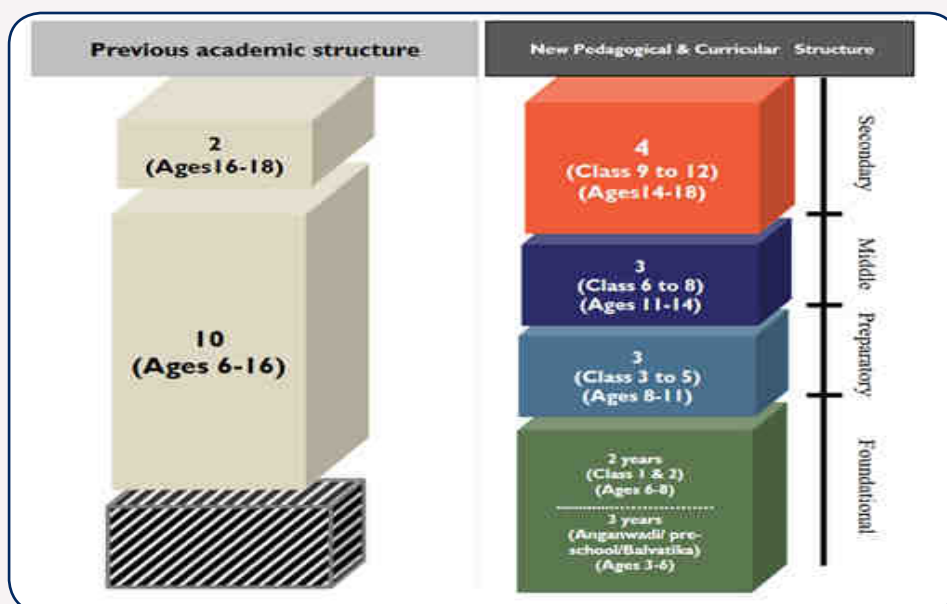
National Education Policy 2020 : An Overview

Why in News?

- ♦ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The new policy aims to pave way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country. This policy will replace the 34 year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986.

Introduction

- ♦ 'Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy' under the Chairmanship of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary, submitted its report in May 2016, based on which Ministry prepared 'Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016'.
- ♦ 'Committee for the Draft National Education Policy' was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan in June 2017, which submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019.
 - ♦ This draft was made public and opened for feedback after the Lok Sabha election in May 2019.
- ♦ NEP 2020 has been formulated after the process of consultation that involved nearly over 2 lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakhs Gram Panchayats, 6600 Blocks, 6000 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), 676 Districts.
- ♦ The NEP proposes sweeping changes including opening up of Indian higher education to foreign universities, dismantling of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), introduction of a four-year multidisciplinary undergraduate programme with multiple exit options, and discontinuation of the M Phil programme.
- ♦ In school education, the policy focuses on overhauling the curriculum, "easier" Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain "core essentials" and thrust on "experiential learning and critical thinking".
- ♦ The NEP only provides a broad direction and is not mandatory to follow. Since education is a concurrent subject (both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and



the states. This will not happen immediately. The incumbent government has set a target of 2040 to implement the entire policy. Sufficient funding is also crucial; the 1968 NEP was hamstrung by a shortage of funds.

Highlights of NEP, 2020

School Education

- ◆ New Policy aims for universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
- ◆ NEP 2020 will bring 2 crore out of school children back into the main stream through open schooling system.
- ◆ The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child. The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.
- ◆ Emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools; vocational education to start from Class 6 with internships.
- ◆ Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/ regional language. No language will be imposed on any student.
- ◆ Assessment reforms with 360 degree holistic progress card, tracking student progress for achieving learning outcomes.
- ◆ A new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body.
- ◆ A 'National Book Promotion Policy' is to be formulated.
- ◆ Reduction in curricular content to enhance essential learning and critical thinking.
- ◆ Greater focus on experiential learning.
- ◆ Students will have increased flexibility and choice of subjects.

- ◆ There will be no rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extracurricular activities, between vocational and academic streams.
- ◆ Vocational education will also start in schools from the 6th grade, and will include internships.
- ◆ All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority.
- ◆ Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim.
- ◆ NCERT will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8.
- ◆ A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021, will be formulated by the NCTE in consultation with NCERT. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.

Higher Education

- ◆ Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50 % by 2035; 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education.
- ◆ The policy envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification. UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period.



- ◆ Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate transfer of credits
- ◆ Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
- ◆ The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.
- ◆ Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education.
- ◆ HECI will have four independent regulators-
 - ◆ National Higher education regulatory council (NHERC) for regulation;
 - ◆ General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting;
 - ◆ Higher education Grants Council for funding; and
 - ◆ National Accreditation Council for accreditation.
- ◆ Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
- ◆ The definition of University will allow a spectrum of institutions that range from Research-intensive universities to Teaching intensive Universities and Autonomous degree granting colleges.

Others

- ◆ An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum

(NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.

- ◆ New Policy promotes multilingualism in both schools and higher education. National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up.
- ◆ The policy calls for the setting up of a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
- ◆ The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in education sector to reach 6% of gross domestic product (GDP) at the earliest.

Equitable and Inclusive Education

- ◆ Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which include gender, socio-cultural, and geographical identities and disabilities.
- ◆ The policy also includes setting up of a 'Gender Inclusion Fund' and also 'Special Education Zones' for disadvantaged regions and groups.
- ◆ Children with disabilities will be enabled to fully participate in the regular schooling process.
- ◆ Every state/district will be encouraged to establish 'BalBhavans' as a special daytime boarding school, to participate in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities.
- ◆ Free school infrastructure can be used as 'Samajik Chetna Kendras'.

Way Forward

- ◆ As the government Wednesday replaced a 34-year-old National Policy on Education, framed in 1986, with the New Education Policy of 2020. The NEP, approved by the union cabinet, makes sweeping reforms in school and higher education including teaching. Some of the biggest highlights of the NEP 2020 are, 1) a single regulator for higher education institutions, 2) multiple entry and exit options in degree courses, 3) discontinuation of MPhil programmes, 4) low stakes board exams, 5) common entrance exams for universities.
- ◆ The new era calls for new capabilities, but all remains in implementation. India has abundance of good policies on paper and a track record of half hearted implementation leading to chaos. Educational policies are beyond the scope of single government. It must be out of political slugfest and implemented uniformly across decades to achieve the desired result.



General Studies Paper- 2

Topic:

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Q. The new National Education Policy 2020 will bring transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country. Explain.

02

Rights of the Disabled : Need Equal treatment

Why in News?

- ◆ In a significant judgment for persons with disabilities, the Supreme Court on 8th July, 2020 in the case of Aryan Raj Vs. Chandigarh Administration held that people suffering from disabilities are also socially backward, and are therefore, at the very least, entitled to the same benefits of relaxation as given to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) / Scheduled Tribes (STs) in public employment and education.
- ◆ A three-judge Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman upheld a 2012 judgment of the Delhi High Court in Anamol Bhandari (minor) through his father/Natural Guardian v. Delhi Technological University in a significant decision.

Background

- ◆ Disability is a concept which is understood and interpreted by various social thinkers, social workers and jurists keeping in mind the inherent philosophy of the term in its actual sense.
- ◆ Though the term “disability” carries with it the assumption of a lack or deficiency whether physical, mental or sensory in respect of some people but there are lots of examples that sometimes these people proved themselves as differently-abled person by their intellectuality or positive attitudes and outlook towards life.
- ◆ The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and

dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. In the recent years, there have been vast and positive changes in the perception of the society towards persons with disabilities. It has been realized that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

- ◆ The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment facilitates empowerment of the persons with disabilities (PWD), who as per Census 2011 are 2.68 crore and are 2.21 percent of the total population of the Country. These include persons with Visual, Hearing, Speech & Locomotive disability, Mental Retardation, Mental Illness, Multiple Disability and any other disabilities.
- ◆ The Department administers the following Acts and policies:-
 - ◆ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016;
 - ◆ The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999;
 - ◆ Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992; and
 - ◆ The Government of India formulated the National Policy

for Persons with Disabilities in February 2006 which deals with Physical, Educational & Economic Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. In addition the policy also focuses upon rehabilitation of women and children with disabilities, barrier free environment, social security, research etc.

- ◆ Some of the schemes for the disabled people are:
 - ◆ Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS);
 - ◆ Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances;
 - ◆ Home Skill Development of PWD;
 - ◆ Accessible India Campaign;
 - ◆ National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities (RGMF);
 - ◆ Schemes of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, etc.

Reservation in PSUs

- ◆ A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has granted relief to PWD across the country by allowing reservation in promotion in all groups for those employed in public sector jobs in January 2020.
- ◆ The judgment confirms a 2016 verdict of the top court in Rajeev Kumar Gupta's case that granted reservation in promotion to disabled persons employed in

Groups A and B in addition to Groups C and D categories in the public sector.

- ♦ The 2016 judgment had held that wherever posts were identified to be suitable for persons with disabilities, 3% reservation must be given.
- ♦ Justice Nariman has pointed that the Sawhney judgment only pertained to the Backward Classes. It has no relevance in the case of PWDs.
- ♦ The Constitution only prohibits preferential treatment on the basis of caste or religion. Here, reservation is contemplated for disabled persons.
- ♦ Similarly, the top court said, "A perusal of Indra Sawhney would reveal that the ceiling of 50% reservation applies only to reservation in favour of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) under Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India whereas the reservation in favour of persons with disabilities is horizontal, which is under Article 16(1) of the Constitution."

- ♦ Justice Nariman pointed to how the 1995 law emphasises that "employment is a key factor in the empowerment and inclusion of people with disabilities".
- ♦ This means the cap of 50% reservation applies only for the Backward Classes (SCs, STs, and OBCs) and shall not apply in granting reservation to PWDs.

International Legal Framework

- ♦ In order to ensure all the rights of persons with disabilities, the United Nation convened a conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, during which UNCRPD included 50 articles of different aspects of disability related issues, which was reaffirmed by the 160 member states including India in the year 2007.
- ♦ UNCRPD is based on eight principals:
 - ♦ Non-discriminatory treatment of persons with disabilities;

- ♦ Full participation and involvement of persons with disabilities in society;
- ♦ Freedom of persons with disabilities and disabled persons towards their inherent dignity and personal autonomy;
- ♦ Respect for the difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of humanity and diversity;
- ♦ Equality of opportunity;
- ♦ Accessibility;
- ♦ Equality between man and woman; and
- ♦ Respect for the rights of special children for the development and identification of children with disabilities.

Disability Act, 2016

- ♦ Keeping in view the principles of the United Nations Conference 2006, a new Act was passed while making necessary amendments in the provisions of the Act 1995.
- ♦ The Right of the Person with Disability, Act of 2016 came into effect from 15 June 2017.
- ♦ Section 102 of this Act speaks of cancellation of comprehensive law in that it means that the Act of 1995.
- ♦ The proposal of this Act clearly states that its purpose is to maintain the dignity of every person in the society and prevent any kind of discrimination. It speaks about the acceptance of people with any type of disability and ensures their full participation in such persons and society.



- ◆ Since India is the signatory of the Conference on the rights of people with disabilities of the United Nations General Assembly, such a domestic law for India was in fact mandatory.
- ◆ Some important features of this act:
 - ◆ Classification of persons with disabilities-
 - persons with disability;
 - persons with benchmark disability; and
 - persons with disability having high support needs.
- ◆ A complete definition has been provided including 21 types of specific disability.
- ◆ Most of the liability under this Act has been put on appropriate government and local authorities. With this (some private sector) establishments, some obligations have also been imposed.
- ◆ The Act prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities unless it can be shown that the act of discrimination was a proportional means of obtaining legitimate objectives.
- ◆ The government is entitled to facilitate the rights of disabled people. Therefore, it is the duty of the government to make

necessary laws, rules and plans and strictly enforce them for the convenience of the disabled people; the onus has been placed on the government.

- ◆ All establishments (including the private sector) need to frame and publish the same opportunity policy.
- ◆ Additional benefits such as rights for free education (between the ages of 6 to 18 years), reservation in education, government jobs, land allocation, poverty alleviation schemes etc. have been made available to people with benchmark disability.
- ◆ Reservations in government vacancies establishments have been increased from 3% to 4% for the persons with disability.
- ◆ In order to ensure speedy trial, provision of special courts has been made in each district to handle matters related to violation of rights of persons with disabilities.

Conclusion

- ◆ The Constitution of India is the protector of equality, freedom, justice, and dignity for all of us citizens and it emphasizes equality of the Divyang in society. In the

current years, the attitude of the society towards the disabled has changed rapidly. It is also true that if disabled persons get equal opportunities and effective rehabilitation then they can lead a better quality of life. 🔄🔄🔄

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Topic:

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Q. "The persons suffering from disabilities are also socially backward and entitled to the same benefits of relaxation as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates in public employment and education." Elaborate.

03

COVID's March in Rural India

Why in News?

- ◆ The country-wide lockdown imposed in an attempt to halt the advance of coronavirus, has ruined the livelihoods of millions of migrants, mostly daily wage earners, setting off India's biggest migration since Independence. Many of them have made that journey—from workplaces in cities to their homes in villages—in packed buses and trains, making a mockery of social distancing norms out of desperation.
- ◆ The COVID-19 pandemic presents a special challenge due to inadequate testing and isolation facilities in rural India.



Background

- ◆ An exodus of migrant workers to their village homes has triggered a new wave of infections in places that have been relatively untouched by the coronavirus until now.
- ◆ Rural areas have emerged as the new flashpoint in India's fight against the virus, despite a government panel cautioning states about the need to strengthen health systems in villages in anticipation of a surge in caseload.
- ◆ According to health experts, the rise in the number of cases is largely due to poor health infrastructure in rural areas. Another reason is the returning migrant workers, many of whom did not undergo medical screening or were asymptomatic.
- ◆ Rural population (% of total population) in India was reported at 65.97 % in 2018, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources.
- ◆ According to the national census, migrant workers comprised 48% of residents in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru in 2011. Most of them came from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.
- ◆ When all modes of public transport were suspended, urban migrants started walking barefoot.
- ◆ After many cities lurched under its calamitous impact, the novel coronavirus has unearthed a new potential host in rural area, due to movement the trend reversal started.
- ◆ The rural areas of many districts are now reporting an exposure to virus resulting in growing cases.
- ◆ The World Health Organization's chief scientist, Soumya Swaminathan, has also expressed her concern, stating that rural India is the next coronavirus hotbed.
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Odisha and Jharkhand, that are now witnessing a heavy spike in the number of cases, are the states that have received the highest influx of migrants.
- ◆ Nearly 6.7 million migrants returned to 116 districts in six states from urban centers, according to preliminary data compiled by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ◆ Bihar topped the six states, with 2.36 million migrants returning to 32 districts, followed by Uttar Pradesh, with 1.748 million returning to 31 districts.

Concerns

♦ Rural Healthcare Infrastructure

- ♦ The public healthcare infrastructure is dismal in rural India, characterized by a chronic non-availability of medical professionals including doctors, nursing staff, paramedics as well as medical infrastructure like hospitals, emergency services, medical devices, ambulance etc.
- ♦ Absence of adequate testing and isolation facilities in rural India.
- ♦ Pre-existence of chronic diseases (for instance diabetes, hypertension etc.), infectious diseases (tuberculosis, diarrhea etc.) and malnutrition along with adulteration in rural areas.
- ♦ Medical facility is far away from rural remote areas.

♦ Lack of Awareness

- ♦ It has been observed that people of rural area are not aware with the severity caused by COVID-19 which is resulting into ignorance of guidelines and violation of social distancing.

♦ Lack of Essential Commodities and Services

- ♦ Rural area has always been a step backward in respect of commodities and services.
- ♦ Food and essentials are must for survival which needs to be focused on priority so that poor people don't fall into hunger and chaotic situation.

♦ Employment Woes

- ♦ Due to lack of job availability and security labours after

migration are now crawling to nearby urban setup in search of job and livelihood which is a growing concern in perspective of COVID-19.

♦ Demography

- ♦ According to the Census of India, rural populations are comparatively older, placing them at a higher risk of contracting the COVID-19 infection.
- ♦ They also live much farther from hospitals than their urban or suburban counterparts and a majority of them list access to good medical care as a major community problem.

♦ Local Festivals and Rituals

- ♦ This particularly does not only linked with rural India but India as whole. Tobacco and Pan Masala chewing is yet another concern which can play the role of catalyst in spread of COVID-19.
- ♦ India is vibrant in cultural aspect and festive rituals like local fairs, post-eclipse bath, local markets, cattle fairs etc. are deep rooted in people which need attention because if timely sanctions are not levied then it may collapse the social distancing norms.

♦ Saviors under Threat

- ♦ Asha workers have assisted in contact tracing and community level surveillance. They not only identified persons with symptoms, but also regularly followed up on their health

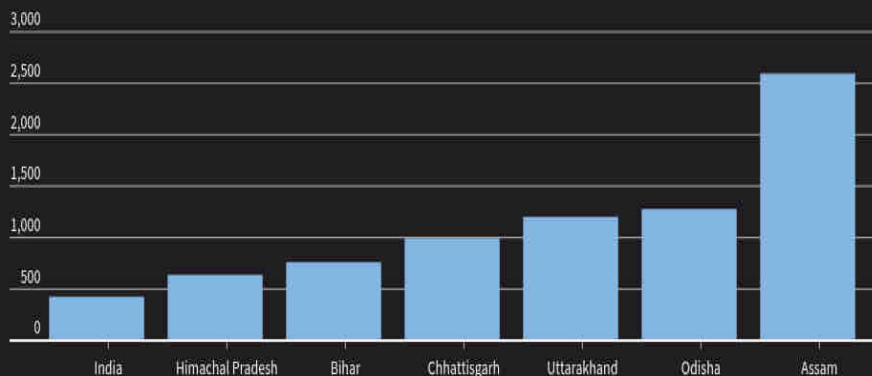
status. They have facilitated sample collection from returnees who were found to be COVID-19 positive and were referred to Covid health care services. This way, Asha workers also got infected and started spreading the virus. It was due to lack of personal protection equipment (PPE) availability and other sanitizing methods being unavailable.

Mitigation Steps

- ♦ Pre-planning and a decentralized administration, with effective decision-making and implementation powers placed in the hands of the Panchayats is necessary.
- ♦ National Health Mission, which seeks to provide effective health care to the rural population, needs to be strengthened.
- ♦ The pandemic presents an opportunity to realise the true potential of the existing National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and its associated budget allocation.
- ♦ The challenge becomes even more serious when some of the basic sanitation indicators in rural areas are scrutinised. More than 60 per cent households in rural areas of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha do not have access to water and soap. This need urgent attention as soon as possible.
- ♦ Focus should be given on accessibility of rural primary health centers (PHC) / rural hospitals and community health centers (CHC).

India COVID-19 cases rise as migrants return home

Percentage rise in cases from April 30 to May 30



States home to large numbers of returning migrants have seen a sharper percentage rise in cases
Source- Maharashtra Medical Education and Drugs Department Reports
NR Sethuraman | REUTERS GRAPHICS

- ◆ The spread in rural India could be disastrous. More than a vaccine, Indian population needs to be made aware of the dangers and need to follow social distancing norms and lockdown guidelines along with hygiene related norms. Fighting a pandemic is not just a government-only job, the people have more than equal part in this as their own health and life is at stake. Taking precautions and ducking the virus is more favorable than undergoing a treatment and risking a life.



- ◆ The gram panchayats should be equipped with measures for handling breakouts. Quarantine centers need to be established and managed efficiently, private and local doctors should be trained for COVID-19 handling and management.
- ◆ Awareness should be increased via an accredited social health activist (ASHA) workers and panchayats.
- ◆ Quarantine centers can be setup at low cost just outside the village as villages are in close proximity and surrounded by vast open fields.
- ◆ Proper hygiene and sanitation work in distress areas should be carried out at war level.

Way Forward

- ◆ As India gets ready to open up more of the economy, with restrictions such as those on malls and cinema halls likely to remain in force for some more time, the geography of the COVID-19 infections is changing quite rapidly. There is no alternative to opening the economy, but it has implications in terms of where India needs to ramp up medical infrastructure.
- ◆ The number of COVID-19 cases recorded per day in India may surge to 2.87 lakh by early 2021 if a vaccine or treatment isn't developed soon, researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) warned in a recent study.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Topic:

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Q. Discuss the steps to stall COVID's march in rural India.

04

China-Iran Relations and India's Concerns

Why in News?

- ◆ China and Iran are close to sealing an ambitious deal on an economic and security partnership, a move that has caught the attention of policymakers in India and across the world.
- ◆ The deal would make way for about \$400 billion worth of Chinese investments into Iran's key sectors, such as energy and infrastructure, over the next 25 years.
 - ◆ The deal is yet to be approved the Majles, Iran's parliament.

Background

- ◆ It seems that China has found a new partner in the form of Iran — so much so that the two countries have drafted an extremely important economic and security partnership agreement that may pave the way for billions of dollars of Chinese investments to flow into the energy sector and other industries within Iran. This would undermine the efforts of US President Donald Trump to impose isolation on the Iranian government because of its nuclear and military ambitions.
- ◆ The deal is reported to have been first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his 2016 visit to Tehran, and the proposed draft was approved by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in July 2020.
- ◆ Under the agreement, titled "Comprehensive Strategic

Partnership between Iran and China," China is supposed to receive preferential access to various sectors of the Iranian economy. However, according to the recently leaked documents, the pact, once enforced, is set to go further than economic cooperation and instead include unprecedented collaborations in transport and logistics in Iran's southern ports and islands, as well as the country's defense and security sectors.

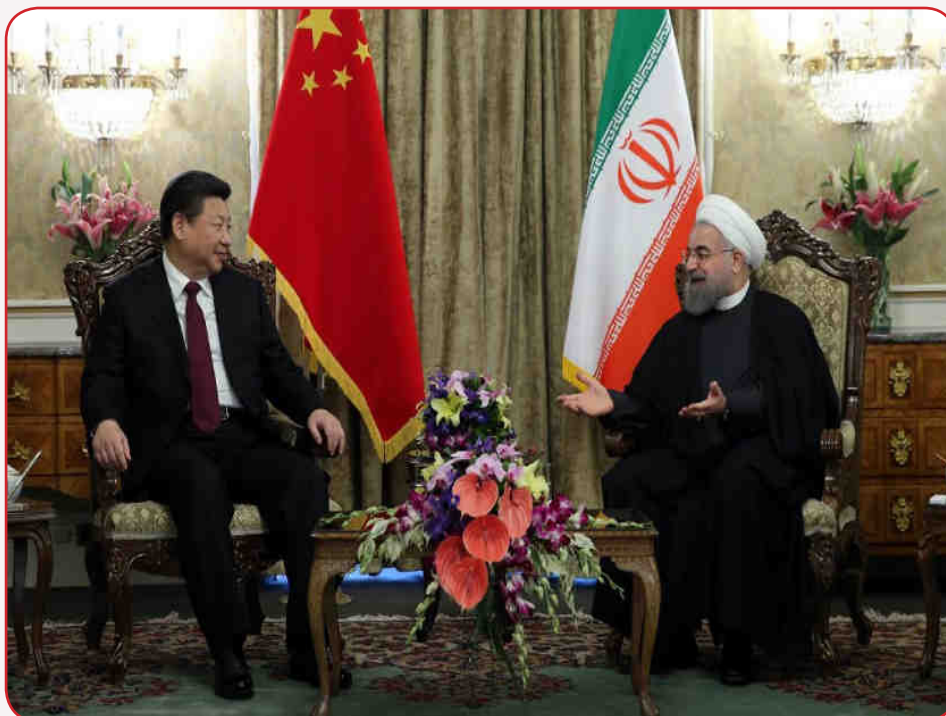
- ◆ The partnership would entail trade, investment, military cooperation and possibly Chinese military bases.
- ◆ The negotiations on the 25-year roadmap picked up pace in the wake of the US's "maximum pressure", the manifest failure of European signatories to fulfil their economic commitments and the US-China trade war. Tehran has been zealously framing its partnership with China and also Russia as aimed at countering the American "unilateralist" threat and creating a post-West world order.
- ◆ Iran and China both view this deal as a strategic partnership in not just expanding their own interests but confronting the US.
- ◆ Also the agreement comes at a time when China has dropped all restraint for a new "wolf-warrior" diplomacy aimed at cementing its dominance while the world struggles with a debilitating pandemic.

About the Deal

- ◆ Expanding Chinese presence in Iran's banking, telecommunications, ports, railways and dozens of other projects.
- ◆ There are nearly 100 projects cited in the document that would have Chinese investments, and are expected to be a part of Xi's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to extend China's strategic influence across Eurasia.
- ◆ China would also develop free-trade zones in Maku, in northwestern Iran; in Abadan, where the Shatt al-Arab river flows into the Persian Gulf, and on the gulf island Qeshm
- ◆ In return, Iran is to provide regular and "heavily discounted" supply of oil to China for 25 years.
- ◆ Deepening military cooperation, with joint training and exercises, joint research and weapons development and intelligence sharing which is meant to fight the lopsided battle with terrorism, drug and human trafficking and cross-border crimes.
- ◆ The draft agreement also talks about China building infrastructure for 5G telecommunications network in Iran. This would see Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei — enter the Iranian market.
- ◆ Chinese global positioning system 'BeiDou' is also proposed to assist Iran's cyber authorities in regulating what is shared in the country's cyberspace, potentially paving the way for Iran to develop a China-like "great firewall".

Concerns for India

- ◆ Growing Iran-China relationship is a reason for worry and changing strategic landscape. It points to growing Chinese dominance in alignment with Pakistan which threatens its relations with Afghanistan.
- ◆ China-backed Pakistan-Iran-Taliban alignment emerging in India's immediate neighbourhood is also a reason for Indian concern.
- ◆ Growing Chinese footsteps in Iran will have a long-lasting impact on India's relationship with not only Iran but also on Afghanistan and Central Asian nations.
- ◆ A new port at Jask at the mouth of the Hormuz Strait affects India too. If the port is to be operated by China just as Gwadar on the Pakistani coast nearby, then Chinese naval presence in the western reaches of the Indian Ocean would become significant. India's maritime security would be at further risk.
- ◆ Like India, it has also in parallel cultivated closer relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which are currently bigger suppliers of oil and gas to China than Iran is.
- ◆ India finds itself caught in the geopolitical rivalry between the US & China over Iran. While India got a waiver from US sanctions for development of the port — on the grounds that it will help access Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan — it is still not clear whether railway and other projects are exempt from sanctions.



Chabahar Port and Indian Interests

- ◆ The Chabahar port project, often scene as India's strategic magnum opus in Iran, is also envisaged as a bridge between India, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia. The port itself is often seen as a counter-balance to Gwadar in Pakistan, which was built and run by China as part of its China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) design.
- ◆ Now, Iran has not shied away by leveraging both China and Pakistan as potential investors for the Chabahar Special Economic Zone, challenging Indian public narratives of Chabahar seemingly being an India-exclusive project.
- ◆ With Chabahar being one of the few international trade routes operational for the Afghan economy, sanctioning India from building upon and operating it would have been too myopic even for the Trump administration and thus created ground for China to occupy the strategic vacuum in the Middle-East geopolitics.

- ◆ This 25-year agreement is being linked to reports that Iran has decided to undertake the construction of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line to the border with Afghanistan on its own because India continues to delay its implementation of the project. The project has not been handed over to China — at least not yet — so the “India loses, China wins” narrative is premature.

Implication on Middle-East Geopolitics

- ◆ China imports 10 million barrels of oil per day to meet its industrial needs and Iran could potentially meet most its demand. The economic clause in the Sino-Iranian agreement means that the steady supply of oil at a fixed price means a lot to China, but it contradicts the policy of the US, which is seeking to achieve Iran's collapse in its domestic arena under a suffocating economic embargo.



China-Iran Relations and India's Concern

- ◆ For decades now, the US forces have dominated the Middle East's security paradigm, but this agreement could now provide China with a foothold in the region.
- ◆ China might militarise strategic ports at some point.
- ◆ In the proposed draft, China is planning to build several ports in Iran, one of them at Jask, just outside the Gulf of Hormuz, which is the entrance to the Persian Gulf.
- ◆ The Gulf of Hormuz is among the nine key maritime chokepoints across the world. All of these
- chokepoints are controlled by the US, which many security analysts believe is a marker of US strategic hegemony over the world.
- ◆ A Chinese port at Jask would give the Chinese a strategic vantage point on the waters through which much of the world's oil transits.
- ◆ The passage is of critical strategic importance to the US, whose Navy's Fifth Fleet is headquartered in Bahrain in the Gulf.
- ◆ China has also emerged as a major arms supplier to the Arab states and has conducted naval

exercises with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It continues to have a strong relationship with Israel.

Way Forward

- ◆ Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic coupled with severe US sanctions, Iran is seeing a looming economic crisis which has led to a destruction of the livelihood of millions of Iranian people.
- ◆ China's billion-dollar deal is a breather for Iran's economy which is hard hit by Trump "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic nation.
- ◆ While acknowledging this changed regional geopolitical landscape, India should pursue its largely successful policy of maintaining positive relations with Iran, the Arab states and Israel, just as China has done and not use a Chinese prism through which to shape its policy. 🇮🇳🇨🇳🇮🇸

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- India and its neighborhood-relations.

Topic:

- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Q. Discuss how growing China-Iran strategic partnership can change geopolitics in the Middle East. Also discuss its implications on India.

05

Deepening India-South Korea Ties

Why in News?

- ♦ India and South Korea have signed numerous bilateral agreements with the aim of taking their ties to the next level. However, the economic partnership is struck at \$22 billion annually, and their defence partnership appears to have receded from great all-round promise to the mere sale and purchase of weapon systems.
- ♦ At the heart of this bilateral stasis is the fact that, despite the best efforts of many well-intended leaders, Indians and South Koreans are failing to touch a mutually meaningful chord of empathy and move closer to each other as people.

Background

- ♦ As middle-power democracies in Asia where there are growing and the collective threat from authoritarian China, democracy building and cooperation can be a critical platform.
- ♦ A regional hegemony is already pushing hard into the ambit of the Indian Ocean. The sooner ties are renewed the better it would be for all Asian democracies.
- ♦ The region, which is already experiencing the evolution of a democratic bloc in the name of Indo-Pacific quadrilateral involving India, Japan, Australia, and the US, needs the support of other middle powers such as South Korea and Indonesia.

- ♦ As the balance of power in the region continues to shift fast, India and South Korea may need each other like never before, to protect their ways of life. Thus, there is a need for serious thinking and deliberation among the various stakeholders representing South Korea and India.
- ♦ In any international relationship, mutual respect regarding cultural values is the key to building a robust partnership between the two countries. Fundamental shortcoming of democracy in Asia is the lack of government-to-government cooperation on promoting democratic values and it is one of the most unexplored areas of cooperation to strengthen the relationship between India and South Korea.
- ♦ They share common values and have been seen above convergent interests in the region.

Evolution of Relationship

- ♦ Cultural Relations: India's Soft Power
 - ♦ One of the critical but largely unseen developments in the recent decades is the gradual recognition of deeper historical and civilisational bonds between the two friendly nations. Indeed, India and South Korea relations have a deep civilisational link dating back to several centuries.
 - ♦ According to "SamgukYusa" or "The Heritage History of the Three Kingdoms" written

in the 13th century, a Princess from Ayodhya (Suriratna) came to Korea, married King Kim-Suro, and became Queen Hur Hwang-ok in the year 48 AD. Many presidents in modern South Korea trace their ancestry to this royal couple.

- ♦ Korean Buddhist Monk Hyecho (704–787 CE) or Hong Jiao visited India from 723 to 729 AD and wrote travelogue "Pilgrimage to the five kingdoms of India" which gives a vivid account of Indian culture, politics & society. The travelogue was rediscovered in China in 1908 and was subsequently translated into different languages, including Hindi, under the aegis of UNESCO.
- ♦ Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore also composed a short but evocative poem – 'Lamp of the East' - in 1929 about Korea's glorious past and its promising bright future.
- ♦ At Eve of Korea's Independence
 - ♦ India played an important and positive role in Korean affairs after Korea's independence in 1945.
 - ♦ India's first foreign secretary, K P S Menon, served as Chairman of the nine-member United Nations (UN) Commission that was set up in 1947 to oversee elections in Korea and India played a crucial and decisive role.

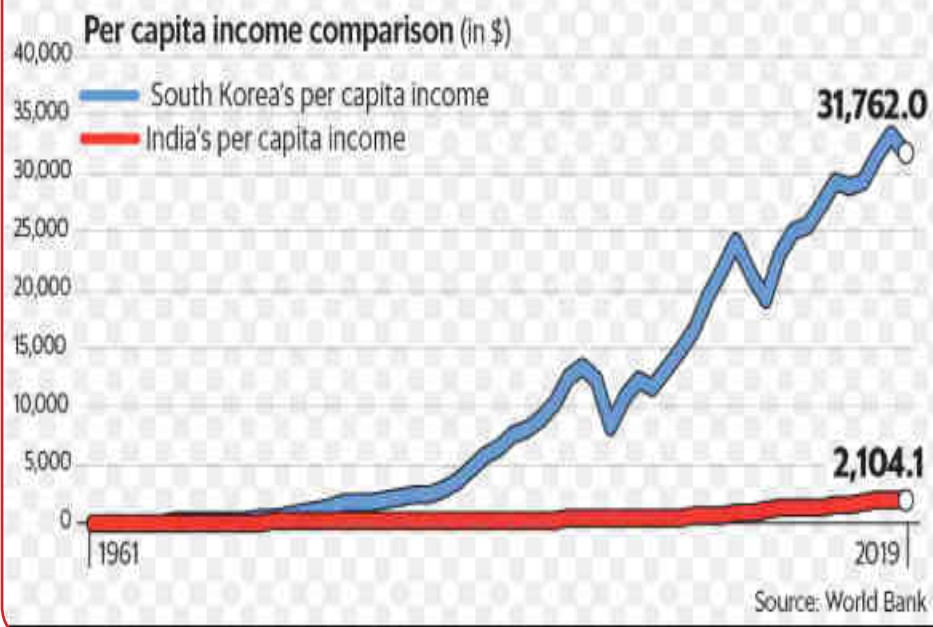
- ♦ The war parties accepted a UN resolution declared on 27 July 1953, sponsored by India calling for a ceasefire.
- ♦ Relations in Modern World
 - ♦ Bilateral relation started in 1962 as the two countries established consular relations and which was upgraded to ambassador-level in 1973. This caused a little impact limited to trade and commercial ties.
 - ♦ Look East Policy (LEP) in the 1990s failed to make any visible positive change in India-South Korea relations.
 - ♦ An important visit by the then Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam at a critical juncture to Seoul in February 2006 resulted in the launching of a Joint Task Force to conclude a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which was operationalised on 1st January 2010.
 - ♦ It led to the strategic partnership between the two countries, which later upgraded to 'special strategic partnership' in 2015.

India – South Korea: Ideological Convergence

- ♦ India and South Korea have emerged as natural partners to each other after the end of the Cold War. In subsequent years, economic, political and strategic relations of both countries have improved substantially. Both countries enjoy their close proximity with the US as well as share anxieties about the nuclear-missile technology exchanges between North Korea and Pakistan.

Trade miracle

In the early 1950s, South Korea and India had comparable per capita incomes. However, in the 1960s, South Korea switched to export-led policies, resulting in economic transformation and GDP growth of 8.97% per year from 1960 to 2000.



- ♦ India and South Korea have had exceptional convergence of their visions about the region. Both are concerned about the rise of an 'assertive China' but rather than overtly containing China, both would like to engage China in moderating its behaviour.
- ♦ Both countries want an open multipolar Asia in which interstate relations are institutionalized and cooperative security and prosperity are ensured for every country.
- ♦ On most of the political and security issues of the region, India and South Korea have similar stands and thus there has been a huge potential for cooperation between the two countries.
- ♦ The current phase of the bilateral relations between India and South Korea began with India

adopting its Look East Policy and starting liberalizing its economy in the early 1990s. South Korea, which has followed an export-led growth model, was looking for new destinations of its exports and South Korean businesses showed significant interests in a liberalized Indian market and resources.

Future of Relationship

- ♦ South Korea is way ahead in terms of technological advancement as it managed to attain a 'Tiger Economy' status in the 1970s, this transfer of technology can be highly beneficial to India.
- ♦ The US has put forth a proposal to include both India and South Korea in the G7 grouping so as to make the group more representative.

- ◆ The rising Chinese assertiveness is a cause of concern for both South Korea and India in the Indo Pacific region.
- ◆ The trade between two countries is around \$22 billion dollars which can easily be increased to \$50 considering the rising demand of Boycott Chinese goods in India. Major items of India's exports to Korea are mineral fuels/oil distillates (mainly naphtha), cereals, iron and steel. Korea's main export items are automobile parts, telecommunication equipment, hot rolled iron products, petroleum refined products, base lubricating oils, nuclear reactors, mechanical appliances, electrical machinery & parts and iron and steel products.
- ◆ India has been invited to play a constructive role on the Korean peninsula by South Korea and the joint statements between the leaders of both the countries in 2014, 2015 and 2018 mention it very clearly. More specifically, South Korea would like India to play an important role in the resolutions of the North Korean nuclear issue. India is one of the few countries which has sustained diplomatic relations with North Korea for decades and it has taken principled neutrality in the

inter-Korean relations from the very inception of the two Koreas on the Korean peninsula. Indian goodwill capital might be useful in constructive intervention in the intricate denuclearization issue of North Korea. Indian demography is very young which can support the ageing population of South Korea.

- ◆ Both India and South Korea can learn a lot from each other's culture as currently this is a domain where cooperation is not very strong.

Issues to Address

- ◆ South Korea still believes India to be a poor third world country.
- ◆ Indians know more about Chinese and Japanese Cultures but little about the South Korean cultures.
- ◆ This hinders the creation of empathy and trust among the citizens of two countries and sometimes the people even have to face racial discrimination.
- ◆ Within South Korea, the integration of Indians in the local population is far from complete.
- ◆ Whatever bilateral progress has been made, has not built sufficient momentum that people start building bridges in other areas.

Way Forward

- ◆ India and South Korea have undoubtedly deepened their

relations in the last three decades and it could be evaluated positively. However, it could also be added that by looking from the vantage point of a huge convergence between the two countries, their performance has been less than satisfactory.

- ◆ India and South Korea share the understanding that coordinated and cooperative roles of regional powers of the Northeast Asia, along with the US, are prerequisites to establishing peace, stability and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and it must be articulated sincerely.
- ◆ In addition, the current geopolitical scenario as the balance of power in the region continues to shift fast, calls for deepening relations between India and South Korea especially in aspects of technology, strategic, energy and cultural partnership, becomes necessary to answer.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Q. India and South Korea have undoubtedly deepened their relations in the last three decades and it could be evaluated positively. However, their performance has been less than satisfactory. Comment.

06

Escalating Conflict between China and the United States

Context

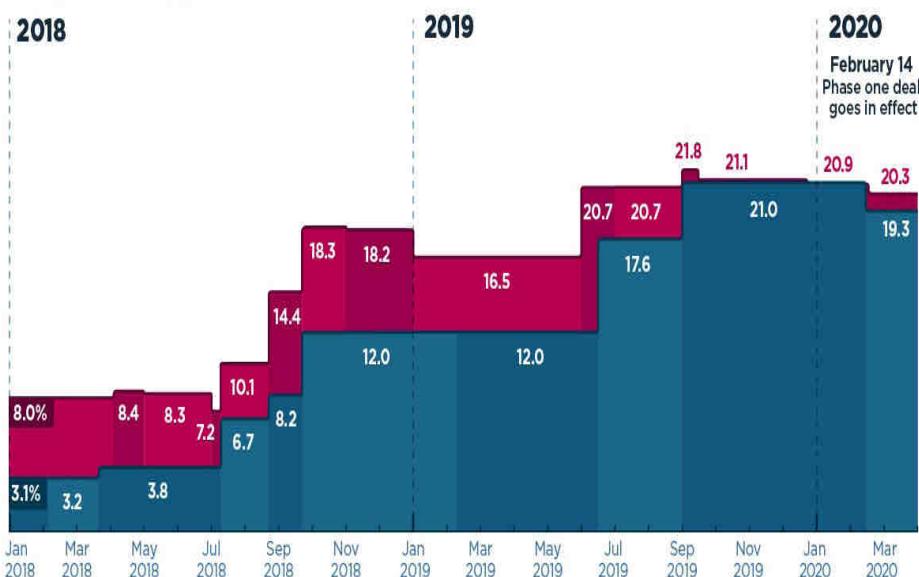
- ◆ Tensions have been rising between the United States (US) and China for some time. President Donald Trump's administration has clashed repeatedly with Beijing over trade and the coronavirus pandemic, as well as China's imposition of a controversial new security law on Hong Kong.
- ◆ The US government has abruptly ordered China to "cease all operations and events" at its consulate in Houston, Texas. In retaliation, the US consulate in the Chinese city of Chengdu was officially closed. The Chinese government gave the Americans the same 72-hour time frame to close their Chengdu mission as Beijing had been given in Houston.
- ◆ The clash between Washington and Beijing could be the start of a new ideological confrontation—or the inevitable fallout from a power transition. World is seemingly looking towards a new cold war.

Background

- ◆ The rift between the US and China threatens to become a chasm. Barely a day passes without some tit-for-tat exchange of barbs, accusations, or actions designed to make life difficult for the other country or to trumpet the superiority of their respective political systems.
- ◆ The US has castigated China for the forced sterilization of Uyghur

US-China Trade War Tariffs: An Up-to-Date Chart

Average tariff rate, percent



women; lobbied Europe to ban Chinese security screening firm Nuctech; imposed visa restrictions on Chinese officials held responsible for Hong Kong's new national security law; and placed 90-day limits on work visas for Chinese journalists.

- ◆ In response, China's Foreign Ministry branded US criticism of its Uyghur policy as "baseless" while bluntly telling Washington to butt out of Hong Kong affairs. Beijing had earlier withdrawn the press credentials of journalists at three leading US newspapers and threatened to put American companies on a list of proscribed foreign entities.
- ◆ This rapid descent into conflict has taken many by surprise. For most of this century, Sino-US

competition was moderated by the need to work together on a range of global economic, financial, and geopolitical issues that mandated cooperation. But these cooperative impulses have almost entirely disappeared, exacerbated by recriminations over responsibility for the coronavirus pandemic, which has exposed the depth of their mutual mistrust.

- ◆ China has been engaged in sharp power practices against democracies around the world, and its decades of intellectual property theft from the West may have been the biggest illicit transfer of wealth in history. The White House released a China strategy in May, vowing to stop China's "trade secrets theft and economic espionage."

Cold War Returns

- ◆ There are six clear parallels with the Cold War.
 - ◆ First, US-China rivalry is between the world's two most powerful states, one a liberal democracy and the other avowedly communist.
 - ◆ Second, it is a system-wide contest for supremacy.
 - ◆ Third, it is about values as well as power.
 - ◆ Fourth, it will be a multidecade struggle for global ascendancy.
 - ◆ Fifth, a second geopolitical bifurcation of the world is likely.
 - ◆ Sixth, neither side wants a full-scale military confrontation.
- ◆ Although the new Cold War is playing out across the world, its geographic center of gravity is the Indo-Pacific, not Europe, because the epicentre of global commerce and trade has moved from the Atlantic to the Pacific, reflecting Asia's rise and Europe's decline.
- ◆ The US and China are both Pacific powers, so their rivalry will be felt most keenly in the Indo-Pacific, particularly at sea, where their interests collide and there are several potential triggers for military confrontation.
- ◆ Although a cold war is below the threshold of a major "hot" war, it could easily result in one unless carefully managed. Tensions between rising and incumbent powers often precede military conflict or an extended period of confrontation and instability.



Major Flashpoints

- ◆ **Coronavirus:** President Trump has repeatedly referred to COVID-19, the first cases of which were reported in Wuhan in late 2019, as the "China virus, Wuhan virus, and Kung Flu ". He has also alleged it originated from a Chinese laboratory, despite his own intelligence officers saying it "was not manmade or genetically modified". In response, Chinese officials have suggested that COVID-19 might have originated in the US, without evidence. US Justice Department accused Chinese hackers of attempting to steal information about American research on a virus vaccine.
- ◆ **Trade:** Mr Trump has long accused China of unfair trading practices and intellectual property theft, but in Beijing there is a perception that the US is trying to curb its rise as a global economic power. The US and China have engaged in a tit-for-tat
- tariff war since 2018 as a result of the dispute.
- ◆ **Hong Kong:** China's imposition of a sweeping new national security law in Hong Kong in June led the US to revoke the region's preferential economic treatment. Mr Trump has also signed a law to impose sanctions on officials who cracked down on rights. Beijing has accused the US of "gross interference" in its domestic affairs, promising it would retaliate.
- ◆ **5G- Controversy:** China has long been accused by successive US administrations of stealing American technology. White House has escalated the accusations by seeking an international blacklisting of Huawei, China's largest technology company, calling it a front for China's efforts to infiltrate the telecommunications infrastructure of other nations for strategic advantage. The company's chief technology officer,

MengWanzhou, has been detained in Canada since December 2018 on an extradition warrant to the US on fraud charges.

- ◆ **Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang:** US imposed sanctions on a number of Chinese officials, including a senior member of the Communist Party, over human rights abuses by China in the Xinjiang region against the country's largely Muslim Uighur minority. Beijing promised retaliation against American institutions and individuals it deemed guilty of "egregious" conduct in issues concerning Xinjiang.

India on US-China Cold War

- ◆ India is presenting itself as next best destination for US investment amidst cold war.
- ◆ Though India is focusing to remain neutral but the recent violent clash at Ladakh has made India to take some measures including banning Chinese Apps, Use of Chinese telecom technology, trade sanctions and active partnership with other nations to counter Chinese hegemony especially in Indo-Pacific are the developments deducting that India is sailing with the West.
- ◆ China's continued hostility and land grabbing tactics along with

continued support to Pakistan in UN and other areas has irked India. Despite the talks of harmony and better future, Chinese influence in India's neighbouring countries which has resulted in exclusion of India instead of inclusion has boiled down to a win-loose situation.

- ◆ India's stride towards tying friendship knot with the West has become a reality. Its aim of securing larger profile in the international organisations has moved a step forward. India's stand on the Cold War between the US and China is noticed and realised by the world.
- ◆ While India must pay close attention to the unfolding China debate in the US, it must also note the structural changes in American engagement with China over the last two decades.
- ◆ America's political and institutional sentiment in favour of rearranging the bilateral economic relationship with China, resisting Beijing's expansionism, and countering its influence in operations at home has gained steady ground. So has the idea of working with like-minded countries, especially large democracies, to balance China.
- ◆ China is India's neighbour and border incursions are frequent and threat of war is much real for India than for US. Also, since there is no military treaty, India is not assured whether US will aid India in case

of a war with China and Pakistan too chipping in. India cannot afford to depend US or any other world power for its defence on the basis of diplomacy alone. A pragmatic approach along with caution is the need of the hour.

- ◆ More multilateral ties await India, but India must stay wary of others agendas and safeguard its own interests in signing off various deals and accepting membership of alliances.

Way Forward

- ◆ In this new cold war, one of the world power contenders, China has a hostile history with India. A non-aligned approach in such a situation is a difficult choice. But, taking diametrically opposite approach to China can provoke war for India.
- ◆ While, US and China plays the game for world supremacy, India has to bid its time and build real capabilities on ground in the field of defence, manufacturing, economy and innovation.
- ◆ Diplomacy alone cannot save India from such a cold war scenario, only growth will.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

Q. In the era of new cold war between US and China, India cannot afford to depend US for its defence on the basis of diplomacy alone. A pragmatic approach along with caution is the need of the hour. Discuss.

07

India's Flood Management Plan : An Evaluation

Why in News?

- ◆ Flooding in the several states of India like Bihar, Assam, Kerala among others has affected lakhs of people and animals.

Introduction

- ◆ India is highly vulnerable to floods and out of the total geographical area of 329 mha, more than 40 mha is flood prone. Floods are recurrent phenomenon, which cause huge loss of lives and damage to livelihood system, property, infrastructure and public utilities. It is a cause for concern that the flood related damages are showing an increasing trend.

◆ Floods in 2020:

- ◆ **Assam:** The Assam flood situation continues affecting 40 lakh residents with its third wave of floods. The overflowing Brahmaputra and its tributary Krishna severely affected several villages. Flood continues to wreak havoc in Assam with increased water flow in river Bura Diya at Pokhura village of Nalbari district. Tea plantations at Assam, is hit by flooding every rainy season despite flood-control efforts. Authorities said the floods have also killed more than 100 animals in Assam's Kaziranga National Park, home to an estimated 2,500 rare one-horned rhinos.
- ◆ **Meghalaya:** Plain belt of West Garo Hills in Meghalaya has



been affected with floods affecting people's normal life. Most of the areas submerged under the flood caused by the backflow of Brahmaputra River. Vital bridges have been cut in the district.

- ◆ **Bihar:** North Bihar witnessed flooding due to the heavy rainfall in catchment areas surrounding river Gandak in Nepal by discharge of 4.50 lakh cusecs of water from Gandak barrage. Heavy rains in catchment areas of Nepal and plains of North Bihar during the last few days has caused flooding in Bagmati, Kamla Balan and Adhwara group of rivers because of which all major rivers were flowing above danger marks.

- ◆ The Asian Development Bank has estimated that floods are the most devastating among climate-related disasters in India. They account for more than 50 per cent of all climate-related disasters in the country. The trend of extreme rainfall and erratic monsoon pattern has just added to this.
- ◆ An analysis by the DTE-CSE Data Centre of the Central Water Commission (CWC) data showed that in the last 65 years (1952-2018), there was not a single year when flood didn't impact the country with significant losses to lives and property.
- ◆ Floods killed 109,412 people in the span. Over 258 million hectares of crops were damaged and 81,187,187 houses were raged. The

total economic losses due to crop, house and other property damages came to Rs 4.69 trillion.

Factors Responsible

- ♦ Apart from incessant and heavy rainfall during the monsoon, there are natural and man-made factors that contribute to this.
- ♦ With a large basin area spanning China, India, Bangladesh and Bhutan, the Brahmaputra brings with it huge quantities of water and silt, leading to erosion and floods in Assam.
- ♦ In addition, because of the region's earthquake-prone nature, the river is not stable.
- ♦ The man-made problems include dams (which destroy the fragile ecology), deforestation in catchment areas leading to increase in sediment load, embankments, and growing habitation along the banks and sandbars.
- ♦ These restrict the space for the excess river water to spread. When rainfall is heavy, the river breaches the embankments and destroys habitations along the banks and on the sandbars.

Changing Nature of Floods

- ♦ Floods are a regular in India. But something peculiar has cropped up about them in recent years: They not only came early, but they stayed longer as well. And worryingly, they have not been proportionate to the rainfall.
- ♦ What is frightening is the fact that such unusual rains will become more common with climate change.

- ♦ It is the pre-monsoon showers, rather than the monsoon, which will increase because of global warming.
- ♦ Scientists have studied the impact of climate change on the hazard of floods in the middle Brahmaputra reaches and found that the peak discharges from the river, the average duration of a flood wave and the intensity of pre-monsoon showers are likely to rise during 2071-2100.

Previous Efforts

- ♦ Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA), or the National Flood Commission, was set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in 1976, to study India's flood-control measures after the projects launched under the National Flood Control Programme of 1954 failed to achieve much success.
- ♦ In 1980, the RBA made 207 recommendations and four broad observations.
 - ♦ There was no increase in rainfall in India and, thus, the increase in floods was due to anthropogenic factors such as deforestation, drainage congestion and badly planned development works.
 - ♦ It questioned the effectiveness of the methods adopted to control floods, such as embankments and reservoirs, and suggested that the construction of these structures be halted till their efficacy was assessed.
 - ♦ Need for consolidated efforts among the states and the

Centre to take up research and policy initiatives to control floods.

- ♦ It recommended a dynamic strategy to cope with the changing nature of floods. An analysis of the report suggested that the problem began with the methods of estimating flood-prone areas of the country.
- ♦ There is another problem. The very definition of flood-prone area does not reflect the effectiveness of the flood management works undertaken. In a 2011 meeting of the working group on flood management for the 12th Five-Year Plan, it was emphasised that government need scientific criteria to assess flood-prone areas. This should be based on frequency of flooding and period of inundation as gauged by contour maps and satellite imagery.
- ♦ The National Water Policy (1987) recommended that sufficient flood cushion should be provided in water storage projects to facilitate better flood management.

National Disaster Management Authority

- ♦ On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.
- ♦ NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster

Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.

- ◆ NDMA's Executive Summary Guidelines have been prepared to enable the various implementing and stakeholder agencies to effectively address the critical areas for minimising flood damage.
- ◆ The National Policy framework has been prepared after due deliberation and keeping in view the National Vision to build a safe and disaster-resilient India by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster and technology-driven strategy for disaster management. The NDMA Policy framework is also in conformity with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Rio Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals and the Hyogo Framework 2005-2015.

Issues Holding-up

- ◆ Despite massive investments and continuous flood-control efforts in India, the socio-economic damages and death toll continue to remain high.
- ◆ Undoubtedly, the process of flood management in India is very complex due to the influence of several socio-hydro climatological factors, such as climate change, sea level rise, and socio-economic dynamics.
- ◆ While these factors influence the intensity and frequency of

flood events, factors explicitly related to the process of flood management, such as the improper execution of traditional structural measures, the lack of the proper implementation of schemes, lackadaisical execution of traditional structural measures and end-to-end management of the flood management programs/practices, ensure only partial protection.

- ◆ State governments hardly did any assessment of the flood-control projects.
- ◆ Even when flood management projects are evaluated, the reports are not credible.
- ◆ The evaluation is generally done by departments that undertake flood-control projects.
- ◆ Major problem is the inaction on recommendations of evaluation reports.

Way Forward

- ◆ Floods have been a major disaster which has been regularly visiting the sub-continent. There are ample records and studies

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

FUTURE STRATEGIES

- Focused Approach
- Basin Wise Action Plan
- Flood Plain Zoning
- Role of Central Government
- Funding of Planned Flood Management Works
- Adequacy of Flood Cushion in Reservoirs

available to manage and mitigate floods. Being a monsoonal country, floods are not uncommon and there is need to have not just a policy or a plan, but an institutional setup to deal with such a disaster.

- ◆ Being an agricultural country with a very high social and economic differences, it is always noticed that floods have affected poor and vulnerable section more than the affluent ones. A simple guideline or a mention in a disaster management policy are not enough. Concrete steps and organisations are needed on the ground to tackle the menace.



General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Disaster and disaster management.

Q. In India, the flood related damages are showing an increasing trend. Suggest the measures to deal with flood disaster in India.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

Global Forest Resources Assessment Report - 2020

1. Why in News?

- Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 has been released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- It provides essential information for understanding the extent of forest resources, their condition, management and uses.



5. FAO and FRA

- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
- FRA is the mechanism for collecting data on two forest-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2015. Specifically, data submitted to FRA contribute to reporting on SDG indicator 15.1.1 (forest area as a proportion of total land area in 2015) and indicator 15.2.1 (progress towards sustainable forest management).
- Forests are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Global Findings

- The world has lost 178 million ha of forest since 1990, which is an area about the size of Libya.
- The top 10 countries that have recorded the maximum average annual net gains in forest area during 2010-2020 are China, Australia, India, Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.
- The Asian continent reported the highest net gain in forest area in 2010-2020. It recorded 1.17 million hectares (ha) per year net increase in forests in the last decade.
- South Asia sub-region reported net forest losses during 1990-2020. But, this decline would have been much higher without the net gain in India's forest during this period.
- Africa has the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010-2020, at 3.9 million hectares, followed by South America, at 2.6 million hectares.
- Since 1990 an estimated 420 million ha of forest has been lost worldwide through deforestation, conversion of forest to other land use such as agriculture. However, the rate of forest loss has declined substantially.
- In the most recent five-year period (2015-2020), the annual rate of deforestation was estimated at 10 million hectares, down from 12 million hectares in 2010-2015 and 16 million hectares in 1990-2000.

3. Data for India

- India has ranked third among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade
- India accounts for two per cent of total global forest area.
- India reported 0.38 per cent annual gain in forest, or 266,000 ha of forest increase every year at an average. The FRA 2020 has credited the government's Joint Forest Management programme for the significant increase in community-managed forest areas in the Asian continent.
- India has been taking up massive afforestation and plantation schemes. During 2010-20, the rate of increase in naturally regenerating forest was just 0.38 per cent.
- Globally, 12.5 million people were employed in the forestry sector. Out of this, India accounted for 6.23 million, or nearly 50 per cent.

4. Threat to Forests

- Forests face many disturbances that can adversely affect their health and vitality and reduce their ability to provide a full range of goods and ecosystem services.
- About 98 million ha of forest were affected by fire in 2015; this was mainly in the tropical domain, where fire burned about 4 percent of the total forest area in that year.
- More than two-thirds of the total forest area affected was in Africa and South America.
- Insects, diseases and severe weather events damaged about 40 million ha of forests in 2015, mainly in the temperate and boreal domain.

02 Kakrapar Atomic Power Station - 3

1. Why in News?

- Indigenously-built third unit of Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPP-3) in the Surat district of the Indian state of Gujarat has attained a sustained chain reaction for the first time on July 22, 2020.



2. About KAPP-3

- KAPP-3 is the country's first indigenously-designed 700 MWe (megawatt electric) pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR).
- It has achieved its 'first criticality' — a term that signifies the initiation of a controlled but sustained nuclear fission reaction. It means KAPP-3 has achieved the regular operating condition of a reactor and the plant is now ready to generate power.
- The operationalisation of India's first 700MWe reactor marks a significant scale-up in technology, both in terms of optimisation of its PHWR design — the new 700MWe unit addresses the issue of excess thermal margins — and an improvement in the economies of scale, without significant changes to the design of the 540 MWe reactor.
 - 'Thermal margin' refers to the extent to which the operating temperature of the reactor is below its maximum operating temperature.
- KAPP-3 is equipped with a steel-lined containment to reduce any leakages, and a containment spray system to reduce the containment pressure in case of a loss of coolant accident.

3. What are PHWRs?

- The PHWRs, which use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator, are the mainstay of India's nuclear reactor fleet.
- Until now, the biggest reactor size of indigenous design was the 540 MWe PHWR, two of which have been deployed in Tarapur, Maharashtra.
- PHWR technology has several inherent safety features. The biggest advantage of the PHWR design is the use of thin walled pressure tubes instead of the large pressure vessels that are used in pressure vessel type reactors.
- 700 MWe PHWR design has enhanced safety through a dedicated 'Passive Decay Heat Removal System', which can remove decay heat (released as a result of radioactive decay) from the reactor core without requiring any operator actions.
 - This is on the lines of similar technology adopted for Generation III+ plants to negate the possibility of a Fukushima-type accident that happened in Japan in 2011.
- PHWR technology started in India in the late 1960s with the construction of the first 220 MWe reactor, Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, RAPS-1 with a design similar to that of the Douglas Point reactor in Canada, under the joint Indo-Canadian nuclear co-operation.

4. India's Nuclear Energy

- India is planning to put 21 new nuclear power reactors - including 10 indigenously designed PHWRs - with a combined generating capacity of 15,700 MWe into operation by 2031.
- Currently, nuclear power capacity constitutes less than 2% of the total installed capacity of 3,68,690 MW (end-January 2020).
- KAPP-3 is the first of four 700 MWe units (others include Kakrapar-4 and Rawatbhata-7 and 8) to have achieved criticality, said to become the mainstays of India's new nuclear reactor fleet.
- The expansion of India's civilian nuclear programme, in the view of many experts, is critical to the nation's quest to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, and facilitate a seamless transition towards sustainable energy technologies.

03 Contempt of Court

1. Why in News?

- Taking up the 2009 contempt of court case against lawyer Prashant Bhushan, the Supreme Court said that there is a thin line between free speech and contempt.
- Supreme Court registry rejected the impleadment application filed by 16 civil society activists in the contempt case against Bhushan, citing the Supreme Court's judgment in the case of Justice C.S. Karnan, in which the court had held that contempt is a matter strictly between the court and the alleged contemnor.
- The case pertains to an interview given by Bhushan to Tehelka where he alleged that half of past 16 Chief Justices of India (CJIs) were corrupt.

2. Provision in Law

- Provisions in India, the concept of Contempt of Court is defined in Section 2(a) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 which has broadly describe it as civil contempt or criminal contempt.
- There are three Articles in the Constitution of India which talk about the Contempt of Court and these are Article 129 and Article 142(2) and Article 215.
 - ☛ Article 129 - Supreme Court to be a court of record.— The Supreme Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.
 - ☛ Article 215 - High Courts to be courts of record. —Every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.
 - ☛ Article 142 (2) - Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Supreme Court shall, as respects the whole of the territory of India, have all and every power to make any order for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person, the discovery or production of any documents, or the investigation or punishment of any contempt of itself
- Constitution itself has not defined contempt of court.



3. Types of Contempt

- Civil Contempt: Section 2(a) of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 states Civil Contempt as wilful disobedience to the order, decree, direction, any judgment or writ of the Court by any person or willfully breach of undertakings by a person given to a Court.
 - ☛ Since Civil Contempt deprives a party of the benefit for which the order was made so these are the offences essential of private nature.
 - ☛ In other words, a person who is entitled to get the benefit of the court order, this wrong is generally done to this person.
- Criminal Contempt: According to Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971, Criminal Contempt is Defined as (i) the publication of any matter by words, spoken or written, or by gesture, or by signs, or by visible representation or (ii) doing of any act which includes:
 - ☛ Scandalize or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of any court, or
 - ☛ Biasness, interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any type of Judicial proceedings, or
 - ☛ Obstructs or tends to obstruct, interfere or tend to interfere with the administration of justice in any manner.

4. Punishment

- Section 12(1) of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 states that a person who alleged with the Contempt of Court can be punished with simple imprisonment and this imprisonment can extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or can be of both type punishment.
- However, an accused may be discharged or the punishment that was awarded to him maybe remitted on the condition that if he makes an apology and this apology should satisfy the court then only he can be exempted from the punishment of Contempt of Court.
- Explanation of this sentence is that if the accused made an apology in the bona fide then this apology shall not be rejected on the ground that it is conditional or qualified.

04 Maintaining Troops on LAC

1. Why in News?

- Preparing for a long haul in the Eastern Ladakh sector in extreme winters, the Indian Army has an edge over the Chinese as it has deployed 35,000 troops there who have already done tenures in high altitude and cold conditions.
- The Indian troops deployed there are mentally prepared for tackling the weather and terrain.



2. Border Flare Up

- To mirror the Chinese build-up three extra Army divisions have been moved to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the Army has started preparing for extra provisions for the additional troops who will remain deployed through the winter.
- These mountain troops who have been specially trained to fight on the Northern frontier, are well trained in guerrilla warfare and high-altitude fighting.
- This development is significant considering the fact that India's territory along the LAC ranges from K2 peak in Karakoram, to Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand and Kanchenjunga in Sikkim to Namche Barwa across Arunachal Pradesh border.

3. High Altitude Warfare

- The eastern Ladakh region is a high-altitude desert, where temperatures can drop to -20°C. The thinner air at high altitudes also makes breathing tougher.
- Challenge of fighting three elements: the enemy, the weather and their own health.
- Another major factor is acclimatization since the oxygen supply reduces drastically.
- Load carrying capacity of individuals reduces drastically.
- Things move very slow in the mountains and mobilization of troops consumes time.
- Building new shelters including heat-proof shelters or at least livable for the -20°C temperatures is challenging.
- Injuries due to Non Enemy Action (NEA): Crevasses are caused where the glaciers take turns on their outer sides and movement of glaciers. These crevasses have hard icicles formation at their bottom capable of piercing through the body like a spear and low temperatures of minus 20 degrees and below.

4. Medical Issues

- Medical problems on the glacier include high altitude pulmonary oedema, acute mountain sickness, frost bite chilblains, hypothermia, snow blindness, injury non-enemy action due to avalanches, crevasses and fires, carbon monoxide poisoning and problems in disposal of nightsoil.
- Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless gas. Cases of poisoning can take place when one lights the bukharis at night in a closed space like a fibreglass hut and goes to sleep.
- All soldiers lose upto 5-10 kilograms of weight during their 3-4 months tenure on the glacier. This is because the body requires more calories in the extreme cold climate to maintain the basal metabolic rate.
- Cost of keeping one soldier there, starting from buying of matches to his condiments, to his food, to his fuel for warming to his shelter to everything, for one turnaround year is easily at least to the tune of Rs 10 lakh.
- Disposal of Human Waste is a serious problem because maintaining suitable thermal environment at which the microorganisms effecting degradation can survive is difficult. Chemicals are expensive for the amount of faecal matter to be degraded.

5. Logistical Challenges

- Land supply routes are open only during the summer, with high-altitude passes covered in snow from around November to March-April.
- There are two road accesses to Ladakh from Srinagar: Rohtang Pass and Zoji La.
- With Rohtang tunnel likely to open later in the year, it can potentially solve the problem, but there are two more passes on that route, Baralacha La and Thanglang La, both of which are at a higher altitude than Rohtang, and may be snowed in during the winter.
- Even to reach Leh, the Army has to build transit shelters for the crew of the trucks. But bringing the supplies to Leh is just the first stop. Nearly 70% of all these supplies has to be taken to forward bases such as Siachen or Kargil.
- Anything above 14,000 feet is considered super-high altitude. Of the four friction points in the standoff, Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Gogra Post are higher than 14,000 feet. Dapsang Plains — where troops were not involved in a faceoff but where India's access to traditional patrol points has been blocked by China — is higher than 17,000 feet.

05

India Ideas Summit

1. Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address at the virtual India Ideas Summit, hosted by the United States (US)-India Business Council (USIBC) on 22nd July 2020.
- The virtual summit, which brought together senior officials from the Government of India and the US to set the post-pandemic economic recovery agenda, PM Modi invited US businesses to invest in various economic sectors of India.
- This year marks the 45th anniversary of the formation of the council.



2. The Summit

- Summit is held at a time when Beijing's aggressive behaviour has sparked global concern and many countries are considering alternatives away from China.
- The theme of this year's India Ideas Summit was 'Building a Better Future'.
- Navies from the US, India, Australia, Japan and France have been deepening their mutual cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region in view of China's growing attempt to expand military influence in the resource-rich region.
- USIBC India Ideas Summit saw a high-powered line-up of US-India corridor leaders from across the business, government and society. Union minister of external affairs S Jaishankar, US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, Senator of Virginia and co-chair of Senate India Caucus Mark Warner, Former US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley were some of the key speakers at the event.

3. India's Marketing Pitch

- During the COVID-19 lockdown, India got 20 billion dollars in investment.
- Various reforms have ensured increased 'Competitiveness', enhanced 'Transparency', expanded 'Digitization', greater 'Innovation' and more 'Policy stability'.
- Opportunities in technology also include opportunities in the frontier technologies of 5G, Big data analytics, Quantum computing, Block-chain and Internet of things.
- The Healthcare sector in India is growing faster than 22 percent every year. Indian companies are also progressing in production of medical-technology, tele-medicine and diagnostics.
- The number of Air passengers are expected to more than double within next 8 years.
- India is raising the FDI cap for investment in defense sector to 74 percent.
- India has raised foreign direct investment (FDI) cap for investment in insurance to 49 percent. Now 100 percent FDI is permitted for investment in insurance intermediaries.
- As India evolves into a gas-based economy, there will be big investment opportunities for US companies.
- FDI inflows in India in 2019-20 were 74 billion dollars. This is an increase of 20 percent from the year before that.

4. US Reciprocation

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described India as one of the few trusted like-minded countries and an important partner and a key pillar of President Donald Trump's foreign policy. Also a "rising" US defense and security partner in the Indo-Pacific and globally.
- US has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the next G7 meeting.
- US Air Force research labs have signed a cooperative research and development agreement with an Indian startup to support the development of the air-launched UAV.

5. About USIBC

- The Council aims to create an inclusive bilateral trade environment between India and the US by serving as the voice of industry, linking governments to businesses, and supporting long-term commercial partnerships that will nurture the spirit of entrepreneurship, create jobs, and successfully contribute to the global economy.
- USIBC facilitates meetings between members and key policymakers in the US and Indian governments, as well as offering introductions and networking opportunities.
- USIBC organizes roundtables and business summits featuring heads of states from India and the US, members of the US Congress, members of the Indian Parliament, and notable influencers in the US-India commercial corridor.

06

Community Canteens 2.0

1. Why in News?

- PM Narendra Modi announced a three-month extension to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) because of lack of access to food which drove millions of migrants to their native villages during the lockdown period.
- Alongside, he highlighted the implementation of the 'One Nation, One Ration' (ONOR) scheme to improve access to subsidized grains for migrant workers.



2. Background

- All welfare measures are welcome, but the concern is that they may fall short of reaching all sections of the vulnerable population.
- If a person does not have accessories for cooking then providing grains is mockery of policy.
- Most migrant workers do not live with families; many do not cook their meals. Instead, a significant number rely on roadside vendors and dhabas.
- Without access to cooking arrangement or fuel, only subsidised grains are not a sufficient solution to ensure nourishment.
- The solution lies in tweaking an existing approach — community canteens.

3. Community Canteens: Advantages

- Community canteens could also contribute to jobs, growth and sustainability. The 60,000 canteens, each serving about 500 beneficiaries on average, would generate more than 1.2 million jobs to serve 90 million meals a day.
- These canteens would also help bridge the nourishment gap among poor urban workers.
- Further, the government should leverage community canteens to shift diets and agriculture production towards more sustainable and sustainably harvested food crops.
- These canteens must incorporate low-cost yet nutritious and environmentally sustainable food items in the plate — bringing in coarse grains such as millets and sorghum into the dietary patterns.
- These canteens would create the demand signals for the farmers to diversify their crops and focus on sustainably harvested produce.
- If all urban migrant workers rely on community canteens instead of ONOR (One Nation, One Ration), the investment pays back itself in less than six years, as it helps avoid the potential food subsidy outlay due to ONOR, leading to annual savings of about ₹4,500 crore thereafter.

4. Ongoing Scenario

- More than 10 States have run community canteens.
- Some notable examples include the Amma Canteens in Tamil Nadu and Indira Canteens in Karnataka.
- However, a drawback is that most of these canteens rely on continuous government support for their sustenance as meals are usually priced unsustainably low at ₹5-10 per plate.
- Central government should extend the initial capital support; the implementation at the State level should be led by urban local bodies or municipal corporations, in collaboration with private entities as service providers.
- But for community kitchens to be sustainable in localities with high populations of migrant workers, setting them up should be the responsibility of the local government and the Collector's office.

5. About PMGKAY

- PMGKAY is a food security welfare scheme announced by the government in March 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic in India.
- Operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- The government would provide 5 kg of grains and 1 kg of chickpea per month to about 800 million beneficiaries across the country.

07 Istanbul Convention

1. Why in News?

- Recently Poland has decided to withdraw from Istanbul Convention, a treaty aimed at preventing violence against women, while Turkey has witnessed a mass protests as government is thinking to follow same.
- The Polish government says that the treaty is disrespectful towards religion and requires teaching liberal social policies in schools.
- The ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party and its coalition partners are closely aligned to the Catholic Church, and the government has promised to promote traditional family values.



2. Istanbul Convention

- It is the first-ever legally binding set of guidelines that creates "a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat violence against women" and is focused on preventing domestic violence, protecting victims, and prosecuting accused offenders.
- It also states that violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination.
- The Convention does outline which acts must be criminalised by the participating countries.
- Such offences include psychological violence, stalking, physical violence, sexual violence (including rape), all non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a person, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion, and forced sterilisation, honour crimes as well as sexual harassment.
- The convention aims at prevention of violence, victim protection and "to end with the impunity of perpetrators".

3. Criticism of the Convention

- Convention does define the term "gender" as "the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men".
- Some countries considered this definition as too broad and feared it could be interpreted to make way for the allowance of a third gender.
- There is no explicit mention of the terms "intersex" and "transgender" within the Istanbul Convention.
 - ☛ The parties are, however, required to avoid any discrimination based on someone's gender or sexual identity, as well as their race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth, age, state of health, disability, marital status, migrant or refugee status.
- Another aspect some countries are hesitant to oblige by is that the Istanbul Convention requires parties to include teaching material on non-stereotyped gender roles. This is on occasion regarded as an attempt to enforce a liberal, western lifestyle in more traditional and conservative societies - as they perceive themselves.

4. Women Safety schemes in India

- Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) since 1986-87
 - ☛ To provide skills that give employability to women.
 - ☛ To benefit women in the age group of 16 and above in the country.
- Nirbhaya - 2012
 - ☛ To facilitate safety and security for women at various levels.
 - ☛ To ensure strict privacy and confidentiality of women's identity and information.
 - ☛ Provision for real-time intervention as far as possible.
- One-Stop Centre Scheme, 2015
 - ☛ To provide support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces.
 - ☛ To facilitate/Assist in filing First Information Report (FIR/NCR).
 - ☛ To provide psycho-social support and counselling to women/girl.
- Women Helpline Scheme, 2016
 - ☛ To provide toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women affected by violence.
 - ☛ To facilitate crisis and non-crisis intervention through referral to the appropriate agencies.
- Ujjawala, 2016
 - ☛ To prevent the trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.
 - ☛ To facilitate the rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
 - ☛ To provide rehabilitation services with both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.
- SWADHAR Greh, 2018
 - ☛ To cater to the primary need for shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of women in distress.
 - ☛ To provide women with legal aid and guidance.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 Global Forest Resources Assessment Report - 2020

Q. With reference to the Global Forest Resources Assessment Report (2020), consider the following statements:

1. India is at the third position among the nations where the net forest cover area has increase.
2. While forest cover in South-Asia has decrease dramatically, it could have been worse if India had not registered an increase in its forest area.
3. Insects, floods and droughts are the major cause of forest losses in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) None of the Above

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. The top 10 countries that have recorded the maximum average annual net gains in forest area during 2010-2020 are China, Australia, India, Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania, according to the FRA 2020. South Asia sub-region reported net forest losses during 1990-2020. But, this decline would have been much higher without the net gain in India's forest during this period.



02 Kakrapar Atomic Power Station - 3

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant':

1. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPP-3) is the biggest indigenously developed variant of the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) in India.
2. The PHWRs uses natural thorium as fuel and heavy water as moderator.

3. It has achieved its 'first criticality' — a term that signifies the initiation of a controlled but sustained nuclear fission reaction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the Above

Answer: (c)

Explanation: All statements are correct. KAPP-3 is the country's first indigenously-designed 700 MWe (megawatt electric) pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR). It has achieved its 'first criticality' — a term that signifies the initiation of a controlled but sustained nuclear fission reaction. It means KAPP-3 has achieved the regular operating condition of a reactor and the plant is now ready to generate power.

The PHWRs, which use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator, are the mainstay of India's nuclear reactor fleet.



03 Contempt of Court

Q. With reference to contempt of court in India, consider the following statements:

1. Constitution of India has provisions for action against contempt of court but does not define the term 'contempt of court'.
2. Contempt of court in India is a punishable offence and can be initiated by both Supreme Court and High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. There are three Articles in the Constitution of India which talk about the Contempt of Court and these are Article 129 and Article 142(2) and Article 215. Constitution itself has not defined contempt of court. There are two types of contempt, civil and criminal contempt. Section 12(1) of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 states that a person who alleged with the Contempt of Court can be punished with simple imprisonment and this imprisonment can extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or can be of both type punishment.



04 Maintaining Troops on LAC

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. India's territory vis-a-vis China, along the LAC ranges from K2 peak in Karakoram, to Nanda Devi in Himachal Pradesh and Kanchenjunga in Sikkim to Namche Barwa across Arunachal Pradesh border.
2. The cost of keeping one soldier on the high altitude fronts can cost upto 10 lakh rupees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India's territory along the LAC ranges from K2 peak in Karakoram, to Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand and Kanchenjunga in Sikkim to Namche Barwa across Arunachal Pradesh border.

Statement 2 is correct. Cost of keeping one soldier there, starting from buying of matches to his condiments, to his food, to his fuel for warming to his shelter to everything, for one turnaround year is easily at least to the tune of Rs 10 lakh.



05 India Ideas Summit

Q. With reference to the US-India Business Council (USIBC), consider the following statements:

1. The Council aims to create an inclusive bilateral trade environment between India and the US.

2. It facilitates meetings between foreign ministers of both countries.
3. The theme of this year's India Ideas Summit was 'Post-Covid World Order and US-India Relations'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Council aims to create an inclusive bilateral trade environment between India and the US by serving as the voice of industry, linking governments to businesses, and supporting long-term commercial partnerships that will nurture the spirit of entrepreneurship, create jobs, and successfully contribute to the global economy.

Statement 2 and 3 are incorrect. USIBC facilitates meetings between members and key policymakers in the US and Indian governments, as well as offering introductions and networking opportunities. Which helps in promoting trade and other bilateral exchanges between US and India.

The theme of this year's India Ideas Summit was 'Building a Better Future'.



06 Community Canteens 2.0

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'community canteens':

1. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
2. Community Canteens not just provide nutrition to the poor but also contribute economically and socially too.
3. Community canteens acts as a last mile connectivity between the welfare providers and the actual receivers of the food welfare program, especially during the pandemic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only

- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the Above

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All the Statements are correct. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), is a food security welfare scheme announced by the government in March 2020. It is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Community canteens could also contribute to jobs, growth and sustainability. The 60,000 canteens, each serving about 500 beneficiaries on average, would generate more than 1.2 million jobs to serve 90 million meals a day. These canteens would also help bridge the nourishment gap among poor urban workers.



07 Istanbul Convention

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Istanbul Convention':

1. Istanbul Convention is the first-ever legally binding set of guidelines that creates "a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat violence against women".

2. The convention aims at prevention of violence, victim protection and "to end with the impunity of perpetrators".
3. Turkey and Czechoslovakia has withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention and Poland has also hinted to withdraw resulting in mass protests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. Istanbul Convention is the first-ever legally binding set of guidelines that creates "a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat violence against women". The convention aims at prevention of violence, victim protection and "to end with the impunity of perpetrators".

Statement 3 is incorrect. Poland has decided to withdraw from Istanbul Convention, while Turkey has witnessed a mass protests as government is thinking to follow same.



7 IMPORTANT NEWS

01

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor

- ◆ In France, the assembly of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), which will be the world's largest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment, has started on July 28, 2020.



- ◆ ITER could produce its first plasma at the end of 2025-beginning of 2026, and the reactor could reach full power in 2035.
- ◆ The total price of construction and operations is expected to be in excess of €20 billion.

About ITER

- ◆ The ITER is an experimental tokamak nuclear fusion reactor designed to prove the feasibility of fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy based on the same principle that powers our Sun and stars. It has been in the works since 1985, and 35 countries are participating in the project directly or indirectly.
- ◆ The ITER Members – China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States – are now engaged in a 35-year collaboration to build and operate the ITER experimental device, and together bring fusion to the point where a demonstration fusion reactor can be designed.

Working

- ◆ Inside a tokamak, the energy produced through the fusion of atoms is absorbed as heat in the walls of the vessel. Just like a conventional power plant, a fusion power plant will use this heat to produce steam and then electricity by way of turbines and generators. If it is controlled, hydrogen fusion would be a safe and clean source of energy, making it possible to do away with fossil fuels. <>>

02

World's Largest Urban Farm

- ◆ The world's largest urban farm has opened on top of the Parc des Expositions building in the 15th arrondissement – and it's already providing fruit and veg to homes and restaurants across the city's Left Bank.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The farm will eventually produce

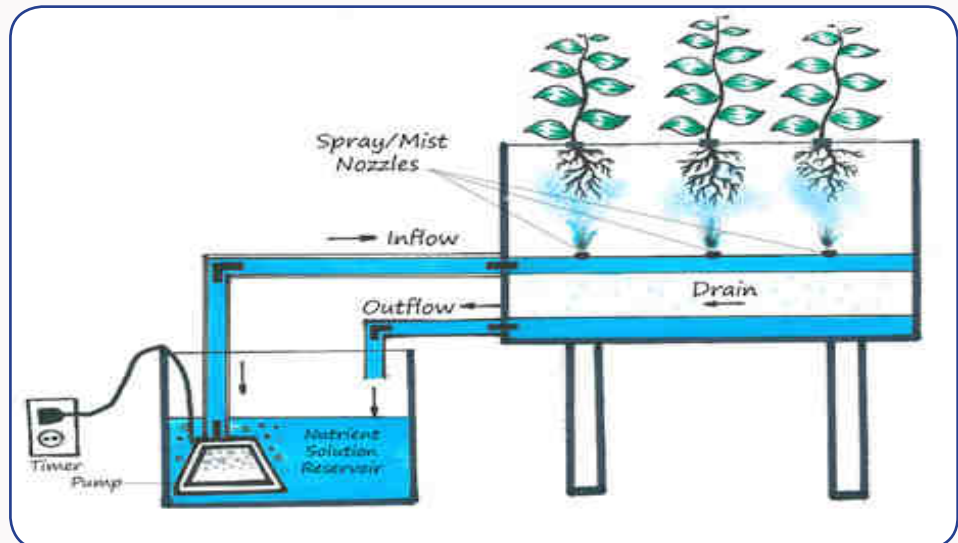
around 30 different species of plant, including tomatoes, strawberries, aubergines, basil, radishes and chard – served in a farm-to-table menu on site and distributed to businesses across the capital. Once all of its patches are planted, it will be able to produce around 2,000 pounds of fruit and veg a day.

- ◆ Many of the plants are being grown vertically through aeroponic farming, a sustainable technique that uses nutrient-rich mist and rainwater to nourish produce (cutting water usage by 90 percent compared with traditional soil-based farming).

- ◆ Members of the public can access the farm both on educational tours and team-building workshops for firms.

What is Aeroponics?

- ◆ Aeroponic systems nourish plants with nothing more than nutrient-laden mist. The concept builds off that of hydroponic systems, in which the roots are held in a soilless growing medium, such as coco coir, over which nutrient-laden water is periodically pumped. Aeroponics simply dispenses with the growing medium, leaving the roots to



dangle in the air, where they are periodically puffed by specially-designed misting devices.

- ◆ In aeroponics systems, seeds are “planted” in pieces of foam stuffed

into tiny pots, which are exposed to light on one end and nutrient mist on the other. The foam also holds the stem and root mass in place as the plants grow. <><

03

'AJO-Neo' Device for Screening of Bilirubin Level in Newborns

- ◆ Recently, scientists from S.N. Bose National Centre For Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS) has developed a “No-touch” and “Painless” device “AJO-Neo” for non-invasive screening of bilirubin level in newborns. Careful screening of bilirubin level in newborns is mandatory as per American Academy of Paediatrics (2004), to reduce incidents of a type of brain damage called kernicterus that can result from high levels of bilirubin in a baby's blood. Although invasive capillary collection of blood and the subsequent biochemical test

is considered a gold standard for jaundice detection in neonates, transcutaneous bilirubin measurement using non-invasive instruments has obvious added advantages.

Significance

- ◆ The operation of the device is based on non-contact and non-invasive spectrometry-based techniques for measurement of neonatal bilirubin level as an alternative of total serum bilirubin (TSB) test without limitations of other available bilirubin meters.

- ◆ AJO-Neo is reliable in measuring bilirubin levels in preterm, and term neonates irrespective of gestational or postnatal age, sex, risk factors, feeding behavior or skin color.

- ◆ This is a significant achievement compared to the conventional “blood test” method, which may take more than 4 hours to generate the report. It has to be noted that detection of neonatal blood bilirubin (Hyperbilirubinemia) faster is extremely important for therapeutic management in order to avoid Kernicterus leading to Neuro-psychiatry problems in neonatal subjects.



What is Bilirubin?

- ◆ Bilirubin is a yellowish substance in your blood. It forms after red blood cells break down, and it travels through your liver, gallbladder, and digestive tract before being excreted. Jaundice is the main sign of high bilirubin levels. <><

04

Knowledge Resource Centre Network

- Under the Digital India initiative of Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) aims to develop a World-Class Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet).

Key Highlights

- Keeping in mind the spectacular developments in information technology, the traditional libraries of the MoES system will be upgraded into a top-notch Knowledge Resource Centres (KRC). KRCs will be connected with each other and integrated into the KRCNet portal. It will be a single point entry to the intellectual world of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Salient Objectives of the KRCNet

- Establish a Total Quality Management (TQM) system by securing ISO certification for documenting MoES knowledge



- resources, its maintenance, easy retrieval and dissemination.
- Collect, collate, analyze, index, store and disseminate the intellectual resources, products and project outputs available in MoES headquarter and its institutes.
- Develop and maintain an up-to-date meta-data of the print & digital resources available in MoES headquarter and MoES institutes, including MoES services.
- Provide 24X7 access to the subscribed knowledge contents through the KRCNet portal.
- Application of information analytical tools & techniques like bibliometrics, scientometrics, big-data analytics, social media analytics etc., for policy formulation, report preparation and information dissemination.
- Periodically organize training workshops to popularize usage of electronic journals, databases, digital products, data analytics etc.

05

Production Linked Incentive Scheme

- The government has proposed to expand the scope of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to five or six more sectors, including air conditioners and TV sets, leather, chemicals, furniture, tyres and toys, in a bid to boost manufacturing in the country.

Key Highlights

- The PLI scheme for new sectors would be similar to the ones



announced by the Electronics Ministry for development of a

mobile manufacturing ecosystem in the country and another Rs 7,000

- ◆ crore scheme by the Chemicals and Petrochemicals Ministry for the pharmaceutical sector for manufacturing bulk drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).
- ◆ The new scheme would replace the existing Merchandise Exports India Scheme (MEIS), introduced in April 2015, with the objective to promote manufacturing and exports of specified goods from India.
- ◆ The focused and efficient scheme like PLI has been identified as part of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' mission that aims to work on import substitution and enhance domestic manufacturing.
- ◆ The government is looking at expanding the PLI scheme to boost manufacturing of air conditioners and TV sets where some level of manufacturing exists in the country but a lot of components are still imported. The PLI will ensure that the complete ecosystem around the product category develops locally.
- ◆ A similar scheme is also on the anvil for expanding domestic manufacturing of solar equipment that currently is largely imported from China.
- ◆ Similarly, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has identified sectors such as tyres, chemicals, furniture, and toys that have the potential to develop local scale to expand the reach of 'Made in India' goods across the globe.



06

BeiDou Navigation Satellite System

- ◆ China has recently completed its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System constellation, coming up with a product that can potentially rival the US Global Positioning System (GPS), and will provide positioning services to transportation, emergency medical rescue and city planning and management areas.

(GPS provides positioning accuracies of under 2.2 metres). China initiated BeiDou in 1994 with aims to integrate its application in different sectors, including fishery, agriculture, special care, mass-market applications, forestry and public security. BeiDou offers services including accurate positioning, navigation and timing as well as short message communication.

which will compete with systems developed by other countries. Out of these navigation systems, the GPS is the most widely used for both personal navigation and for more sensitive military purposes. Significantly, as ties between US and China deteriorate, it becomes more important for China to have its own navigation system that the US does not have control over.

About BeiDou Navigation System

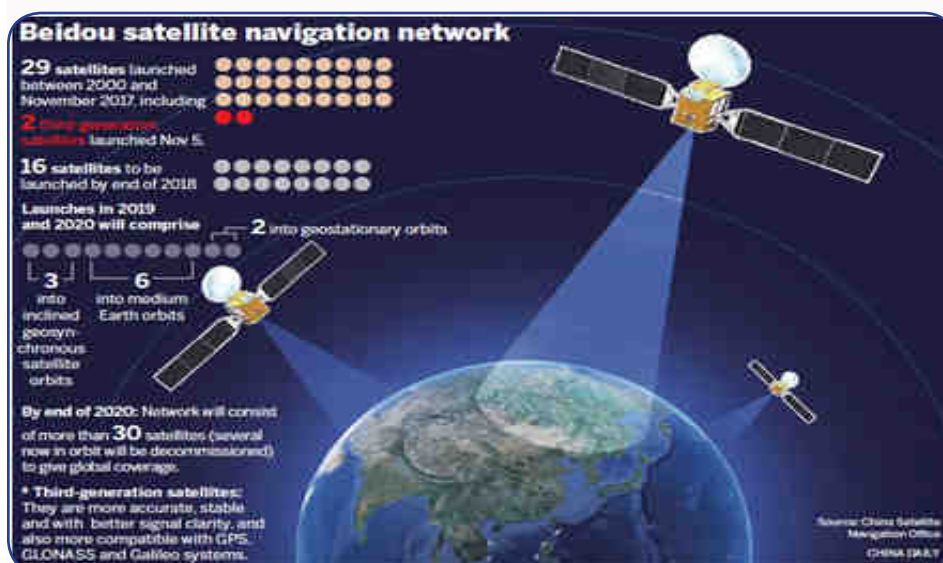
- ◆ BeiDou uses a network of satellites and can provide positional accuracies of under ten metres

Significance

- ◆ By completing BeiDou, China now has its own navigation system,

Other Navigation Systems

- ◆ The GPS is owned by the US government and operated by the US Air Force. Apart from this, Russia has its navigation system called GLONASS, the European Union (EU) has Galileo, while India's is called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
- ◆ It was reported last year that the Bengaluru-based Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was in talks with processing chip manufacturers such as Qualcomm to substitute the existing GPS with the Indian version of satellite navigation.



07

National Transit Pass System

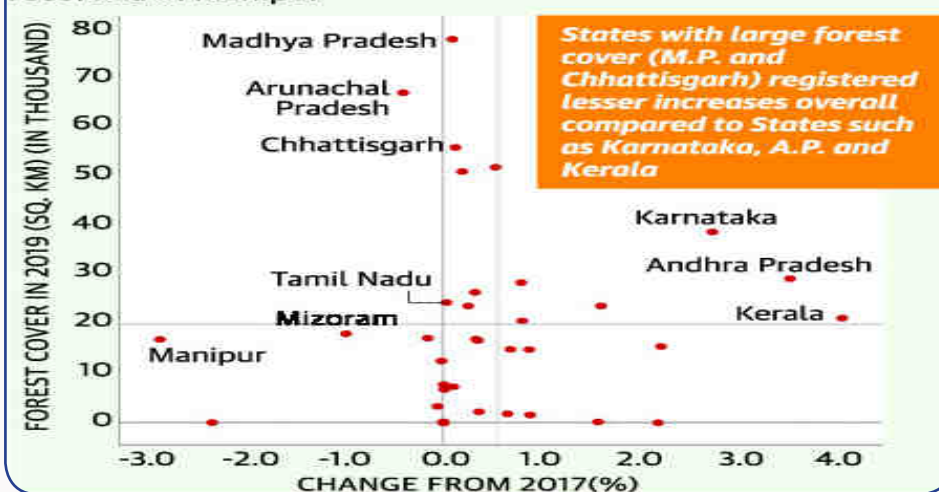
- ◆ The Ministry of Environment has launched an online system for issuing transit permits, National Transit Pass System (NTPS), for timber, bamboo and other forest produce. The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana for now.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The National Pass System enhances seamless movement of forest produce. The system will be operational in all states by Diwali.
- ◆ This is the new invention of Digital India. This system will make the process of getting permits faster and without physically going to get the pass.
- ◆ NTPS will bring ease of business and expedite issuance of transit permits for timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce without physically going to forest offices.
- ◆ NTPS will replace manual paper-based transit system by online transit system and will bring in one

Greener cover

Forest cover in Kerala grew by 4.05%, the most in the country, while the largest decrease of 2.88% was recorded in Manipur



permit for whole India for transit of timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce for ease of doing business.

Significance

- ◆ Transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce is governed by various state specific acts and rules. The ministry said that state governments have exempted many species from requirements of transit permits, however many species still require transit pass.

Moreover, a species exempted in one state, may not be exempted in other states and transit of such species in another state requires transit pass. Further, transit passes issued by one state are not honoured in other states and lieu transit passes are issued at inter-state forest check posts for transit in another state. National Transit Pass System generates Pan India Transit Passes facilitating seamless movement of forest produce across India.



7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



01

परिवार पहचान पत्र

हरियाणा में प्रत्येक परिवार के लिए बनेगा फेमिली कार्ड

03

05

01

Recently, Haryana government has launched 'Parivar Pehchan Patra' (PPP) to enable smooth and automatic delivery of several citizen-centric services. Discuss how is PPP different from the Aadhaar card?

02

What is ammonium nitrate, which caused the massive explosion in Beirut?

03

Education policy reform will help India leverage its demographic dividend. Comment.

04

Why secularism and socialism are integral to the Indian Constitution? Discuss.

05

"India is facing a structural demand problem and boosting demand, in particular domestic demand, is critical for an economic revival." In this context discuss how enhancing incomes and consumption will lead demand potential.

06

The recent results of Sri Lanka's parliamentary show a seismic shift in the country's electoral map as well as the balance of political power. What does it mean for India? Discuss.

07

Distinguish between "Code of ethics" and "Code of conduct" with suitable examples.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)



01



03



05

01

Who won the Prem Bhatia Award 2020 for outstanding journalism?

People's Archive of Rural India, a non-profit journalism website and Dipankar Ghose

02

Which initiative has been launched by government for popularizing science among school students of class 6th to 11th?

'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan'

03

Which ministry has won 'SKOCH Digital India Gold Award 2020'?

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

04

Which international organization has signed a dollar 200 million financing deal with the Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited (RBLPL) to build combined-cycle gas-fired power plant?

Asian Development Bank

05

Which variety of rice has got Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its saltwater resistance quality?

Pokkali Rice (Kerala)

06

Which state government will develop India's first Snow Leopard Conservation Centre?

Uttarakhand

07

Which country has released a new political map that includes all of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Sir Creek and Junagadh as its territories?

Pakistan

7

IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



01



03



05

01

"One should use common words to say uncommon things."

Arthur Schopenhauer

02

"Righteousness is the foundation stone of peace and good governance."

Confucius

03

"Human happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected."

George Washington

04

"I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong."

Mahatma Gandhi

05

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

Benjamin Franklin

06

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

Aristotle

07

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."

Confucius

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

Distance learning Programme, DSDL, primarily caters the need for those who are unable to come to metros for economic or family reason but have ardent desire to become a civil servant. Simultaneously, it also suits to the need of working professionals, who are unable to join regular classes due to increase in work load or places of their posting. The principal characteristic of our distance learning is that the student does not need to be present in a classroom in order to participate in the instruction. It aims to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance. Realizing the difficulties faced by aspirants of distant areas, especially working candidates, in making use of the institute's classroom guidance programme, distance learning system is being provided in General Studies. The distance learning material is comprehensive, concise and exam-oriented in nature. Its aim is to make available almost all the relevant material on a subject at one place. Materials on all topics of General Studies have been prepared in such a way that, not even a single point will be missing. In other words, you will get all points, which are otherwise to be taken from 6-10 books available in the market / library. That means, DSDL study material is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and that will definitely give you added advantage in your Preliminary as well as Main Examination. These materials are not available in any book store or library. These materials have been prepared exclusively for the use of our students. We believe in our quality and commitment towards making these notes indispensable for any student preparing for Civil Services Examination. We adhere all pillars of Distance education.

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