# PERFECT

Weekly Current Affairs

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



# 1 RIC Trilateral Grouping

**Needs Constructive Dialogue** 

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#### **DHYEYA IAS: AN INTRODUCTION**



Vinay Kumar Singh Founder & CEO

he 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

hyeya IAS is an institution that a ims 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

ith 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

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.



#### **PREFACE**





hyeya 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 s 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



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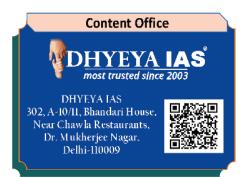
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#### OUR OTHER INITIATIVES





# IMPORTANT ISSUES

# 01

#### **RIC Trilateral Grouping: Needs Constructive Dialogue**

#### Why in News?

- Recently, a special Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral Foreign Minister's Video Conference was organized to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second World War.
- Amid the tensions on the Line of Actual Control, the dominant calls were for a more decisive westward shift in India's foreign policy. A RIC meeting seemed incongruous in this setting.
- The Sino-Indian crisis potentially puts Russia in a difficult position, having to choose between its traditional partners in India, which also represents a lucrative arms market, and its new but much more powerful friend in the east, China.

#### Introduction

- RIC as a strategic grouping first took shape in the late 1990s under the leadership of Yevgeny Primakov as "a counterbalance to the Western alliance."
- Primakov, a Russian politician and diplomat who was also the prime minister of Russia from 1998 to 1999, is credited with the idea for RIC.
- The group was founded for renewing old ties with India and fostering the newly discovered friendship with China.

- Together, the RIC countries occupy over 19 percent of the global landmass and contribute to over 33 percent of global GDP. All three are nuclear powers and two, Russia and China, are permanent members of the UN Security Council, while India aspires to be one.
- Though apparently an unlikely troika due to the historical differences between New Delhi and Beijing, what binds the group together is the now strong partnership between Beijing and Moscow and the time-tested relations between Moscow and New Delhi.
- So, in a sense, Russia becomes the bridge between India and China, since it enjoys strong relations with both.
- Moreover, the RIC forms the core of both the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the BRICS.
- India had been reluctant to join the RIC meeting following the June 15 violent face-off between Indian and Chinese border troops at Galwan Valley that left 20 soldiers dead. However, it agreed to do so after a push from Russia, a key strategic ally and military hardware supplier for India.

#### **Changing Political Equations**

 India's relations with the United States (US) surged, encompassing

- trade and investment, a landmark civil nuclear deal and a burgeoning defence relationship that met India's objective of diversifying military acquisitions away from a near-total dependence on Russia.
- China also acted as major irritant. It went back on the 2005 agreement, launched the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, worked to undermine India's influence in its neighborhood and expanded its military and economic presence in the Indian Ocean.
- The texture of the relationship with Russia also changed, as India-US collaboration widened — in defence and the Indo-Pacific. The western campaign to isolate Russia drove it into a much closer embrace of China — particularly in defence cooperation — than their history of strategic rivalry should have permitted.

#### **Challenges within the Group**

- The RIC has found it increasingly difficult to build on its aim of 'consultation and coordination on regional and global issues of mutual interest,' given that India and China have diverged on the content of these principles.
- There has also been a shift in the balance of power relations within the group. As India has become closer to the US in the Indo-Pacific,



- raising the importance of other plurilaterals like Japan-America-India and the Quad, China has pursued an increasingly aggressive policy in its neighborhood.
- The rise of China has led scholars to classify it as the 'greatest challenge' facing India, with relations steadily getting 'adversarial' both bilateral and regional realm.
- The Sino-Indian crisis potentially puts Russia in a difficult position, having to choose between its traditional partners in India, which also represents a lucrative arms market, and its new but much more powerful friend in the east, China.
- Russia has a reservoir of support in India because of its traditional support, including during the 1971 India-Pakistan War. This support glosses over the fact that Russia was neutral during the 1962 Sino-Indian War because it occurred simultaneously with the Cuban missile crisis.
- For India, however, questions arise whether the RIC fits New Delhi's objectives as it increases its strategic engagement with the United States, Japan, and Australia which goes against the RIC's objective to undermine a growing American presence in the Indo-Pacific.
- While China sees the US Indo-Pacific policy as one to contain China, Russia views it as an American strategy to draw India and Japan into a military alliance.
- The US, on their part, have not alleviated Moscow's concerns and it is in New Delhi's interests to draw the Russians into the Indo-Pacific through the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor.

- Furthermore, with China's • increasingly aggressive foreign policy towards India and in South Asia, and increasing calls for a rethinking of India's China policy, it becomes increasingly difficult to see constructive engagement between India and China in limited international forums like the RIC, BRICS, and the SCO.
- Additionally, with Russia also growing wary of an increasing Chinese footprint in Central Asia, combined with not recognizing Chinese claims in the South China Sea, and vice versa on Crimea as a part of Russia, the two countries do not see eye to eye in what is often termed a "friendship of convenience." there is no doubt tensions are growing within the

#### **Untangling the Relations**

- As noted above, Russia, India and China have seen rapid developments in their respective foreign policies in recent years. Whether it is the breakdown of Russia's relations with the West or closer Indo-US relations or an increasingly aggressive China it has been a period of constant change in an unstable international system.
- This has also prompted an enunciation of different projects to deal with the uncertainties and expand their respective influence - from Greater Eurasia to Indo-Pacific to One Belt, One Road.
- In addition, the Sino-US and US-Russia rifts have been described as 'systemic' and expected to continue for some time. There is little doubt that the trio of Moscow, New Delhi and Beijing will play a role in shaping a future world order.

- However, the organisations in which they play central roles will face numerous challenges, as discussed above, in their efforts to achieve a similar goal.
- India's quest for autonomy of action is based on its geographical realities, historical legacies and global ambitions — not a residual Cold War mindset.
- As noted, RIC dynamics are sensitive to the configuration of the US-Russia-China triangle. This configuration changed in 2008 (the global economic crisis) and again in 2014 (Crimea's accession to Russia). COVID-19 could trigger another change, which could be modulated by the outcome of the U.S. Presidential elections.

#### **Way Forward**

- While the RIC grouping has many delicate and complex parts to it, with bilateral tensions between India and China, and between Russia and China, Moscow needs Beijing and New Delhi, especially in the post-COVID world.
- Similarly, New Delhi views Moscow as an invaluable strategic partner and China knows Russia's approval is imperative for the success of its Belt and Road Initiative across Eurasia. **333**

#### **General Studies Paper-II**

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

Q. India's tilt towards US and aggressive diplomacy by China has made RIC less relevant of India. Comment.







#### **COVID-19: Challenge to India's Metropolitan Cities**

#### Why in News?

COVID-19 has brought in unprecedented challenges India's metropolitan cities, yet again highlighting their limited capabilities to self-govern. India's top metropolitan cities - Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad — now account for nearly half of the country's cases of COVID-19.

#### Introduction

- Metropolitans are victim of their own population density, its inhabitants facing increased risks from compact housing and crowded public transport. High density has been regarded as problematic in badly affected cities such as Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bengaluru,
- etc. The pandemic has generated a whole set of anxieties about the post-coronavirus risks of living in dense metropolitans.
- It is a huge oversimplification to blame population density alone for the transmission of the virus. We need only look at the many examples of densely populated cities where authorities have been successful in managing the virus, such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei and Seoul. But it's certainly true that, in cities as different as New York, Milwaukee, Mumbai Birmingham, Nairobi, a pattern has emerged.
- The problem is not with high population density per se, but with the imbalance between

- good quality urban provisions including housing, services and infrastructure – and the population density of an area. This imbalance is not the natural order of things, but the product of active political choices and historical class, racial and gender inequalities that increase rates of poverty and poor health.
- Before the outbreak, building highdensity cities was seen to bring many benefits. Want to tackle the climate emergency? Build compact low-carbon cities with amenities and jobs within walking distance. Trying to re-ignite your economy? Create clusters of talented people to enable "collision density" that will foster creativity and innovation. Aiming to build socially mixed communities? Develop dense housing ranging from low to mid and high-rise structures that cater to people with different incomes. Building dense towns and cities was viewed as a solution to all kinds of challenges.
- But outside these premium areas of high-density luxury lie expansive areas where poorer groups live, in under-provided neighbourhoods with often ill-maintained and substandard housing.
- This exclusionary approach should be challenged and replaced by a new vision and politics of cities that is more inclusive and caring. The effects of COVID-19 have at once caused immense harm to those living in poorer areas, while

also prompting those living in high-density luxury to reconsider city living. People now question whether they want to live cheekby-jowl with others.

#### India's Public Health

- India's public health expenditure in 2018 was a mere 1.28% of GDP.
- According to the World Bank, India's out-of-pocket health expenditure was 62.4% in 2017, while the world average was 18.2%.
- Additionally, manpower in the health sector is low with India's doctor-population ratio 1:1,457 which is the lower than World Health Organisation norm of 1:1,000.
- It has been witnessed that the metros of India i.e. Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata are in a terrible state of contagion. Number of persons infected with corona in metros across India accounts for about 50% of the total cases in the country.
- This fallout has an obvious public health angle.

#### **Metropolitan Governance Issues**

A World Bank report notes that despite the emergence of smaller towns, the underlying character of India's urbanisation is "metropolitan", with new towns emerging around existing large cities. According to a McKinsey report, in 2012, 54 metropolitan cities and their hinterlands





accounted for 40% of India's GDP, and by 2025, 69 metropolitan cities, combined with their hinterlands, will generate over half of India's incremental GDP between 2012 and 2025. Despite this, India is yet to begin an active discourse on cohesive metropolitan governance frameworks.

- Governance has a bearing not just on the response to COVID-19 but also in preparedness for other natural and man-made disasters and contingencies.
- Specific systemic factors underlying city governance include spatial planning, municipal capacities, empowered mayors and councils and inter-agency coordination, and ward-level citizen participation.
- Complimenting an inequitable public health system is a larger governance issue.
- 27 years have passed since the enactment of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, but these reform agendas continue to be on slow run.
- The Constitution mandates formation of Metropolitan Planning Committees (MPCs) in all metropolitan areas with a million-plus population but MPCs are either not constituted or are defunct.
- MPCs are envisioned to ensure integrated planning for the entire metropolitan area, and are responsible for the preparation draft development plans, synthesising priorities set by local authorities, State and Central governments.

TRACKING COVID-19 August 17, 2020 10.00 am (IST) Started from Wuhan, China WORLD INDIA TOTAL Total cases: 2.647.663 DEATHS Active cases: 6,7 Discharged: 1,919,8 US 5,403,213 170,052 Deaths: 50,921 Brazil 3,340,197 107,852 Spike of 57,981 new cases India 2,589,682 49,980 941 deaths in the last Russia 920,719 15.653 24 hours S Africa 587,345 11,839 Focussing on timely & Peru 525,803 26,075 aggressive testing, India has exceeded 3 crore tests Mexico 522,162 56,757 Health ministry Colombia 468,332 15.097 5-day monthly puja to begi Chile 385,946 10,452 at Lord Ayyappa Temple 343.203 19.639 Sabarimala today Iran Lockdown in Maharashtra t Rest of 290,900 6,527,104 be lifted in stepwise manne the world CM Uddhav Thackeray "India cases on right hand side from Ministry of Health & Family welfare
"" World cases including India from Johns Hopkins University

- Janaagraha's Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2017 report found that only nine out of 18 cities assessed had constituted MPCs even if on paper.
- Poor housing, sanitation, and a lack of access to meaningful social security are a result of poor planning. Only medium- to longterm spatial planning that focuses on equal access to opportunities and services can avoid a repeat of such disasters.
- India's metropolitan cities have weak capacities in finance and staffing. Bengaluru's average percentage of own revenue to total expenditure is 47.9%, Chennai 30.5%, Mumbai 36.1% and Kolkata at 48.4%.
- According to ASICS 2017, Mumbai has the highest number of officers per lakh population at 938 while this is abysmally low compared to global cities such as Johannesburg

with 2,922 officers and York with 5,446 officers per lakh population.

#### **Health Infrastructure Failings**

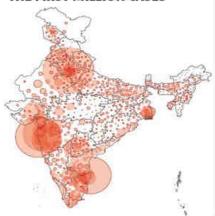
- The health systems in megacities like Delhi and Mumbai are also overburdened and face a shortage of hospital staff and beds. Class I cities (more than a lakh population) have 1.4 beds per 1,000 people. Delhi has 1.5 beds per 1,000 people whereas Mumbai has one bed per 1,000 people. However, the urban support under the National Health Mission is just three per cent of the total allocation, while 97 per cent of the funds are set aside for rural areas.
- Small towns that are urban in nature but rural in character are the most neglected in the current policy environment. They are forced to exist with poorer services and policy neglect while having



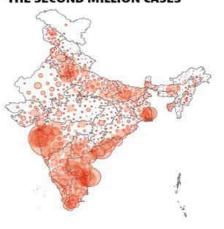
#### THE SHIFTING OF EPICENTRES

While 56% of the first million cases in India came from just three states - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi - the second million was spread through south India and states like UP and West Bengal

#### THE FIRST MILLION CASES







to meet the demands of a large population.

#### Suggestions

- Weak mayor and council and fragmentation of governance is making India's metropolitan cities toothless. Our metropolitan cities are far from being local self-governments as Mayors do not have full decision-making authority over critical functions of planning, housing, water, environment, fire and emergency services in most cases. Thus, efforts should be made to empower Mayer's authority by electing him/her directly along with full 5 year term.
- Having more transparency, accountability and citizen 2017, India's big metropolitan cities on average score 3.04/10

- in transparency, accountability and participation. Transparent cities with institutional platforms encouraging citizen participation, by having functional ward committees and area sabhas, have significant bearing on urban democracy.
- Having decentralised citizen platforms participation these are critical in identifying beneficiaries to provide aid, co-opting communities for contact tracing, adoption of safety precautions, enforcing quarantine, recruiting volunteers, and collaborating with civil society organisations to battle the pandemic.

#### **Way Forward**

participation: As per ASICS ◆ The challenges posed by COVID-19 offer a glimpse into various other future threats of climate change,

natural disasters, etc. which will further strain Indian cities. It is time the Central and State governments lead efforts towards metropolitan governance paradigm. The first steps should include empowered Mayors with five-year tenure, decentralised ward level governance, and interagency coordination anchored by the city government. India should use the current pandemic as an opportunity to introspect and reform the way its metropolises are governed. **333** 

#### General Studies Paper- I

#### Topic:

Role of women and women's organizations, Population and associated issues, and developmental issues, Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

#### **General Studies Paper-II**

Government policies interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

#### Topic:

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

Q. India's metropolitans have served as a hot bed for the coronavirus, while policies lay flat on the ground. Ignored metropolitans crumbling under the pandemic has raised the issues for governance and health. Comment.







#### Patriarchy and the COVID-19: Needs Feminist Response

#### Why in News?

- According to the data of the National Commission Women (NCW), the body has received2,043 complaints crimes committed against women in June, the highest in the last eight months.
- As per NCW, the complaints have increased because of the comissions's increased activity on social media now and registering cases from Twitter and other social media platforms too. NCW now has a WhatsApp number for reporting cases which was not in place earlier.

#### Introduction

- The unfolding pandemic has shown that patriarchal principles of inequality and injustice render all societies and governments ineffectual in attempting to curb the crisis and secure the basic right to health care and health services to all.
- As the world weathers the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is starkly evident that its impacts will extend well beyond public health and into the economic, social and political realm.
- During a pandemic, it pays remember that gender mainstreaming is neither a luxury

- nor a pointless tool in determining our reaction and action.
- Rather, gender is a cross-cutting dimension that must be factored into the analysis and actions of policymakers, researchers and responding organizations for improved response.
- Existing social and economic patterns shaped by gendered norms are amplified by pandemics, becoming determining factors in vulnerability and impact.

#### **Pandemic and Patriarchy**

- Domestic maintenance work and care, much of which are done largely by women within the confines of the home, have become the pillars of post-COVID life and coping strategies. Though central to the survival, wellbeing and flourishing of human beings, such work has historically been viewed with disdain. This is especially so in patriarchal societies like ours, in which they are overtly belittled, yet idealised and imposed as an integral part of "womanhood". Never recognised, respected or rewarded, the household or society has cared the least for those who laboured long hours to provide care for others.
- After the lockdown various activities which are related to the care-work at home. All these activities have enhanced the centrality and value of care-work done by women within the home.

#### **Key Data**

- > According to the NCW data, 452 complaints were received of domestic violence in June alone. Out of the 2043 complaints, the highest number were received under the 'Right to Live with Dignity' at 603. The 'Right to Live with Dignity' takes into account the emotional abuse of women.
- > In addition, the month of June alone saw the registration of 194 cases against sexual harassment and molestation. The monthly figures were the highest yet this year.
- > There were 252 complaints of harassment of married women and dowry harassment followed by 194 complaints of outraging modesty of women and molestation, the data showed.
- > The NCW data showed that 113 complaints of police apathy towards women and 100 complaints of cyber crime were received by the commission.
- > As many as 78 complaints of rape and attempt to rape were received, while 38 complaints of sexual harassment were received in June, the data showed.
- > According to the data, 27 complaints of dowry deaths and 45 complaints under the clause 'Right to exercise choice in marriage or Honour Crimes' were received.





- This enhanced visibility and value also imply a deepened dependence on and inequality in care-work. Globally, women and girls perform 75 per cent of unpaid care and domestic work. Though more than two decades old, the national-level time-use survey in 1998-99 revealed that women were responsible for about 91 per cent of unpaid care and domestic maintenance work in India. Women, on average, spent 25 hours per week in care work as opposed to about two hours per week by men.
- Estimates from a recent survey reinforce that women bear an unequal burden for unpaid care work. Women spent more than five hours per day as against 45 minutes per day by men in unpaid care work and household maintenance in India in 2004-05.
- What's more, the increase in women's care work tends to be accompanied by a consequent decline in the time available for them for leisure and personal care. The increased worth and visibility of care work, thus, goes in tandem with a decline in women's immediate well-being.
- increased dependence The on women to perform this burgeoning work has a longterm consequence as well. The COVID-19 pandemic contributes in more ways than one in bringing women back to the home — the "return of the 1950s housewife",

There will be aggravated impacts of COVID-19 for women already living on the economic margins

Women spend

as many hours as men in unpaid care and domestic work, limiting their access to decent work.

More men between the ages of 25 to 54 are in the labour force than women:



63%

Men

Women

The global gender pay gap is stuck at

with women paid up to 35% less than men in some countries.



million women

globally work in the informal economy.

Globally,



had an account at a financial institution in 2017. compared to



to use the term of sociologist Heejung Chunk.

Some of the sectors which are hard-hit by COVID are the ones which employ women in large numbers, such as tourism, hospitality and retail. It is almost certain that these sectors are not going to resume their operations at a full scale any time soon. This implies substantial lay-offs of women workers and a contraction of women's opportunities to have

an independent source of income.

#### Mitigation

Helplines, psychosocial support and online counselling should be boosted, using technology-based solutions such as SMS, online tools and networks to expand

social support, and to reach women with no access to phones or Internet

- Additionally, conditions the needed to flatten-the-curve exacerbate situations of domestic violence as victims become disconnected from vital support networks and confined dangerous spaces.
- Adapting to and addressing the emerging crisis at the level of grassroots and communities.
- Governments and policymakers must be actively considering the differences in their response.
- Guaranteeing the 'essential' opening of, and funding for, domestic violence support through services economic





hardship serve as both a practical and symbolic recognition of the dangers home isolation holds for some.

- Priority measures help domestic violence victims, without detracting from the overall anti-COVID-19 strategy of lockdown, should be initiated by the government, and steps to protect victims of domestic violence be made a part of overall anti-COVID-19 action plans.
- The electronic media can raise awareness in regional language infomercials, since domestic violence is a crime under the • Indian Penal Code. SOS messaging to police already exists in several cities, but this should be enhanced with geolocation facilities.

#### Conclusion

- The COVID-19 pandemic generated a vast array of responses, analyses, and insights from global feminist movements.
- This pandemic is a public health issue, but it is also a social and political issue of equality and privileges, gendered and beyond. Though an unprecedented situation, it is a chance to recognize an opportunity for positive change.

#### **Health workers can help women** survivors of violence during COVID-19



However, such dependencies and disparities neither evolve naturally nor in a vacuum. They build on and exacerbate the prevalent hierarchies and inequalities.

Organization

Intensive demand on care and domestic work by women during the present pandemic takes advantage of the patriarchal structure, which relegates care work largely to women in India. In multiple ways, COVID-19 has contributed to lowering women's well-being and freedom, and to the regressive phenomenon of the housewife. 333

#### **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:

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

Q. "The greater emphasis on domestic and care work, decline in certain industries, has affected the well-being and economic freedom of women disproportionately." Explain.







#### Taliban's Ceasefire: Opportunity to Start Intra-Afghan **Peace Talks**

#### Why in News?

Taliban decided for ceasefire for three days (could be extended) during Id-ul-Adha which came as a relief for Afghans who have seen unabated violence despite a peace agreement between Taliban and United States (US).

#### **Background**

- The Taliban or Taleban, who refer to themselves as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), are a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist political movement and military organization Afghanistan in currently waging war insurgency) within that country. Since 2016, the Taliban's leader is MawlawiHibatullahAkhundzada.
- hardline Islamic Taliban movement has proved to be a formidable fighting force in Afghanistan and a major threat to its democratic government.
- The group that was removed from power by a US-led invasion in 2001 has gradually regained its strength and now controls and influences more territory than at any point since that time.
- The attention of the world was drawn to the Taliban in Afghanistan following the attacks on the World Trade Center in September 2001. The Taliban were accused of providing a sanctuary to Osama Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda movement who were blamed for the attacks.
- On October 7, 2001, a USled military coalition invaded Afghanistan and by the first week of December the Taliban regime had collapsed. Many senior Taliban leaders reportedly took refuge in the Pakistani city of Quetta, from

- where they guided the Taliban. But the existence of what was dubbed the "Quetta Shura" was denied by Islamabad.
- Pakistan was also one of only three countries, along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which recognised the Taliban when they were in power in Afghanistan.
- The Taliban's ideology has been described as combining an "innovative" form of sharia Islamic law based on Deobandi fundamentalism and the militant Islamism and Salafi jihadism of Osama bin Laden with Pashtun social and cultural norms known as Pashtunwali as most Taliban are Pashtun tribesmen.
- The Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence and military are widely alleged by the international community and the Afghan government to have provided support to the Taliban during their founding and time in power, and of continuing to support the Taliban during the insurgency. Pakistan states that it dropped all support for the group after the 11 September attacks.

#### **US-Taliban Agreement**

- USA has signed a peace agreement with Taliban (Afghan government not a signatory) in March 2020.
- US will draw down to 8,600 troops in 135 days from the present 14000 troops and all troops will be out within 14 months.
- The alliance and its partners in Afghan security mission, known as "Resolute" (which consists of 17000

- troops from 39 countries), would reduce their military presence in the country in recognition of the new agreement.
- Taliban will not allow any of its members, other individuals or groups, including al-Qaeda, to use the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies (which does not include India).
- UN sanctions on Taliban leaders to be removed.
- Up to 5,000 imprisoned Taliban and up to 1,000 prisoners from "the other side" held by Taliban "will be released" by March 10 — which is when intra-Afghan negotiations are supposed to start, in Oslo.
- Taliban would engage with Kabul government directly from March 10to find a lasting solution to the civil war as a part of Intra-Afghan Negotiations.
- The agreement states ceasefire will be simply "an item on the agenda" when intra-Afghan talks start, and indicates actual ceasefire will come with the "completion" of an Afghan political agreement.

#### **History of Taliban Ceasefires**

- In June 2018 and May 2020, the Taliban had briefly ended hostilities to mark the end of the holy month of Ramzan.
- On both occasions, it refused to extend the ceasefire, returning to war as soon as the celebrations were over.
- However, hopes are high that the truce could be extended as Kabul and the insurgents are preparing to launch the intra-Afghan talks that were promised in the U.S.-Taliban deal (supposed to start in March 2020).

# PERFECT Weekly Current Affairs

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### Reason for Stalled the Intra-Afghan Talks

- Both sides failed to reach an agreement on prisoner exchange that was considered necessary for peace talks to begin as per US-Taliban deal.
- Crisis in Afghan Government as President Ashraf Ghani faces a political crisis following claims of fraud in his recent re-election and.2019 election results were contested by the main Opposition candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, who formed a parallel administration -resulting in divided Afghan government. The political tussle is between Ashraf Ghani (who belongs to the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan- the Pashtun) and Abdullah Abdullah (whose base is among his fellow Tajiks, the second largest group in Afghanistan) has deepened the crisis.
- Abdulla Abdullah came back with Afghan government only after being appointed the head of the High Council for National Reconciliation that will lead talks with the Taliban.
- President Ghani decided to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which was followed by the Taliban's ceasefire announcement but proceedings are slow.
- Consequently, these ethnic fissures may descend into open conflict and can start the next round of civil war.

#### **Challenges Ahead**

- There are various loopholes in the US-Taliban deal which makes it harder for various stakeholders to reconcile
- When the US entered into talks with the insurgent group, it did not

- insist on a ceasefire. So the Taliban continues to engage in war and talks simultaneously.
- US is badly looking for a way out of the conflict, kept the Afghan government out of the peace process, thus weakening their position.
- The burden was on a weakened Afghan government to start talks even as the Taliban continued attacks.
- It will be the government's key challenge when its representatives and that of the Taliban, which sees itself as the legitimate ruler of Afghanistan and has not recognised the country's Constitution, would be holding talks.

#### **India amidst Peace Talks**

- An agreement signed between the US and the Taliban on February 29, 2020, marks a milestone in America's longest ever war.
- Accordingly, the majority of US troops are expected to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2021.
- Indian assets in Afghanistan have been targeted by the Haqqani group, a major Taliban faction.
- India has also been able to invest in Afghanistan's future partially because of the presence of US-led troops and the relative stability it brought. With this stability at risk, India needs to urgently reposition its priorities.
- While the US-Taliban agreement states that the Taliban will prevent terrorist outfits from operating on Afghan soil, there is little clarity on how the agreement will be verified and enforced.

- Another risk has to do with the growing influence of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, which shares an undeniable link with the Taliban, especially the Haqqani group.
- Also India's long-term interests in Afghanistan has to do with the increasing political instability in Kabul. Notwithstanding a powersharing agreement signed between Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and former chief executive Abdullah Abdullah, on May 17, 2020, it is clear that such alliances cannot be taken at face value.

#### **Way Forward**

- Afghans and international observers had hoped for a reduction in violence between the two sides following the signing of a troop withdrawal agreement between the Taliban and the US in February.
- This brief reprieve in violence could help build momentum for those talks to finally start, and will revive some of the cautious hope Afghans had begun to feel: that an end to the conflict might eventually be possible.

#### **General Studies Paper- II**

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

Q. "With the United States set to leave Afghanistan, India's involvement there may be at risk. India needs to update its priorities to prepare for this change." Discuss.





# **(05)**

#### Lokmanya Tilak: Swaraj to Self-reliant India

#### Why in News?

Indian Council for Cultural Relations has organized an international webinar on 100th death anniversary great freedom fighter LokmanyaBalGangadharTilak. Theme of the webinar was 'LokmanyaTilak - Swaraj to Selfreliant India'.

#### **Background**

- Bal GangadharTilak, the foremost leader of India's freedom struggle before the advent of the Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi era, breathed his last, after a brief illness, in Bombay in the early hours of August 1, 1920. He was 64.
- Tilak ignited patriotic consciousness among the masses during one of the most difficult periods in the freedom struggle. The defeat suffered by India's First War of Independence in 1857, and the bloody reprisals unleashed in its aftermath by the British, had created disillusionment and darkness that continued for many decades.
- The founding of the Indian National Congress in Bombay in 1885 and the All India Muslim League in Dhaka in 1906, were natural responses of a freedom-loving nation that was trying to find its political voice. However, the voice was still weak and subdued. This is when Tilak began to quicken the growth of



nationalist consciousness with the advent of the 20th century. His trisutri or three-point programme for national awakening – 'Swaraj', 'Swadeshi' and 'Nationalist Education' – lit the fire of self-pride and activism in a nation that was despairing and directionless.

Tilak's two arrests by the British – first in 1897 for 18 months, which earned him the title "lokamanya" or "beloved leader of the people", and later in 1908, for six years of rigorous imprisonment in Mandalay in Burma – galvanised workers, peasants, professionals and youth in an unprecedented manner. Tilak's banishment to Burma witnessed the first ever political

- strike by the working class; the textile workers of Bombay, Hindus of all castes as well as Muslims, struck work for six days, one day for every year of the sentence.
- Condemning Tilak's imprisonment, Vladimir Lenin, who would lead the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917, wrote: "The infamous sentence pronounced by the British jackals on the Indian democrat Tilak... this revenge against a democrat by the lackeys of the money-bags evoked street demonstrations and a strike in Bombay. In India, too, the proletariat has already developed to conscious political mass struggle - and, that being the case, the Russian-style British regime in India is doomed!"

He was one of the trio famously known as 'Lal Bal Pal' triumvirate. Tilak was the first leader of the Indian Independence Movement. The British colonial authorities called him "the father of the Indian unrest."

#### Personal History: In-brief

- Keshav Gangadhar Tilak was born on 23rd July 1856 in Marathi Chitpavan Brahmin family in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
- Tilak was educated at Deccan College in Poona, where in 1876,he earned bachelor's degrees in mathematics and Sanskrit. Tilak then studied law, receiving his degree in 1879 from the University of Bombay.
- At that point, however, he decided to teach mathematics in a private school in Poona. The school became the basis for his political career. He developed the institution into a university college after founding the Deccan Education Society (1884), which aimed at educating the masses, especially in the English language; he and his associates considered English to be a powerful force for the dissemination of liberal and democratic ideals.
- He was also conferred with the title of "Lokmanya", which means "accepted by the people (as their leader). Mahatma Gandhi called him "The Maker of Modern India".
- Tilak was one of the first and strongest advocates of Swaraj ("self-rule") and a strong radical in Indian consciousness. He is known

for his quote in Marathi: "Swarajya is my birthright and I shall have it!"

#### **Major Political Activities**

- Great scholars often lack the ability - and even the inclination - to connect with the masses. Tilak was a glorious exception. He bought the attention of the masses to the struggle for independence.
- He founded and edited two newspapers –'Kesari' in Marathi and 'The Mahratta' in English. He used his pen as a weapon to criticise the colonial rulers.
- Tilak joined the Indian National Congress in 1890.He opposed its moderate attitude, especially towards the fight for selfgovernment under British rule. Tilak aimed at swarajya (independence), not piecemeal reforms, and attempted to persuade the Congress Party to adopt his militant program. On that issue, he clashed with the moderates during the party's session (meeting) at Surat (now in Gujarat state) in 1907, and the party split.
- When Lord Curzon, viceroy of India, partitioned Bengal in 1905, Tilak strongly supported the Bengali demand for the annulment of the partition and advocated a bovcott of British goods, which soon became a movement that swept the nation. The following year he set forth a program of passive resistance,



known as the Tenets of the New Party, that he hoped would destroy the hypnotic influence of British rule and prepare the people for sacrifice in order to gain independence. Those forms of political action initiated by Tilak—the boycotting of goods and passive resistance—were later adopted by Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi in his program of nonviolent noncooperation with the British (satyagraha).

- Tilak sought to widen the popularity of the nationalist movement (which at that time was largely confined to the upper classes) by organizing two important festivals, Ganesh in 1893 and Shivaji in 1895. They were meant to bring mass participation.
- He founded (1914) and served as president of the Indian Home Rule League.
- In 1916 he concluded the Lucknow Pact with Mohammed Ali Jinnah, which provided for Hindu-Muslim unity in the nationalist struggle.
- staunch internationalist, Tilak hailed the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia, led by Lenin, and commended the goals of socialism. His politics was not of, and for, the elitist class. He was one of those early freedom fighters who publicly espoused the cause of workers and farmers.

#### Tilak's Atma-nirbharta

of atma-As a proponent nirbharata or self-reliance, he strongly supported Indian



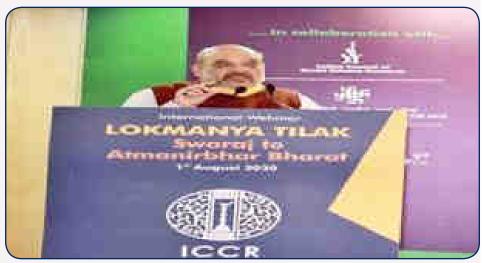


industrialists, especially small entrepreneurs. He became the treasurer of what came to be called the "paisa fund" to finance local industries and village enterprises. The fund was also used to send bright Indian students abroad for technical study.

- With the help of Sir Ratan Tata and other businessmen, promoted the Bombay Swadeshi Store, which was inaugurated by DadabhaiNaoroji in 1906. Ironically, this up-market store has now dropped "Swadeshi" from its name.
- Tilak also assisted VO Chidambaram Pillai, a great patriotic entrepreneur and freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu, in establishing the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company that broke the monopoly of British shipping.
- Among the prominent Indian industrialists who were inspired by his call for Swadeshi was Ardeshir Godrej, who, along with his brother Pirojsha, founded the great manufacturing company that bears their family name.

#### Social Views

Education for all, a goal espoused by progressive thinkers and leaders all over the world, was very dear to Tilak. "If we get Swaraj, our first duty will be to education everybody in the country," he said in 1917. He further warned, "Swaraj will not \* last forever without the spread of education."



Unlike his fellow Maharashtrian contemporary Gokhale, Tilak was considered a radical Nationalist but a Social conservative. Despite being personally opposed to early marriage, Tilak was against the 1891 Age of Consent bill, seeing it as interference with Hinduism and a dangerous precedent.

- Tilak strongly opposed to liberal trends emerging in Pune such as women's rights and social reforms against untouchability. He vehemently opposed the establishment of the first Native Girls High school (now called Huzurpaga) in Pune in 1885 and its curriculum using his newspapers, 'the Mahratta' and 'Kesari'. His views were also conservative in case of intercaste marriage.
- He was in the favour of social without reforms but the interference of British Government.
- In 1903, Tilak wrote the book "The Arctic Home in the Vedas". His other famous writings are "The

Orion" and "ShrimadhBhagvad Gita Rahasya".

#### **Way Forward**

He was one of the firebrand freedom fighters and the strongest proponent of 'purnaswaraj' or 'total self-rule'. Tilak's role in the freedom struggle is being one of the strongest pillars of Indian resistance. He along with DadabhaiNaoroji were those who sowed the seed of Indian freedom struggle deep inside the masses. He was the few who stood up and looked into the eyes of the colonials. **333** 

#### **General Studies Paper- 1**

#### Topic:

The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

Q. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one of the firebrand freedom fighters and the strongest proponent of 'purnaswaraj' or 'total self-rule'. Discuss the concept of self-rule in present scenario.







#### WTO Needs to Revive for Well-regulated Trade

#### Why in News?

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is in the news mostly for the wrong reasons nowadays. Many people regard it as an ineffective policeman of outdated rulebook that is unsuited for the challenges of the twentyfirst-century global economy. And WTO members generally agree that the organization urgently needs reforming in order to remain relevant.

#### Introduction

- The WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.
- A truly multilateral organisation based on the universally acclaimed principle of non-discrimination (MFN) was borne with a balance of rights and obligations for all its members, regardless of whether it was the omnipotent United States of America or indeed the tiny state of Antigua and Barbuda. Most importantly, a robust dispute settlement mechanism was built into WTO whereby the powerful • and the weak, in substantially equal measure, could get redress.
- Well, for one thing, it became a victim of its own success. With a whopping near-universal

## Members Only

#### INDIA CONCERNED WITH

WTO partnering World Bank, IMF on trade reforms report

Seeking secretariat's advice should be consensus based. india says

Says members can resolve institutional issues at WTO without secretariat's suggestions

IMF, WB, WTO report raises doubts

over consensus approach



**Plurilaterals** a wav

forward, it says

membership of 164 countries, big, small and all sizes in-between, the organisation simply turned unwieldy.

- It became increasingly impossible negotiate one common trade rule on the basis of the consensus that applied equally to all WTO members. Second, crucial mistakes were made by all concerned, especially the more powerful players. Some wanted an ever-expanding negotiating agenda; others wanted to bury the Doha round of negotiations so painstakingly agreed by the WTO membership in the post-9/11 scenario.
- Even developing and least developed countries cannot be absolved of all blame; they resisted, sometimes illogically, all forward movement in negotiations and were obsessively consumed by the

injustice (both perceived and real) meted out to them in the Uruguay round. All in all, it was a recipe for collective disaster. And when the US, the most powerful player of them all, felt aggrieved and decided to act out, it was pretty much game over for WTO.

There is little doubt that WTO is needed more than ever now when the COVID-19 has wrought havoc with global trade.

#### **Concerns with WTO**

- For several years, WTO members have voiced frustrations with the institution, generally relating to three major issues.
- First, two-thirds of the WTO's 164 member states continue to claim "developing country" status, a designation that allows them to take advantage of certain benefits





and exemptions to obligations not granted to advanced economies. However, economic realities suggest that many of these countries have the capacity to take on fuller obligations. For example, 10 Group of Twenty (G20) members claim developing country status at the WTO. Since the WTO allows for self-classification, there is no universal definition for developed or developing status.

- Second, the WTO's negotiating arm is atrophying. At the root of the degrading negotiating function is the difficulty for WTO members to reach a full consensus, which is required to agree to new agreements, obligations, and rule changes.
  - · The failure of many countries, including major economies like China, to comply with notification and transparency obligations has made negotiating new rules and agreements even more difficult. The United States, the European Union, and others have called for rules that would punish members for not complying with their transparency obligations.
  - · The consensus requirement, however, will likely present a formidable roadblock to such rules being agreed to.
  - Certain members, including China, have taken advantage of the overall impasse at the WTO and continue to maintain discriminatory barriers against imports, intervene

- in markets to support stateowned enterprises, and fail to report subsidies to the WTO accurately.
- Third, some countries (but primarily the United States) have concerns with the WTO dispute settlement system, the main process to resolve trade conflicts between members.
  - Specifically, the United States is concerned the Appellate Body, which permits countries to appeal against adverse rulings, has exercised decision making and arbitration power beyond its original mandate.
  - United Successive States administrations have claimed that the Appellate Body, through its rulings, adds or diminishes to the rights of WTO members by reinterpreting WTO agreements, despite WTO members having never agreed those interpretations. While desire for reform is broadly shared across the WTO community, member states' opinions and proposals on how to proceed vary significantly.
  - The WTO's appellate body, adjudicates which trade disputes among member countries, effectively ceased functioning last December amid disagreements regarding the appointment of new judges to the panel. And in May 2020, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo announced that he would step down at the end of August, a year before his current term was due to end.

#### **Maintaining Relevance**

- But despite these challenges, the WTO has not been a "failure." Rather, it has built upon the successes of its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which entered into force in 1948. The rules-based multilateral trading system that began with GATT has contributed immensely to global economic growth over the last seven decades, by reducing average tariffs and steadily eliminating non-tariff barriers.
- As a result, living standards have improved in most countries. Moreover, rules-based global trade has helped to underpin peace and security, because trading partners are more likely to resolve differences through negotiations than through armed conflict.
- Nonetheless, WTO members today recognize the need to reboot the organization for the 21st century. Developed countries believe that they have shouldered the burden of trade liberalization for far too long, and that developing countries should shoulder more obligations if they are in a position to do so. Least-developed and low-income developing countries, meanwhile, say that WTO rules are hampering their efforts to grow and modernize their economies.

#### **Suggestions for Revival**

The WTO membership must decide expeditiously on the



The real challenge for WTO is the future negotiating agenda in the medium term.

#### **Way Forward**

- A moribund WTO does not serve any country's interest. effective, rules-based An international trade system is a public good, and failure to revive it will undermine governments' efforts to pull the global economy out of the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The WTO has an irreplaceable role to play in transforming countries' economic prospects and the lives of people around the world. Although the current crisis has brought the organization's deteriorating health into sharp focus, its further decline is not inevitable. In a world economy already imperilled by COVID-19, must now apply antidote-members' political will, determination, and flexibilityneeded to revive it. **333**

director general. There new are times in the past when this issue has dragged on indefinitely, debilitating the organisation. The main function of the director general is "consensus-building" on the basis of equity towards all members. The main quality required is "political gravitas" since she can be sure to get as much technical expertise as necessary once in the job.

- The United States simply has to be brought on board WTO, for it makes no sense to keep the most powerful player out.
- WTO has three primary • functions: one, to act as a forum for negotiations; two, to administer and monitor existing trade agreements; and three, to provide an effective mechanism for resolving trade disputes. There is simply no way the first two functions be performed if the third one is ineffective. Today, the dispute settlement mechanism,

- considered previously the jewel in the crown of WTO, is dysfunctional. This needs to be set right. Again, the United States has to be co-opted, since it nursed the main grievance with respect to the erstwhile Appellate Body.
- The next ministerial conference is scheduled to take place in June 2021 and it would be okay if the main aim was to conclude the negotiations on fisheries subsidies by then. That would give enough time for the new DG and the membership to deliver on time.
- It is clear that WTO, one way or the other, has to reckon with China and its trade practices. This is not just because China is one of the most important players in WTO today, but also because a number of countries do want the body to clarify issues such as the role of state-owned enterprises, forced tech transfer and nonmarket economies.

#### **General Studies Paper-II**

Important International institutions, agencies and foratheir structure, mandate.

Q. WTO as a truly multilateral organisation is in dire need of reforms. It cannot be shunted out as its relevance increases more in a post-Covid world. Comment.







#### **Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2020: An Overview**

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has released 2020 draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification.
- The draft has seen many objections to its clauses and averments for violating several provisions under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986.

#### Introduction

- The EIA is a process under the Environment (Protection) 1986, preventing industrial and infrastructure projects being approved without proper evaluation and scrutiny. This process is essential for ensuring every project passes through the rigours of the EIA process prior to the grant of an environmental clearance.
- It prevents the proposed activity/ project from being approved proper oversight or taking adverse consequences into account.
- As a signatory to the Stockholm Declaration (1972)on Environment,India hadenacted laws to control water (1974) and air (1981) pollution soon after.
- It was only after the Bhopal gas leak disaster in 1984 that the country legislated Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, an umbrella act for environmental protection in 1986, under which India notified

- its first EIA norms in 1994, setting in place a legal framework for regulating activities that access, utilise, and affect (pollute) natural resources.
- Since then every development project has been required to go through the EIA process for environmental obtaining prior clearance.

#### **New Draft: Proposed Modifications**

- A new draft of the EIA has been proposed by the Union government this year, which includes certain problematic and contentious changes in rules.
- One of these is the provision that projects can receive clearance post-facto, i.e. a project operating in violation of the EPA can now apply for clearance. This is despite a 1 April Supreme Court order that held such clearances as contrary to law.
- The new draft also exempts a long list of projects as outside the purview of the EIA, including any project the government deems to label as "strategic". The draft says that no information on "such projects shall be placed in the public domain".
- The exempt list also includes all inland waterways and national highways projects. The other point of concern is that construction projects of up to 150,000 sq. m shall be exempt from EIAs.

- Under the proposed changes, project proponents need to submit only one annual report on compliance with conditions, compared to the existing two. The move is seen as retrograde, because the CAG found in 2016 that the deficiency in semi-annual compliance reporting was between 43% and 78%, while failure to comply with conditions ranged from 5% to 57%.
- Non-compliance was encountered particularly in river valley and hydroelectric power projects and thermal power projects. After the gas leak at LG Polymers in Visakhapatnam on May 7, the Environment Ministry told the National Green Tribunal that the unit lacked environment clearance, exposing the low effectiveness of rules.
- It excludes reporting by the public of violations and non-compliance. Instead, the government will take cognisance of reports only from the violator-promoter, government authority, Appraisal Committee or Regulatory Authority. Such projects can then be approved with conditions, including remediation of ecological damage, which, again, will be assessed and reported by the violator, although Central Pollution Control Board guidelines must be used.
- It enables a sweeping clearance system to a number of critical

- projects that previously required an EIA of special rigour. They will, under the new notification, be subject to less demanding processes. These include aerial ropeways, metallurgical industries, and a raft of irrigation projects, among others.
- It proposes to bolster the government's discretionary power while limiting public engagement in safeguarding the environment.
- List of exempted projects from public consultation.
  - Linear projects such as roads and pipelines in border areas will not require any public hearing.

- The border area (is defined as "area falling within 100 kilometres aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control with bordering countries of India) would cover much of the Northeast, the repository of the
- All inland waterways projects expansion/widening of national highways will be exempt from prior clearance. These include roads that cut through forests and dredging of major rivers.

country's richest biodiversity.

#### **Issues Concerned**

The recently released draft has seen many objections to its clauses and averments for violating several provisions under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986.

- The notification fails to fulfil the precautionary principle, diligence and norms for fruitful public participation, making it converse to the protection and safeguard of the environment.
- It is, thus, not just vires to the EPA, 1986, but also the right to clean and healthy environment under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- The draft EIA, 2020 reflects technocratic language, as it makes public consultation a tertiary issue and focuses on granting clearances with ease for proponents of projects.
- Such an interpretation makes the purpose of the EIA to facilitate ease of doing business for the proponent rather than enabling public participation for decisionmaking on the environment.
- This ease of doing business is done by providing a single-window online portal for application of clearance, allowing postfacto clearances, modernisation without safeguards, monetising offences and seeking compliance through self-declaration and self-assessment through self-appointed experts and consultants.
- Such an interpretation reverses the burden of proof and inverts the public trust doctrine [MC Mehta v Kamal Nath, (1997) 1 SCC 388], under which the state is a trustee to a principle of pollute and pay.
- It relegates public consultation to the backdrop by reducing

#### **Stockholm Declaration of 1972**

- In 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden, the United Nations hosted its first Conference on the Human Environment, the official declaration of which is commonly called the Stockholm Declaration of 1972.
- The 26 principles within the declaration broadly recognize human impact on the environment, signifying for the first time in history that environmental issues have been addressed publicly and on a global scale.
- The declaration emphasizes the need for nations to design integrative development plans that combine science and technology in order to lessen air, land, and water pollution and human impact on the environment.
- It urges each nation to create regulations for protecting wildlife and conserving the natural resources that are available within that country, and suggests creating national population policies, since overpopulation exacerbates the strain on natural resources.
- The Stockholm Declaration provided a foundation for many of the environmental policies that have been established in the 113 participating countries.
- Additionally, the core principles presented in the declaration and the discussions that led to it sparked the creation of the United Nations Environmental Programme, which has subsequently developed more specific protocols to protect the environment.





the time frame for notice to merely 20 days, conducting clearances through online mode and diminishing people's role in reporting violations by facilitating monitoring and compliance of the project through the proponent themselves, once the clearance is granted.

EIAs done today in India are not great. A lot of them are cut/copy/ paste jobs. But that doesn't mean that the existing law itself is bad. The draft EIA notification tries to dismantle the core idea that an assessment should be done before a project starts. One of the provisions of the new draft is that projects that have come up illegally, that is, projects without environmental clearances can actually be legalized.

#### **Way Forward**

EIA rules must meet the requirements of the precautionary principle of avoiding harm, intergenerational equity. The European Union, as an . evolving example, has modified processes in accordance with the Aarhus Convention, 1998, which stipulates that environmental rights and human rights are linked, the present generation owes an obligation to future generations, sustainable

Essential Components of E.I.A.

Screening



Reporting the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) or EIA report.



To determine whether project require a Including an environmental management full or partial impact assessment study. plan (EMP).

Scoping



Review of the **Environmental Impact** Statement (EIS). Based on the terms of reference (scoping)

and public (including authority)



To identify which potential impacts are relevant to assess, to identify alternative solutions that avoid, mitigate or impacts

compensate adverse biodiversity and finally to derive terms of reference for the impact assessment.

Assessment & evaluation of

alternatives

mpacts and development of

predict and identify the likely

environmental impacts of a proposed

project or development, including the

detailed elaboration of alternatives.

participation.



Decision-making On whether to approve the project or not, and under what condition.

Monitoring, compliance, enforcement and



environmental auditing

To monitor whether the predicted impacts and proposed mitigation measures occur as defined in the EMP.

development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders, government accountability and environmental protection are connected, and interactions between the public and public authorities must take place in a democratic context.

The rules in India, including EIA 2006, it can be argued, privileged the interests of the project proponent by carving down public consultations, accepting flawed and faulty EIA reports resulting from external influences, and ignoring the non-renewable nature of resources.

Notification 2020 deepens the impact of that paradigm thus there is no doubt that a mere strengthening of the existing EIA norms will not by itself be sufficient and there is a need for a renewed vision for the country. **333** 

**General Studies Paper- III** 

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Q. Critically analyse the key provisions of recently released 2020 draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification.

# IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

#### The World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2020

#### 1. Why in News?

The World Day against Trafficking in Persons is marked on July 30 every year to raise awareness about the menace of human trafficking and to protect the human rights of the victims.



#### 5. The Blue Heart Campaign

- The UN has initiated 'The Blue Heart Campaign' to raise global awareness to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.
- It seeks to encourage involvement from governments, civil society, the corporate sector and individuals alike, to inspire action and help prevent this heinous crime.
- The Blue Heart is increasingly recognized as the international symbol against human trafficking, representing the sadness of those who are trafficked while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings.
- The campaign allows people to show their solidarity with the victims of human trafficking and increasing their visibility by wearing the Blue Heart.

#### 2. First Responders against Trafficking

- The 2020 theme for the World Day against Trafficking in Persons will focus on the first responders to human trafficking.
- These are the people who work in different sectors identifying, supporting, counselling and seeking justice for victims of trafficking, and challenging the impunity
- The role of first responders has become even more challenging amid the COVID-19 pandemic. With restrictions on the movement, the work of detecting trafficking has met several roadblocks.
- But despite the pandemic, the first responders continue to do their duties. And thus UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has decided to honour their hard work amid trying
- According to the UNODC, people are being trafficked for various exploitative purposes including forced marriage, begging, labour, sexual exploitation, organs removal, selling children and child soldiers.

#### 3. About UNTOC

- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime.
- The Convention represents a major step forward in the fight against transnational organized crime and signifies the recognition by member states of the seriousness of the problems posed by it, as well as the need to foster and enhance close international cooperation in order to tackle those problems.

#### 4. Palermo Protocols

- Palermo protocols are three protocols that were adopted by the United Nations to supplement the UNTOC (the Palermo Convention). They are:
  - the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children;
  - the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and
  - The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.
- These protocols and convention fall within the jurisdiction of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- Protocol defines trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer of persons by either threat, use of force, abduction or fraud. Where one person has control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. The protocol further defines exploitation as prostitution, sexual exploitation, slavery, forced labour or services or even removal of organs."
- It is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in





#### **Constitutional Practices and Governor**

#### 1. Why in News?

- Rajasthan High Court's order of July 24 staying the anti-defection proceedings initiated by the Assembly Speaker against the rebel legislators raises important constitutional issues.
- A petition challenging the issuance of notices by the Speaker to the rebel MLAs turned into one challenging the constitutionality of Para 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution (anti-defection law).
- The crucial question in Rajasthan is whether the Governor has any discretionary power in the matter of summoning the Assembly. The Governor asked the government to change the date of commencement recommended by the Cabinet and proposed a date after 21 days. Finally, he got the Cabinet to yield to his wishes.



#### 5. Important Judgements

- In KihotoHollohan v. Zachillhu (1992), while barring any interlocutory intervention by the court in the Tenth Schedule proceedings, the Supreme Court held that a challenge is not barred if there is an imminent threat of disqualification/suspension before the Speaker takes a final decision on merit.
- The NabamRebia case makes it clear that so long as the Chief Minister enjoys majority support in the Assembly, the Governor has no discretional powers and is bound to accept the decisions of the Cabinet in regard to the date of commencement of the session.
- In Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab (1974), the Supreme Court said: "The Governor has no right to refuse to act on the advice of the Council of Ministries. Such a position is antithetical to the concept of 'responsible government'."

#### 2. Issue Concerned

- Summoning the Assembly is a routine constitutional function of the Governor. That this has created a serious confrontation resulting in a constitutional deadlock underscores the need to comprehend the ferocity of adversarial politics and its potential to disrupt normal politico-constitutional operations in the field of governance.
- As per the normal procedure, once the Cabinet decides to call the session on a particular date that decision is conveyed to the Governor who signs the summons order and sends it back the same day or the next day. Thereafter, the summons is issued to individual members by the Assembly Secretary.
- By not agreeing to the date decided by the Cabinet, the Governor has shown that he has the final say. This is fraught with many disturbing possibilities in the relationship between the Governor and the State government
- Under Article 174 of the Constitution, the Governor summons the Assembly. But the Governor can act only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

#### 3. The 21-day Period

- The Constitution does not provide for any 21-day period between summoning and commencement.
- In 1960s, the Rules Committee of the Lok Sabha recommended that the gap between the date of summons and of the commencement of the House should be 21 days.
- This was thought of as necessary as the collection, collation and scrutiny of information relating to Questions, at different levels of bureaucracy, before it was placed in the House, was a time-consuming job.
- Although Parliament changed it to 15 days later, many State Legislatures continue with the 21-day period. It is not an inflexible rule, and says "unless the Speaker otherwise decides".

#### 4. Important Rules Pertaining to Tenth Schedule

- These rules were first framed by the Lok Sabha Speaker in 1985 and adopted by more or less all the State Legislatures.
- Rule 6 of the Lok Sabha rules deals with the filing of the petition and the forwarding of the same by the Speaker to the Member concerned and related matters.
- The rule requires the petitioner, and not the Speaker, to satisfy himself about the reasonableness of the ground for disqualification.
- Rule 7 says that on receipt of the petition, the Speaker shall consider whether the petition complies with the requirements of Rule 6.
- If he finds that the petition does not meet all the requirements, he shall dismiss it.
- If it complies with all the requirements, he shall forward the copy of the petition and the annexure to the concerned Member and require him to submit his comments within seven days of the receipt of the copy of the petition.
- Only through a proper hearing will the Speaker be able to know whether reasonable grounds exist for disqualification.
- Staying the Speaker's action is unprecedented and unheard of at the 'notice' stage and it will stymie the operation of the Tenth Schedule because any Member can go to court and obtain a stay and put a stop to the proceedings.





#### Merger of Political Parties under Tenth Schedule

#### 1. Why in News?

The Rajasthan High Court has dismissed a petition filed by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar, challenging assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi's inaction on the disqualification proceedings against the six BSP MLAs who had merged with the Congress.



#### 5. Amended Status

- In both Rajendra Singh Rana v. Swami Prasad Maurya (2007) and in Jagjit Singh v. State of Haryana (2006), the Supreme Court held that the split in the original party is a precondition for recognising a split in the legislature party. Experts suggest that the ratio of these decisions apply to a case of merger also.
- The key aspect is that the cases cited above deal with splits where when one-third of the members of a legislative party splits; they could not attract disqualification as per Paragraph 3 of the Tenth Schedule.
- 2003, through the 91st Constitutional Amendment, Paragraph 3 was deleted from the Tenth Schedule.
- The amendment was made as the onethird split rule was grossly misused by parties to engineer divisions and indulge in horse-trading.
- One-third was regarded as an easy target to achieve and the law now exempts defection only when it is at two-thirds (in a merger).

#### 2. Contention against Merger

- Six BSP MLAs had last year declared that they had merged with the Congress, and Speaker understood to have accepted the merger in September last year. BSP refused to accept their merger with the Congress and termed it illegal and unconstitutional. BSP has only 6 seats in Rajasthan Assembly.
- Since BSP is a recognised national party as such there cannot be any merger under para (4) of the Tenth Schedule at the state level at the instance of the 6 MLAs unless there is a merger of the entire BSP everywhere at the national level
- MLAs "cannot claim any merger under any illegal and unconstitutional order" of the speaker, which is against the Tenth Schedule as well as against several judgments of the Supreme Court, including a three-judge bench decision in Jagjit Singh v State of Haryana (2006) and the constitution bench decision in the Rajendra Singh Rana (2007) case.

#### 3. Tenth Schedule on Merger

- Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule, under which a member of a House belonging to any political party shall be disqualified if he has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party.
- Paragraph 3 of the unamended Act made it clear that a split in the legislature party must have arisen as a result of a split in the original political party that is the organisational wing of the party. (deleted)
- Paragraph 4, which deals with merger, which still remains in the Act, adopts similar phraseology: "A member of a House shall not be disqualified under sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 2 where his original political party merges with another political party."
- Under Paragraph 4(2), the merger of the original political party of a member of a House shall be deemed to have taken place if, and only if, not less than two-thirds of the members of the legislature party concerned have agreed to such merger.
- The "merger" referred to in Paragraph 4(2) is seen as legal fiction, where members are deemed to have merged for the purposes of being exempt from disqualification, rather than a merger in the true sense.

#### 4. National and State Level Merger

- Tenth Schedule identifies this dichotomy between state units and national units. As per Paragraph 4(2), "merger" of a party means merger of a legislative party of that House. In this case, it would be the Rajasthan Legislative unit of the BSP and not the BSP at the
- Paragraph 1 of the Tenth Schedule which defines terms specified in the context of the antidefection law states this clearly.
- "Legislature Party" for the purposes of Paragraph 4 (which deals with mergers) "means the group consisting of all the members of that House for the time being belonging to that political party in accordance with the said provisions."







#### 1. Why in News?

Recently, a report released by the Ministry of Finance stated that in the financial year 2020-21, looking at the possibility of a better monsoon, agricultural sector may play an important role to revive the Indian economy affected by the Corona virus.



#### **5.** The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

- There is no specific definition of essential commodities in the Essential Commodity Act. Section 2(A) of the act states that an "essential commodity" means a commodity specified in the "Schedule" of this Act.
- The Ordinance provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances. These include: (i) war, (ii) famine, (iii) extraordinary price rise and (iv) natural calamity of grave nature.
- The Ordinance requires that imposition of any stock limit on certain specified items must be based on price rise. A stock limit may be imposed only if there is: (i) 100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce; and (ii) 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.

#### 2. Background

- In June 2020, the central government has introduced major agricultural market reforms through three ordinances: The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2020, The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020, and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020.
- Since the inauguration of the Indian constitution on January 26, 1950, these three inter-linked ordinances constitute the most concerted entry of the Centre into the sphere of agriculture, which was designated a state subject in the constitution.

#### 3. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020

- The Ordinance seeks to provide for barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the markets notified under the various state agricultural produce market laws (state APMC
- The Ordinance will prevail over state APMC Acts.
- The Ordinance will allow intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC acts such as private market yards and market sub-yards, direct marketing collection centres, and private farmer-consumer market yards.
- A farmer is defined as a person engaged in the production of farmers' produce by self or by hired labour. A farmer producer organisation means an association or group of farmers which is: (i) registered under the law, or (ii) promoted under a scheme of the central or state government.

#### 4. The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020

- The Ordinance will provide a framework for the protection and empowerment of farmers with reference to the sale and purchase of farm products.
- The provisions of the Ordinance will override all state APMC laws.
- The Ordinance will provide for a farming agreement prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce, aimed at facilitating farmers in selling farm produces to sponsors.
- The minimum period of an agreement will be one crop season, or one production cycle of livestock. The maximum period will be five years. For production cycle beyond five years, the maximum period for the agreement will be mutually decided by the farmer and the
- The price to be paid for the purchase of a farming produce will be mentioned in the agreement. In case of prices subjected to variations, the agreement must include: (i) a guaranteed price to be paid for such produce, and (ii) a clear reference for any additional amount over and above the guaranteed price, including bonus or premium.







### UNICEF's Report on Lead Poisoning

#### 1. Why in News?

A joint report 'The Toxic Truth: Children's Exposure to Lead Pollution Undermines a Generation of Potential' by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Pure Earth, a non-profit organisation notes that lead is a potent neurotoxin that causes irreparable harm to children's



#### 4. Key Recommendations

- Monitoring and reporting systems including building capacity for blood lead level testing.
- Prevention and control measures including preventing children's exposure to high-risk sites and products that contain lead, such as certain ceramics, paints, toys, and spices.
- Management, treatment, remediation including strengthening health systems so that they are equipped to detect, monitor and treat lead exposure among children; and providing children with enhanced educational interventions and cognitive behavioural therapy to better manage the negative effects of lead exposure.
- Public awareness and behaviour change including creating continual public education campaigns about the dangers and sources of lead exposure with direct appeals to parents, schools, community leaders, and healthcare workers.
- Legislation and policy developing, implementing, enforcing environmental, health and safety standards for manufacturing and recycling of lead acid batteries and e-waste, and enforcing environmental and air-quality regulations for smelting operations.
- Global and regional action including creating global standard units of measure to verify the results of pollution intervention on public health, the environment, and local economies; building an international registry of anonymized results of blood lead level studies; and creating international standards and norms around recycling and transportation of used lead acid batteries.

#### 2. Key Highlights

- 1 in 3 children up to approximately 800 million globally have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per decilitre (µg/dL).
- Most of these children impacted by lead live in Africa and Asia, but many are also affected in Central and South America and Eastern Europe. While blood lead levels have declined dramatically in high-income countries since the phase-out of leaded gasoline and in some places lead-based paint, blood lead levels for children and adults in low- and middle-income countries and in pockets in high-income countries continue to be dangerously high.
- The impact of lead on adults is so large that over 900,000 premature deaths per year are attributed to lead exposure.
- One of the most concerning sources of lead exposure is the unsound recycling of used lead-acid batteries (ULABs), most of which are found in cars, trucks and other vehicles.
- Juvenile delinquency, violence and crime have been associated with preschool lead exposure.
- Many countries lack sufficient formal recycling infrastructure and capacity to handle the quantity of used lead-acid batteries flooding their markets.
- Sources of Lead Exposure
  - Lead-acid Batteries
  - Spices, Cosmetics and Toys
  - Ceramics and Cookware
  - **Lead-based Paint and Pigments**
  - Leaded Gasoline
  - Lead in Soil
  - Lead in Water
  - **Electronic Waste**
  - Occupational Exposure

#### 3. Lead Poisoning

- As there is no cure for lead poisoning, identifying local sources is a very important part of preventing exposure.
- Lead is a potent neurotoxin that, with even low-level lead exposure, is associated with a reduction in IQ scores, shortened attention spans, and potentially violent - and even criminal - behaviour later in life.
- Babies and children under five are at high risk, because their brains can be damaged even before they get to fully develop, leading to lifelong neurological, cognitive and physical impairment.
- Older children have higher risk of kidney damage and cardiovascular diseases.
- India has the largest number more than 275 million children with blood lead levels of more than five micrograms per decilitre.
- Children living at or near lead acid battery recycling workshops in India, have been found to have lead levels up to 190 micrograms per decilitre.





# **Beirut Explosion**

#### 1. Why in News?

The catastrophic explosion at Beirut porton August 4 that has so far killed at least 220 people, injured around 5,00 and left an estimated 300,000 people homeless.



#### 5. India Regulates Ammonium Nitrate

- In India, The Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012, under The Explosives Act, 1884, define ammonium nitrate as the "compound with formula NH4NO3 including any mixture or compound having more than 45 per cent ammonium nitrate by weight including emulsions, suspensions, melts or gels but excluding emulsion or slurry explosives and non-explosives emulsion matrix and fertilizers from which the ammonium nitrate cannot be separated".
- As it is used as an ingredient for the production of industrial explosives, anaesthetic gases, fertilisers, cold packs and has a strong possibility of misuse, ammonium nitrate is highly regulated in India.
- The manufacture, conversion, bagging, import, export, transport, possession for sale or use of ammonium nitrate is covered under The Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012. The rules also make storage of ammonium nitrate in large quantities in populated areas illegal in India.
- For the manufacture of ammonium nitrate, an Industrial license is required under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1951. A license under the Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 is also required for any activity related to ammonium nitrate.

#### 2. Unfortunate Incident

- Beirut is the capital and largest city of Lebanon.
- The recent explosion was caused by 2,700 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored for six years in a warehouse in the city's port.
- The blast was detected by the United States Geological Survey as a seismic event of magnitude 3.3, which was felt in Turkey, Syria, Israel, and parts of Europe, and was heard in Cyprus.

#### 3. Crisis in Lebanon

- The economy of Lebanon was in a state of crisis prior to the explosions, with the government having defaulted on debt, the pound plunging, and a poverty rate that had risen past 50%.
- Lebanon was also already reeling from an economic crisis that triggered antigovernment protests starting in October 2019, when the country's currency began to lose its value against the dollar.
- Food prices have gone up and about one in three people in the country are unemployed.
- In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic had overwhelmed many of the country's hospitals, several of which already were short of medical supplies and unable to pay staff due to a financial crisis.
- Public anger over corruption and the government's inability to provide even basic services, are in a permanent agitation mood.
- Now, with the destruction of Beirut's port and the country's main grain silo which was close to the warehouse storing the ammonium nitrate the consequences of the blast will be felt across the nation.

#### 4. What is Ammonium Nitrate?

- It is a chemical compound with the chemical formula NH4NO3. It is a white crystalline solid consisting of ions of ammonium and nitrate. It is highly soluble in water and hygroscopic as a solid, although it does not form hydrates.
  - It is predominantly used in agriculture as a high-nitrogen fertilizer and a major use is as a component of explosive mixtures used in mining, quarrying, and civil construction.
- Pure ammonium nitrate is not an explosive on its own. It is classified as an oxidiser (Grade 5.1) under the United Nations classification of dangerous goods. If mixed with ingredients like fuel or some other contaminants, or because of some other external factors, it can be very explosive.
- Large quantities of stored ammonium nitrate are regarded as a major fire hazard, with multiple reported cases across the world. The explosion of large storage can happen primarily in two ways.
  - Some type detonation or initiation because the storage comes in contact with explosive mixture.
- Blast can result due to a fire which starts in the ammonium nitrate store because of the heat generated due to the oxidation process at large scale. The second one seems to be the primary likely cause of the incident at Beirut port.





# **Smog Towers**

#### 1. Why in News?

The Supreme Court on 29th July 2020, warned of contempt action against Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay) after it backed out of the proposed smog tower pilot project in Delhi. The court's reference was to its January 13 direction to set up smog towers in the capital to combat increasing air pollution.



#### 5. Smog

- Smog is air pollution that reduces visibility. The term "smog" was first used in the early 1900s to describe a mix of smoke and fog.
- Most of the smog we see is photochemical smog. Photochemical smog is produced when sunlight reacts with nitrogen oxides and at least one volatile organic compound (VOC) in the atmosphere. Nitrogen oxides come from car exhaust, coal power plants, and factory emissions. VOCs are released from gasoline, paints, and many cleaning solvents.
- When sunlight hits these chemicals, they form airborne particles and ground-level ozone—or smog.
- Smog is unhealthy to humans and animals, and it can kill plants.

#### 2. Background

- Air pollution in the national capital has been an issue of concern for quite some time as Delhi and its suburbs have ranked among the most polluted cities in the world frequently since 2014, when the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Delhi the most polluted city in the world.
- In November 2019, Supreme Court rebuked authorities in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh for failing to control the practice of stubble-burning on farms, which contributes to air pollution.
- The Bench directed authorities to take measures, including asking the Delhi government and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to submit a comprehensive plan on setting up "smog towers" in the capital.
- A proposal on the towers was then submitted by the IIT-B to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In January, the Supreme Court directed that two towers should be installed in the capital by April, 2020 on a pilot project basis.

#### 3. Criticism of the Convention

- A smog tower is a structure designed to work as a large-scale air purifier, fitted with multiple layers of filters which trap fine dust particles suspended in the air as it passes through them.
- Air is drawn through fans installed at the top of the tower, passed through filters, and then released near the ground.
- The large-scale filters expected to be installed in the towers in Delhi would use carbon nano-fibres as a major component, and would be fitted along the peripheries of the towers, project experts had said, adding that the height of the towers would be 20 metres.
- The towers to be installed in Delhi were to be the result of a collaboration between the IITs at Mumbai and Delhi, and the University of Minnesota. The university has helped design a 100-metre high permanent smog tower in the Chinese city of Xian. This tower was completed in 2017, and is supposed to be the world's biggest air purifier.

#### 4. Effectiveness

- Experts involved in setting up the smog towers in Delhi have said that the towers would create "clean air zones" in the city. An estimate made of their impact on air quality shows a tower would reduce 50% of the particulate matter load — fine dust particles suspended in the air — in an area of 1 kilometre in the direction of the wind, as well as 200 metres each along the sides of the tower and against the direction of the wind.
- An affidavit submitted by the Delhi environment department to the Supreme Court in December had stated, "The (Delhi government) committee is of the view these smog towers may not be useful for the whole city, but they can be useful in creating 'clean air area' zones in different parts of the city."
- Smog towers have been experimented with in recent years in cities in the Netherlands, China, South Korea and Poland. The first such tower was erected in 2015, in Rotterdam, Netherlands, created by Dutch artist Daan Roosegaarde.

# MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS (Based on Brain Boosters)

# The World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2020

## Q. With reference to the trafficking of human beings, consider the following statements:

- In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly designated 30 July as World Day against Trafficking in Persons, as part of its resolution to coordinate efforts against human trafficking.
- 2. The theme for 2020's World Day against Trafficking focuses on first responders to human trafficking.
- 3. UN has initiated 'Together' campaign for raising awareness against human trafficking.

#### 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.** In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly designated 30 July as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, as part of its resolution to coordinate efforts against human trafficking.

The theme of this year's World Day Against Trafficking focuses on first responders to human trafficking. According to the UN, the first responders are those who work in different fields like identifying, supporting, counselling and working to provide justice for victims of trafficking.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The UN has initiated 'The Blue Heart Campaign' to raise global awareness to fight human trafficking and its impact on society. TOGETHER is a global campaign that aims to change negative perceptions and attitudes towards refugees and migrants, and to strengthen the social contract between host countries and communities, and refugees and migrants.

# Constitutional Practices and Governor

#### Q. With reference to the issue of summoning the session of the Constituent Assembly by the Governer, consider the following statements:

- Cabinet decides to call the session on a particular date that decision is conveyed to the Governor who signs the summons order and sends it back the same day or the next day.
- 2. As per the Constitution, there should be not more than 21 days difference between the commencement of the session and summoning of the assembly.

#### 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: (a)

**Explanation: Statement 1 is correct.** Under Article 174 of the Constitution, the Governor summons the Assembly. But the Governor can act only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. In Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab (1974), the Supreme Court said: "The Governor has no right to refuse to act on the advice of the Council of Ministries. Such a position is antithetical to the concept of 'responsible government."

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The NabamRebia case makes it clear that so long as the Chief Minister enjoys majority support in the Assembly, the Governor has no discretional powers and is bound to accept the decisions of the Cabinet in regard to the date of commencement of the session. The Constitution does not provide for any 21-day period between summoning and commencement. In 1960s, the Rules Committee of the Lok Sabha recommended that the gap between the date of summons and of the commencement of the House should be 21 days.





#### Merger of Political Parties under Tenth Schedule

#### With reference to the merger of political parties under Tenth Schedule, consider the following statements:

- 1. Merger of a state level unit of a national political party is only allowed if the party at national level also merges with another political party.
- 2. If at least 1/3rd members of a party merges with the other party, that will not invoke disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.

#### 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: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. Paragraph 3 of the unamended Act made it clear that a split in the legislature party must have arisen as a result of a split in the original political party that is the organisational wing of the party. In 2003, through the 91st Constitutional Amendment, Paragraph 3 was deleted from the Tenth Schedule.

One-third was regarded as an easy target to achieve and the law now exempts defection only when it is at two-thirds (in a merger). Under Paragraph 4(2), the merger of the original political party of a member of a House shall be deemed to have taken place if, and only if, not less than two-thirds of the members of the legislature party concerned have agreed to **333** such merger.

# Agri-Reforms

#### With reference to the agriculture reforms in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020seeks to provide for barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the markets.
- 2. The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 will provide a framework for the protection and empowerment of farmers with reference to the sale and purchase of farm products.

3. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances.

#### 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 only

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All statements are correct. The The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020seeks to provide for barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the markets notified under the various state agricultural produce market laws (state APMC Acts).

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 will provide a framework for the protection and empowerment of farmers with reference to the sale and purchase of farm products.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances. These include: (i) war, (ii) famine, (iii) extraordinary price rise and (iv) natural calamity of grave nature.

#### **UNICEF's Report on Lead** Poisoning

#### Q. With reference to the UNICEF's Report on Lead Poisoning, consider the following statements:

- 1. One in three children up to approximately 800 million globally - have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per decilitre (µg/dL).
- 2. Juvenile delinquency, violence and crime have been associated with preschool lead exposure.
- 3. Medical cure for lead poisoning is very expensive and is not available in most of the developing countries.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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





Answer: (a)

**Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct.** One in 3 children – up to approximately 800 million globally – have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per decilitre (μg/dL).Most of these children impacted by lead live in Africa and Asia, but many are also affected in Central and South America and Eastern Europe. Juvenile delinquency, violence and crime have been associated with preschool lead exposure.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** There is no cure for lead poisoning, identifying local sources is a very important part of preventing exposure.

# **06** Beirut Explosion

#### Q. Consider the following statements:

- Ammonium nitrate is an explosive which is used for making explosives and can be triggered off automatically at a room temperature.
- 2. In India, Ammonium Nitrate is strictly regulated from its handling, possession to its export and storage.

## Which of the following 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.** Pure ammonium nitrate is not an explosive on its own. It is classified as an oxidiser (Grade 5.1) under the United Nations classification of dangerous goods. If mixed with ingredients like fuel or some other contaminants, or because of some other external factors, it can be very explosive. It is predominantly used in agriculture as a high-nitrogen fertilizer and a major use is as a component of explosive mixtures used in mining, quarrying, and civil construction.

**Statement 2 is correct.** In India, The Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012, under The Explosives Act, 1884, regulates manufacture, conversion, bagging, import, export, transport, possession for sale or use of ammonium nitratefor the

manufacture of ammonium nitrate, an Industrial license is required under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1951. A license under the Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 is also required for any activity related to ammonium nitrate.

# **(07)** Smog Towers

## Q. With reference to the smog towers, consider the following statements:

- With the help of Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B), the Delhi government has installed in several parts of the city
- 2. A smog tower is a structure designed to work as a large-scale air purifier.
- 3. Smog towers cannot purify the air of the city but a small area, which can help to create 'clean air areas/zones'.

#### 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: (b)

**Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Supreme Court on 29th July 2020, warned of contempt action against Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay) after it backed out of the proposed smog tower pilot project in Delhi. The court's reference was to its January 13 direction to set up smog towers in the capital to combat increasing air pollution.

**Statement 2 and 3 are correct.** A smog tower is a structure designed to work as a large-scale air purifier, fitted with multiple layers of filters which trap fine dust particles suspended in the air as it passes through them.

The smog tower works in such a way that it helps in reducing approx. 94% of airborne particulate matter. It transforms the fine and ultrafine dust particles into coarse dust. The Delhi government committee is of the view these smog towers may not be useful for the whole city, but they can be useful in creating 'clean air area' zones in different parts of the city.

# IMPORTANT NEWS

#### Self-reliant in Defence Production

- Defence Recently, Minister Rajnath Singh has outlined a raft of initiatives to boost the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhivan' (self-reliant India movement) and reduce dependence on imported military hardware. Key Highlights
- Defence Minister's announcement of a negative import list of 101 defence items as a major step towards 'self-reliant India' is in line with this thinking.India will ban the import of 101 different types of weapons, from artillery guns to light military transport aircraft and conventional submarines to longrange land attack cruise missiles, systems and ammunition over the next five years.
- the initiatives listed Among for the 'Atma-Nirbharta Week' celebrations are upgrading facilities of defence public sector undertakings, modernisation of shipyards, launching locally-made defence items and signing of new memoranda of understanding with the private sector to enhance indigenisation.

#### Need

Imports account for 60-65% of the country's military requirements and India has signed contracts worth billions of dollars during the last decade for weapons and systems including fighter jets, air defence missile systems,

- submarine hunter planes, attack helicopters, heavy-lift choppers and lightweight howitzers.
- According to the SIPRI report, India is the third-biggest military spender in the world last year after the United States and China.

#### **About Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an economic package totaling Rs 20 lakh crore to tide over the COVID-19 crisis under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. He also outlined five pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat - Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand.

#### Online Dashboard for the National Infrastructure Pipeline

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs has inaugurated the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) Online Dashboard. The online dashboard is envisaged as a one stop solution for all stakeholders looking for information infrastructure projects in New India. The dashboard is being hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG).

#### **About NIP**

- NIP is a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens. NIP will improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic & foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for attaining the target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025. NIP
- covers both economic and social infrastructure projects- based on the updated Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure.
- Out of the total expected capital expenditure of Rs 111 lakh Crore, projects worth Rs 44 lakh Crore (40%) are under implementation, projects worth Rs 33 lakh Crore (30%) are at a conceptual stage, projects worth Rs 22 lakh Crore





# **National Infrastructure Pipeline** ine Dashboard

(20%) are under development (project identified and DPR prepared, but yet to draw-down funds) and the balance projects worth Rs 11 lakh Crore (10%) are unclassified.

#### **About IIG**

India Investment Grid (IIG) is an interactive and dynamic online platform to showcase the best of investment opportunities in India

to the global investor community. Developed and managed by Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, IIG serves as the gateway to investments in India, and is also widely used by Indian missions and embassies across the world. IIG allows investors to:

- Search a pan-India database for investment opportunities across sectors,
- □ Track the progress of preferred projects and indicate interest, and
- Directly communicate with project promoters.

## Daughters have Equal Birthright to Inherit Property: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court (SC)recently held that daughters, like sons, have an equal birthright to inherit joint Hindu family property. The court decided that the amended Hindu Succession Act, which gives daughters equal rights to ancestral property, will have a retrospective effect.

#### **Key Highlights**

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra ruled that a Hindu woman's right to be a joint heir to the ancestral property is

by birth and does not depend on • whether her father was alive or not when the law was enacted in 2005. The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 gave Hindu women the right to be coparceners or joint legal heirs in the same way a male heir does.

Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 confers the status of 'coparcener' to a daughter born before or after the amendment in the same manner as a son. Coparcener is a person who has a birthright to parental property. Since the right to coparcenary of

> a daughter is by birth, it is not necessary that father should bealive as on September 9, 2005. The court has thus overruled an earlier 2015 decision.

In Prakash v Phulwati (2015), a two-judge Bench headed by Justice A K Goel held that the benefit of the 2005 amendment could be granted only to "living daughters of living coparceners" as on September 9, 2005 (the date when the amendment came into force).

#### About 2005 Law

- Women were recognised coparceners or joint legal heirs for partition arising from 2005. Section 6 of the Act was amended that year to make a daughter of a coparcener also a coparcener by birth "in her own right in the same manner as the son". The law also gave the daughter the same rights and liabilities "in the coparcenary property as she would have had if she had been a son".
- The law applies to ancestral property and to intestate succession in personal property where succession happens as per law and not through a will.







# 04

#### Mauritius Oil Spill

Recently, a Japanese ship named M V Wakashio, which is owned by Nagashiki Shipping and operated by Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd, struck a coral reef resulting in an oil spill of over 1,000 tonnes into the Indian Ocean near the coast of Mauritius. After that Mauritius declared the incident a national environmental emergency.

#### **Dangerous Impact**

Mauritius is a biodiversity hotspot with a high concentration of plants and animals unique to the region. The accident had taken place near two environmentally protected marine ecosystems and the Blue Bay Marine Park Reserve, which is a wetland of international importance. Oil spills affect marine life by exposing them to harsh elements and destroying their sources of food and habitat. Further, both birds and mammals



can die from hypothermia as a result oil spills.

- For instance, oil destroys the insulating ability of fur-bearing mammals, such as sea otters. It also decreases the water repellency of birds' feathers, without which they lose their ability to repel cold water.
- One of the major concerns has been for coral reefs in the lagoon

   which are sometimes called the rainforests of the sea - because of the diversity of life found in them.

#### **Cleaning Actions**

- There are a few ways to clean up oil spills. including skimming, in situ burning and by releasing chemical dispersants. Skimming involves removing oil from the sea surface before it is able to reach the sensitive areas along the coastline. In situ burning means burning a particular patch of oil after it has concentrated in one area.
- Releasing chemical dispersants helps break down oil into smaller droplets, making it easier for microbes to consume, and further break it down into less harmful compounds.
- Natural actions in aquatic environments such as weathering, evaporation, emulsification, biodegradation and oxidation can also help reduce the severity of an oil spill and accelerate the recovery of an affected area.

# **(05)**

#### Government e-Marketplace

Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC), organized by Government e Marketplace (GeM), in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry [CII] was held recently. The theme of NPPC is "Technology enabled Government Procurement – Towards efficiency, transparency, and inclusiveness".

#### **Key Highlights**

 The Centre is open for business and the Government

- E-Marketplace (GeM) will play the role of a bridge between government and supplier.
- GeM and Indian railways are working earnestly to integrate the latter's procurements with the former. The railways presently spend about Rs 70,000 crore per annum on procurements and the integration of the system with the GeM will lead to saving of at least 10-15% which is almost Rs 10,000 Crore.

#### **Significance**

seamless, transparent, open and efficient and technology-driven, and this will gain momentum if more and more buyers and sellers join the system. More procurement orders will lead to more sellers joining it, leading to more competition, and availability of quality products at cheaper prices.







The Success of GeM can be measured by Trust (Of people

government procurement), Reliability (In supply of quality products at low cost and timely manner) and Prosperity (of the nation and the people).

#### **About GeM**

Government e-Marketplace (GeM), a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was launched in 2016. It is an online platform developed by the Centre for public procurement for various government departments **333** and ministries.

#### World Breastfeeding Week 2020

World Breastfeeding Week is marked every year between 1 to 7 August to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants. The theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2020 is "Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet". In line with this theme, WHO and UNICEF are calling on governments to protect and promote women's access to skilled breastfeeding counselling, a critical component of breastfeeding support.

#### **Background**

The week commemorates the signing of the Innocenti Declaration in August 1990. This global campaign was first organised by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF in 1992, in an attempt to raise awareness about the benefits of exclusively breastfeeding for the initial 6 months of a child's life.



**COVID-19 and Breastfeeding** 

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more important to find innovative solutions to ensure that access to these essential services is not disrupted. This is why UNICEF and WHO, in line with the policy actions advocated by the UNICEF-WHO-led Global Breastfeeding calling Collective, are governments to:
- **INVEST** to make skilled breastfeeding counselling available to every woman.
- TRAIN health care workers, including midwives and nurses, to deliver skilled breastfeeding counselling to mothers families.

- ENSURE that counselling is made available as part of routine health and nutrition services that are easily accessible.
- PARTNER and collaborate with civil society and health professional associations, building strong collaborative systems for provision of appropriate counselling.
- PROTECT health care workers from the influence of the baby food industry.

#### Significance of Breastfeeding

- Breastfeeding provides every child with the best possible start in life. It delivers health, nutritional and emotional benefits to both children and mothers. And it forms part of a sustainable food system.
- At the same time, breastfeeding is a healthy practice for new mothers as it aids post-partum recovery, reduces the risk of cancer, helps burn calories, stimulates the uterus to return to its normal size, and creates an emotional bonding with the new-born. 333







#### **IBBI has Amended Liquidation Process Regulations**

Recently, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has amended regulations for liquidation process, providing more clarity on fee payable to liquidators.

#### **Key Highlights**

- The regulations require Committee of Creditors (CoC) to fix the fee payable to the liquidator. Where the fee has not been fixed by the CoC, the regulations provide for a fee as a percentage of the amount realised and of the amount distributed by the liquidator.
- There have been instances where a liquidator realises the amount while another liquidator distributes the same to stakeholders.



- "The amendment made to the regulations today clarifies that where a liquidator realises any amount, but does not distribute the same, he shall be entitled to a fee corresponding to the amount realised by him.
- "Likewise, where a liquidator distributes any amount, which is not realised by him, he shall be entitled to a fee corresponding to the amount distributed by him," the release said. PTI RAM ABM **ABM** 333





# IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)







- Recently, the government has decided to expand the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in coastal and border districts of India. Discuss the significance of this expansion.
- Discuss the significance of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) for the Indian health sector.
- "The poor state of the economy in the early decades meant that growth was seen as the primary objective rather than efforts at redistribution and poverty alleviation." In the light of above statement discuss the India's poverty alleviation approach.
- "Politicians have become adept at using and bypassing the anti-defection law." Discuss the relevance of antidefection law in present time.
- "India should switch to a US-type presidential form of government if it wishes to have a democracy that works." Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
- Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.
- Highlight the Central Asian and Greco Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art.

# IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)







Who has been chosen as vice-presidential candidate in the US Presidential Elections?

Kamala Harris, United States Senator

What is the theme of International Youth Day 2020?

"Youth Engagement for Global Action"

Who is the head of BCCI's anti-corruption unit?

Ajit Singh

Which state government has received first position in AMRUT scheme?

Odisha

Which country has recently claimed to have developed the world's first coronavirus vaccine?

Russia

Which ministry has launched a three month campaign on "Ayush for Immunity"?

Ministry of Ayush

Where the 'Sarabhai Crater' is located?

Moon

# IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)







"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."

Voltaire

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

Confucius

"Peace and Justice are two sides of the same coin."

**Dwight D Eisenhower** 

"Compassion is the basis of morality."

Arthur Schopenhauer

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

Benjamin Franklin

"Every morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most."

Gautam Buddha

"The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened."

John F. Kennedy



#### 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 unparallel track record of success. Today, it stands tall among the reputed institutes providing coaching for Civil Services Examination (CSE). The institute has been very successful in making potential realize their dreams which is evidents from success stories of the previous years.

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

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

#### DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

Distance learning Programme, DSDL, primarily caters the need for those who are unable to come to metros fro 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 examoriented 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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जो विद्यार्थी ध्येय IAS के व्हाट्सएप ग्रुप (Whatsapp Group) से जुड़े हुये हैं और उनको दैनिक अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त होने में समस्या हो रही है | तो आप हमारेईमेल लिंक Subscribe कर ले इससे आपको प्रतिदिन अध्ययन सामग्री का लिंक मेल में प्राप्त होता रहेगा | ईमेल से Subscribe करने के बाद मेल में प्राप्त लिंक को क्लिक करके पृष्टि (Verify) जरूर करें अन्यथा आपको प्रतिदिन मेल में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त नहीं होगी |

नोट (Note): अगर आपको हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों माध्यम में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त करनी है, तो आपको दोनों में अपनी ईमेल से Subscribe करना पड़ेगा | आप दोनों माध्यम के लिए एक ही ईमेल से जुड़ सकते हैं |







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