

PERFECT 7

Weekly Current Affairs

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



1 India and RCEP Trade Deal

Non- Compatible

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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

Dhyeya IAS is an institution that aims at the complete development of the student. Our faculty are hand-picked and highly qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multi-disciplinary institution which ensures that the students have ready access to a wide range of academic material. Our brand of education has broad horizons as we believe in exposure. Our students are encouraged to widen their knowledge base and study beyond the confinements of the syllabus. We aim to lend a gentle guiding hand to make our students recognize their inner potential and grow on their own accord into stalwarts of tomorrow's society.

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
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(Ex. Editor Rajya Sabha, TV) & by Team Dhyeya IAS
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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01

India and RCEP Trade Deal : Non- Compatible

Why in News?

- Recently in November 2020, fifteen Asia-Pacific economies signed what could become the world's largest free trade agreement, covering nearly a third of the global population and about 29% of its global gross domestic product. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will progressively lower tariffs and aims to counter protectionism, boost investment and allow freer movement of goods within the region.
- India has decided to opt out of RCEP despite many rounds of negotiations and calls to India to join the economic block.
- Co-incidentally, the signing took place just days after the biannual ASEAN summit, in which India participated and renewed its pledge to deepen trade ties.
- India's free trade agreement with ASEAN was signed in 2010. Since then, bilateral trade has more than doubled, making ASEAN India's fourth-largest trade partner. This healthy growth means there have been substantial mutual gains.
- RCEP is ASEAN plus 5 (i.e. China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand). Most of these already have a free trade agreement with ASEAN and each other.
- A regional trading bloc is essentially a co-operative union where a group of countries agree to protect its member nations from imports of other non-members.
- The purpose of this trading partnership is to give preferential treatment for trade between the member countries either through lower tariffs, preferential market access, customs union or free trade in specific sectors.
- The RCEP has polarized experts as many were in favour of India signing the agreement, even as the Centre decided to not sign the pact with RCEP countries retaining a provision to allow it to join later.

Rise of Asian Economies

- The RCEP negotiations were launched by leaders from 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and six ASEAN FTA partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand) during the 21st ASEAN summit in Phnom Penh in Cambodia in November 2012.
- The agreement allows for one common set of rules of origin to qualify for tariffs reduction with other RCEP members. This means less procedures and easier movement of goods. That should encourage multinational firms to invest more in the region, including building supply chains and distribution hubs.

Introduction

- One year after India abruptly walked out of this mega trade pact, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was signed by the remaining 15 countries, 10 of which form the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc.



- ◆ The significance of RCEP cannot be overstated now that the world's economic centre of gravity has shifted to the east. Including India, it would cover half the world's population and a third of global output. India has been a supporter of this plurilateral institution, and participated for seven years in the negotiations that led to the pact's adoption.
- ◆ India was involved in early discussions but opted out last year over concerns related to cheap Chinese imports. Member states have said there is still room for India to join RCEP, however. Anyone can join RCEP 18 months after it comes into force but India, as one of the original negotiating partners, can join at any time once the deal comes into effect.
- ◆ Japan, which had hinted that it would not join unless India was persuaded, has signed up.

Merits in Joining a Trade Block

- ◆ Trading blocs lead to higher foreign direct investments for participating countries as supply chains get reoriented across the member nations.
- ◆ Access to foreign markets further results in the prospects of economies of scale for member countries, making domestic companies competitive.
- ◆ Overall, the lower tariffs result in a higher quantum of trade between countries which results in gains for all members. Therefore, these blocs are considered effective in accelerating global growth.

RCEP not Conducive for India

- ◆ The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is essentially a China-led initiative for a regional trading block.
- ◆ India decided not to join the RCEP agreement as its key concerns

were not addressed. The key reasons behind New Delhi's decision to remain out of the world's biggest trade agreement include inadequate protection against import surge, insufficient differential with China, possible circumvention of rules of origin, keeping the base year as 2014 and no credible assurances on market access and non-tariff barriers.

- ◆ RCEP is not particularly beneficial to non-ASEAN nations, about 44% of their total trade was intra-RCEP, which is a major incentive for the members of this agreement to agree to the deal for this could contribute to the strengthening of the regional value chains. This may well prove propitious for the RCEP member countries in their efforts to recover from the downturn.
- ◆ With China as a major economy in RCEP, cheap imports may come into India if it removes duties on goods, since we have a sizeable trade deficit with China. The experience of opening up of 74% of Indian market to ASEAN while richer countries like Indonesia opening only 50% of their economy to India also makes it sceptical about such pacts.
- ◆ For India there is a potential threat to local producers as it believed that elimination of tariffs under RCEP would open its markets to a flood of imports.
- ◆ In contrast to their market access commitments under goods, commitments made by RCEP members for services trade liberalisation do look shallow

in terms of the coverage of the sectors. Movement of natural persons, an area in which India had considerable interest, is considerably restricted.

Chinese Factor

- ◆ The economic reasons listed, the single largest reason for India's reluctance to join the RCEP was China. New Delhi has decided it won't join any trade agreement where Beijing is a member as matters have turned worse for India, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing border stand-off with China.
- ◆ It is no secret that China's presence in RCEP fits absolutely well with Beijing's market imperialistic designs with which they conceived of their Belt and Road Initiative.
- ◆ India's trade deficit with China is a massive \$55-60 billion. India has claimed that China has an advantageous position in the deal and would leave India in an unfair position amid the ballooning trade deficit.
- ◆ India feared the agreement would become a free trade deal with China through the back door, even through other countries, which is one of the reasons for not joining RCEP.

India's Uncompetitive Markets

- ◆ The concern is palpable as the existing trade agreements and

tariff liberalisation policies have led to cheap imports with widened more of cheaper products. The increase in import demand over the last 15 years shows that India's domestic industry has not been able to compete with the imports.

- ◆ As a result, the domestic market has seen an invasion of imported products, especially in the sectors of edible oil processing, automobiles, electronics, telecom and white goods.
- ◆ Had the Indian industry been competitive enough, a mega-trade agreement like the RCEP would have offered a barrier-free regional market for their products and would have been conducive for "Make-in-India". The deal would have brought down import duties on 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the goods, along with easier service and investment rules.
- ◆ Indian manufacturers have not made the best out of the imports by making final goods at reduced prices. Thus, common man cannot have high-quality products at competitive prices. Manufacturing in India has never grown to support final production. Majority of the final products from mobile phones, to medicines to automobiles are heavily dependent on import of raw materials. Some are only assembled in India.

- ◆ Hence, a pact like the RCEP will further hurt India's burgeoning trade deficit with the participating countries. India's history of signing a host of free trade agreements (FTAs) and comprehensive economic cooperation agreements (CECAs) with the South-east Asian nations has also not bode well for the country.

Way Forward

- ◆ India's initiative for its economic turnaround, the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, is primarily focused on strengthening domestic value chains, while RCEP, like any other FTA is solely focused on promoting regional value chains.
- ◆ World has already witnessed an economic jolt during the Covid crisis as all major supply chain of industrial input goods were based in China. With the RCEP it is a foot in the mouth situation, where the ASEAN nations have signed in for dependence on China and further integration of their domestic and regional economy with that of China, even though the world is deciding otherwise. <<<

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Topic:

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

Q. What is Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)? Why India has declined to join one of the world's most significant trade agreement?

02

Freedom of Religion : Center-stage for Debate

Why in News?

- ♦ The Uttar Pradesh government passed an ordinance (Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance 2020) to deal with unlawful religious conversions.
- ♦ The preamble to the Act reads - "To provide for prohibition of unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

Background

- ♦ Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel on November 28 had given assent to the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, against forcible or fraudulent religious conversions.
- ♦ The law provides for imprisonment of up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 under different categories.
- ♦ Under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, which deals with different categories of offences, a marriage will be declared "null and void" if the conversion of a woman is solely for that purpose, and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate.
- ♦ This also does not apply to the Special Marriage Act. People of different faith who wish to marry each other can still follow due procedure under the Special Marriage Act.

Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA)

- ♦ The Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA) was enacted to facilitate the marriage of couples professing different faiths and preferring a civil wedding. The law's features on prior public notice being given and objections being called from any quarter place a question mark on the safety and privacy of those intending to marry across religions.
- ♦ Marriage of any two persons may be solemnised under the SMA, subject to the man having completed 21 years of age and the woman 18.
- ♦ Neither should have a spouse living; both should be capable of giving valid consent, should not suffer from any mental disorder of a kind that renders them unfit for marriage and procreation.
- ♦ They should not be within the degrees of prohibited relationship — that is, they should not be related in such a way that their religion does not permit such marriages.
- ♦ Parties to an intended marriage should give notice to the 'marriage officer' of the district in which one of them had resided for at least 30 days. The notice will have to be entered in a 'Marriage Notice Book' and a copy of it displayed at a conspicuous place in the office.
- ♦ The Notice Book is open for inspection at all reasonable times without a fee. Further, if either of the parties is not a permanent resident of the district, the marriage officer has to send a copy to his counterpart in the district where the party has permanent residence. The notice shall be displayed in that district office too. The marriage has to be solemnised

within three months of the notice, and if it is not, a fresh notice will be needed.

- ♦ The law also provides for objections to the marriage. Any person can object to the marriage within 30 days of the publication of the notice on the ground that it contravenes one of the conditions for a valid marriage. The marriage officer has to inquire into the objection and give a decision within 30 days. If he refuses permission for the marriage, an appeal can be made to the district court. The court's decision will be final.

Notice Related Issues

- ♦ The provisions relating to notice, publication and objection have rendered it difficult for many people intending to solemnise inter-faith marriages.
- ♦ Publicity in the local registration office may mean that family members objecting to the union may seek to stop it by coercion.
- ♦ In many cases, there may be a threat to the lives of the applicants.
- ♦ There have been reports of right-wing groups opposed to inter-faith marriages keeping a watch on the notice boards of marriage offices and taking down the details of the parties so that they can be dissuaded or coerced into abandoning the idea.
- ♦ In July, the Kerala Registration department decided to discontinue the practice of uploading marriage notices on its websites following complaints that these were being misused for communal propaganda. However, the notices will be displayed on the notice boards of the offices concerned.
- ♦ These provisions have been challenged in the Supreme Court recently on the grounds that they

violate the privacy of the couples, their dignity and right to marry.

Interpreting Freedom of Religion

- ♦ India's Constitution grants the right under Section 25 to profess exercise or spread one's religion. In *Ratilal Panachand Gandhi v. State of Bombay's* case, the Supreme Court explained this clause by claiming that:
 - ♦ "every person has a fundamental right under our Constitution not merely to entertain such religious belief as may be approved of by his judgment or conscience but to exhibit his belief and ideas in such overt acts as are enjoined or sanctioned by his religion and further to propagate his religious views for edification of others."
- ♦ In the *Rev Stainislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh's* case Supreme Court questioned whether the right to practice and spread one's faith also included the ability to convert. The Court upheld the authenticity of the first laws against conversion: the 1968 Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantraya Adhiniyam, and the 1967 Orissa Freedom of Religion Act. The Court found, as summarized by Professor Laura Jenkins, that "restrictions on efforts to convert are constitutional because such efforts impinge on 'freedom of conscience' and 'public order.'" In one of its findings, the Court held that propagation only indicated persuasion / exposure without coercion and that the right to propagate did not include the right to convert any person. This holding was summed up by the Court as follows:
 - ♦ "It has to be remembered that Article 25(1) guarantees "freedom of conscience" to every citizen, and not merely to the followers of one particular religion, and that, in turn, postulates that there is no fundamental right to convert another person to one's own religion because if a person purposely undertakes the conversion of another person to his religion, as distinguished from his effort to transmit or spread the tenets of his religion, that would impinge on the "freedom of conscience" guaranteed to all the citizens of the country alike."
- ♦ It must be understood that the freedom of religion enshrined in Article 25 is not granted exclusively in respect of one's faith, but includes all religions equally, and an individual may properly enjoy it if he practices his right in a manner commensurate with the like freedom of persons practicing the other religions. What is liberty for one, in equal measure, is freedom for the other, and therefore there can be no such thing as a fundamental right to turn another man into one's own religion.
- ♦ Because Article 25(1) stipulates that the right is essential to 'public order,' the Court has held that the acts 'clearly provide for the preservation of public order as, if forcible conversion had not been forbidden, it would have generated public disorder in the States,' and that 'the term 'public order' is narrowly connoted.'
- ♦ In the *Sarla Mudgal* case the court had held that the religious conversion into Islam by a person from non-Islamic faith is not valid if the conversion is done for the purpose of polygamy.
- ♦ In the *Lily Thomas* case it was observed that marrying another

woman after converting to Islam is punishable under the bigamy laws. In the *Chandra Sekaran* case the court had observed that a person does not cease to be Hindu merely because he declares that he has no faith in his religion.

Way Forward

- ♦ Freedom of religion allows one to practice and propagate one's religion but at the same time prohibits, 'unlawful', 'coercive' etc. conversions. However, lawful conversions and conversions with consent are very much permitted by the law.
- ♦ Absence or presence of such laws in a democracy raises a turbulent debate which often leads to political and communal propagandas. Many a times, the topic of conversion has been a communal and polarizing topic often played out in political field. The need of the hour is to steer clear of the political influence and to analyse the said topic in judicial and rights-based approach to have a stronger and robust democracy where religion gets confined to private lives and not political domain. 

General Studies Paper- I

Topic:

- Social empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

Q. The laws regarding the "freedom of religion" or "anti-conversion" laws should be probed and analysed from the legal and rights-based approach rather than political rhetoric. Comment.

03

Maneuvering for Economic Recovery: Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0

Why in News?

- ◆ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a third set of measures (Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0) under the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat package, aimed at rescuing the economy out of a historic contraction caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- ◆ The latest steps - including incentives on job creation and measures for the ailing economy's key real estate and infrastructure sectors - are estimated to cost the government Rs 2,65,080 crore. That takes the total monetary and fiscal support provided to the economy in its battle against COVID-19 to Rs 29,87,641 crore, a sum that the Finance Minister said is equivalent to roughly 15 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).
- ◆ The total stimulus so far includes Reserve Bank of India measures worth Rs. 12,71,200 crore. The Atmanirbhar Bharat packages 1.0 and 2.0 were estimated at Rs. 1,102,650 crore and Rs. 73,000 crore respectively.

Background

- ◆ India's economic turnaround narrative was bolstered by November data for goods and services tax (GST) collections, passenger car sales, the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing, railway freight loading and the Nomura

India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI).

- ◆ If this momentum is sustained, India could return to growth in the March quarter, economists said, urging the government to provide more fiscal stimulus to sustain demand.
- ◆ India increased stimulus measures to rescue companies and save jobs in an economy clobbered by a sudden lockdown in March to stem the coronavirus pandemic.
- ◆ Asia's third-largest economy slipped into an unprecedented recession after GDP probably declined for a second straight quarter in the three months ended September, according to a Reserve Bank of India report based on high-frequency data. The latest measures are an extension of a rescue plan announced in May, although that's done little to revive demand in the economy heavily reliant on consumption.
- ◆ The severe disruptions to the supply chain due to national and localised lockdowns led to supply side and demand side shrinking by 22.9 per cent and 23.9 per cent respectively in Q1, 2020-21. It is estimated that India's GDP will shrink in the range of 7 to 10 per cent, and will possibly reach the 2019-20 output level by the end of FY 2021. The developmental implications on poverty, inequality and standard of living are humongous.

Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 : Highlights

- ◆ Government to give Rs 900-crore support for R&D to help develop a Covid-19 vaccine; funds to be given to the biotech department
- ◆ I-T relief for home buyers is provided. For residential units worth up to Rs 2 crore, differential allowed between agreement value and circle rate has been increased from 10% to 20% till June 30, 2021.
- ◆ Infusion of equity in NIIF debt platform. Rs 6,000 crore of equity to be provided to the debt platform. By 2025, they will have to fund projects worth Rs 1,10,000 crore
- ◆ Under PM Awas yojana (Urban) Rs 18,000 crore to be provided over and above the Budget announcement to help 1.2 million houses be grounded and 1.8 million houses be completed
- ◆ To give relief to contractors in the construction and infra sectors, performance security deposit reduced to 3% till Dec 31, 2021, for projects without any dispute.
- ◆ Extension of Rs 3 trillion Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme till March 31, 2020
- ◆ Announcement of ECLGS 2.0 for 26 stressed sectors identified by Kamath Committee
- ◆ Relaxation of performance security on contracts from 3% to 5% to support real estate and infrastructure

- ◆ Increase differential between circle rate and agreement value from 10% to 20% till June 30, 2021 under Income Tax Act

Job Guarantee Scheme

- ◆ Govt to provide Rs 65,000-crore fertiliser subsidy to farmers, move to benefit 14 million farmers.
- ◆ Rs 10,200-cr additional Budget outlay to promote industries and create industrial infra under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ◆ FM announces Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, aimed at incentivising creation of employment opportunities during Covid-19 recovery phase
- ◆ Beneficiaries under this new scheme will include: new employees joining employment in EPFO-registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs 15,000, and EPF members drawing monthly wage of less than Rs 15,000 who exited employment during March-September, and employed on or after October 1.
- ◆ Central government to give subsidy on new employment.
- ◆ Employee and employer contribution of 12% each to be borne by government, for next two years; aimed at easing financial burden on companies for creating jobs.
- ◆ 95% of all (organised sector) establishments estimated to be covered under this scheme will have employees up to 1,000.

Measuring the Recovery

- ◆ J.P. Morgan chief India economist has pointed out that one of the

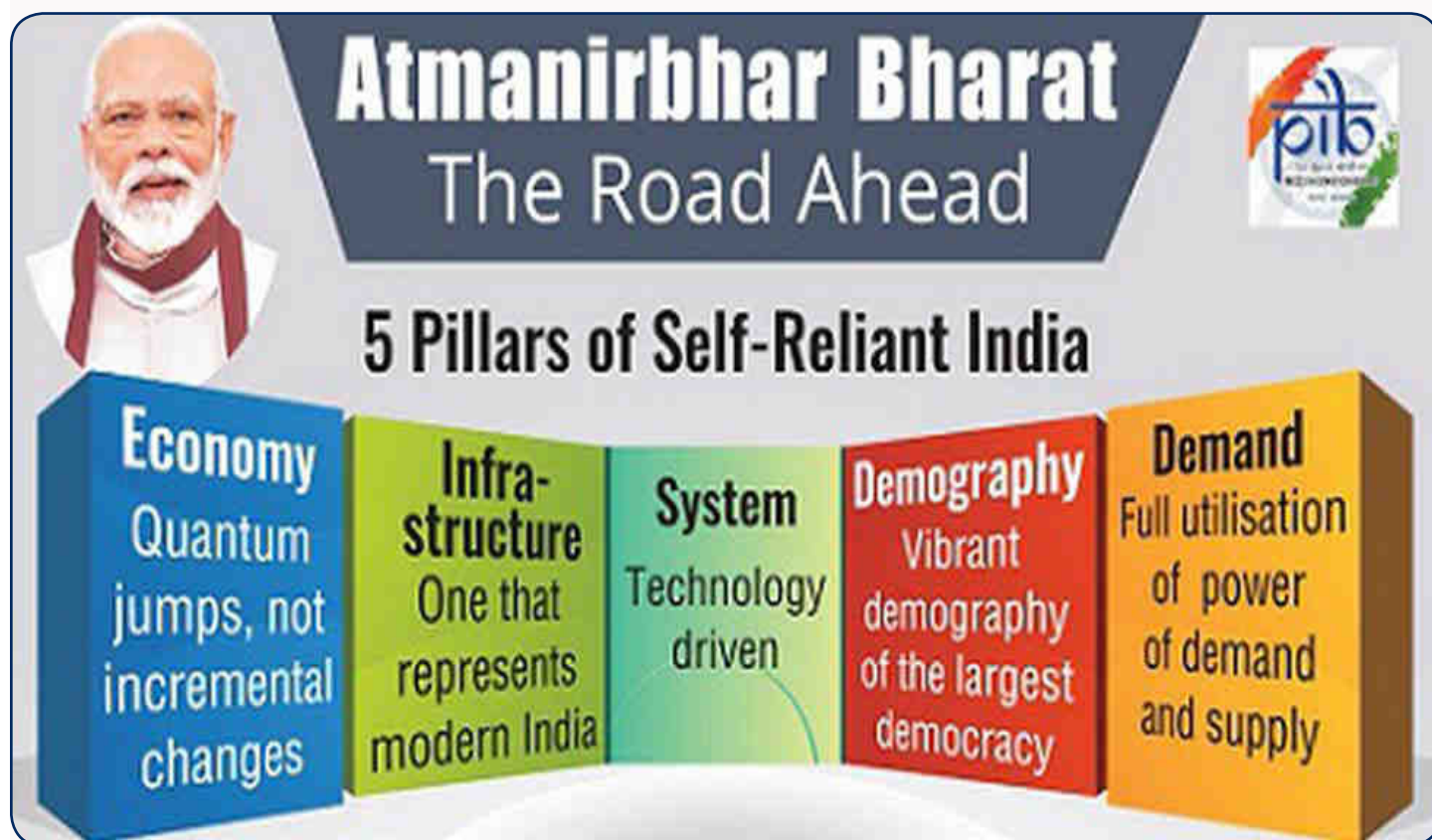
many ways to calculate the GDP of a country is by adding incomes—the operating profits of companies, wages of households, and the net indirect taxes collected by the government. Higher operating profits in a shrinking economy suggest that the share of wages in the economy has come down. In other words, the ongoing recovery seems to be led by profits, rather than wages.

- ◆ The macroeconomic impact of higher or lower wages is an old debate in economics. The battle-lines are drawn on an ideological basis. The Left usually argues that higher wages expand the domestic market by increasing the purchasing power of those with the highest propensity to consume. The Right usually argues that higher wages are the first step in an inflationary spiral as companies respond to an increase in employee costs by increasing the prices of their products.
- ◆ In two classic papers published in 1990, economists Amit Bhaduri and Stephen Marglin showed that the reality is more nuanced. A lot depends on the context. Growth can be stimulated by higher wages in some situations and by higher profits in others. Higher wages will not improve aggregate outcomes in an economy with low unemployment as well as minimal excess capacity. This was the situation in the rich countries during the 1970s. Higher wages will stimulate the economy when there is slack, as has been the case after the 2008 North Atlantic financial crisis.

- ◆ Recent data suggests that wage payments have recovered in large companies, but the situation in the rest of the urban economy is less clear. A recovery led by profits will be stress tested in an economy with excess capacity. Business spending on new capital equipment is likely to remain weak till capacity utilization improves. Companies are likely to focus on building reserves or paying off debt. In such a situation, much depends on household spending to support aggregate demand from the private sector. And that is why wages matter.

Rs 1.46 lakh cr boost to Atmanirbhar manufacturing – Production Linked Incentives (PLI) for 10 Champion Sectors:

	Sector	Estimated Expenditure on new PLIs (Rs. Crore)
1	Advance Cell Chemistry Battery	18,100
2	Electronic/Technology Products	5,000
3	Automobiles & Auto Components	57,042
4	Pharmaceuticals Drugs	15,000
5	Telecom & Networking Products	12,195
6	Textile Products	10,683
7	Food Products	10,900
8	High Efficiency Solar PV Modules	4,500
9	White Goods (ACs & LED)	6,238
10	Specialty Steel	6,322
	Total	1,45,980



Summary Of Stimulus Measures Announced

Item	Amount (In Crore Rupees)
Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package	1,92,800
Atmanirbharat Bharat Abhiyaan 1.0	11,02,650
PMGKP Anna Yojana - extension of five months from July to November	82,911
Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan 2.0 (October 12)	73,000
Sub Total	17,19,441

Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0	2,65,080
RBI measures	12,71,200
Total	29,87,641

Way Forward

- India offers the best opportunity in terms of a huge domestic market and factor endowments. However, we need to create a competitive labour-intensive manufacturing sector which will cater to both domestic demand and the export market. Seems Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 along with previous economic stimulus are right on track to redeem the economy. But the looming threat of further continuation of the Wuhan virus

and need for lockdown to save lives can endanger the economy. 📌📌📌

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

Q. Covid-19 has hit the Indian economy in a very hard manner and has pushed India towards 'technical recession'. How can Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 be effective in the recovery on the economy?

04

India's Push for UN High Seat : Reform Agenda

Why in News?

- ◆ India begins its eighth term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in January and will be hoping to use the next two years to solidify its credentials for a permanent seat. Apart from being contender for the UNSC seat, India also pushes to expand the security council to make it more representative of the present-day global realities rather than those existed at the end of second world war.
- ◆ It has been said that India once chose nuclear deal with US and ignored the attempt of G4 nations to move the resolution to expand the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). But foreign policy is much complex than simple transactional analysis.

Introduction

- ◆ A very frequently discussed change to the UN structure is to change the permanent membership of the UN Security Council, which reflects the power structure of the world as it was in 1945
- ◆ Reforming the UN demand to make the UN administration (usually called the UN Secretariat or "the bureaucracy") more transparent, more accountable, and more efficient, including direct election of the Secretary-General by the people as in a presidential system.
- ◆ Another frequent demand is that the UN become "more democratic", and a key institution of a world democracy. This raises fundamental questions about the nature and role of the UN. The

UN is not a world government, rather a forum for the world's sovereign states to debate issues and determine collective courses of action.

- ◆ Implementation of population-based UN voting also raises the problems of diversity of interests and governments of the various nations. The nations in the UN contain representative democracies as well as absolute dictatorships and many other types of government. Allowing large powers to vote their population's interests en bloc raises the question of whether they would really represent the interests and desires of their individual citizens and the world community.

India for Permanent Seat in UN

- ◆ India is the second-most populous country in the world with a current population of 1.5 billion. It is the largest democratic and secular nation in the world.
- ◆ After China, India has the largest active armed forces in the world and is a nuclear-weapon country.
- ◆ India is the 2nd fastest growing economy in the world and in terms of PPP, India is the third-largest in the world.
- ◆ India has made the largest troop contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission (UNPKO).
- ◆ The UN Security Council consists of 15 members (5 permanent, 10 non-permanent) and India

has been elected eight times as a non-permanent member in the UN Security Council.

G4 Nations for UN Reforms

- ◆ The G4 nations comprising Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan are four countries which support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.
- ◆ Unlike the G7, where the common denominator is the economy and long-term political motives, the G4's primary aim is the permanent member seats on the Security Council.
- ◆ Each of these four countries have figured among the elected non-permanent members of the council since the UN's establishment.
- ◆ The United Kingdom and France have backed the G4's bid for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.
- ◆ Japan has received support from the United States and the United Kingdom.
- ◆ All the permanent members of P5 have supported India's bids for permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) but China had previously implied that it is only ready to support India's bid for a permanent seat on United Nations Security Council if India did not associate its bid with Japan.
- ◆ The G4 suggested that two African nations, in addition to themselves, be included in the enlarged UNSC.

India's Diplomatic Manoeuvres

- ◆ In 2004-2005, the G-4 countries — India, Brazil, Germany and Japan

— are said to have considered moving a resolution in the General Assembly to expand the Council, according to diplomats. But, in their telling, India hesitated. There were misgivings that the resolution might imperil a larger foreign policy goal at the time — the civil nuclear deal with the United States (US).

- ♦ A UN resolution would have forced countries — including the US — to pick from yes, no or abstain. And if the resolution was voted through despite US opposition or ambivalence, things would have gone south for the nuclear deal. India went for the nuclear deal instead, and got it. But the UNSC reforms process remains where it was then.
- ♦ The first objection to this view, as long-time UN diplomats from that time and those still dealing with it cautioned, is that getting the votes will not be easy, with the Coffee Club — a group of countries opposed to expanding the permanent membership, which includes Pakistan — standing in the way.
- ♦ Another objection is that the US might not be on-board despite its public support for India and Japan's claims. And any of the other P-5 countries — the US, United Kingdom, France, Russia and China — could use their veto to shut it down summarily.
- ♦ The General Assembly is where the IGN (Intergovernmental Negotiations framework) process is headed anyway. But could a General Assembly resolution with a vote at the end of it supplement the IGN process?

India Stressed for UN Reforms in 12th BRICS Summit

- ♦ In his speech in 12th BRICS Summit, PM Modi has again emphasised on UN reforms to keep the world body relevant.
- ♦ Pushing for “multilateralism” and UN reforms, PM Modi said, “India has been a firm supporter of multilateralism as a founding member of the UN. Even in Indian culture, the whole world is treated as one family, so it was natural for us to support an institution like UN. Our commitment to the UN values has remained unshaken - India has lost the most valiant soldiers in peacekeeping operations. But today the multilateral system is going through a crisis.”
- ♦ “India believes reforms are very mandatory in the UN Security Council. We expect the support of our BRICS partners on this subject. Apart from the UN, many other international institutions are also not functioning as per current realities. Institutions like WTO, IMF, WHO should also improve,” he added.
- ♦ While seeking reforms in the UNSC besides the WTO and WHO to correspond to present day realities, PM Modi assured that India as a founding member of the UN was fully committed to multilateralism. India had lost the highest number of peacekeepers on UN duty, he reminded other BRICS members.

IGN for UNSC Reforms

- ♦ The Intergovernmental Negotiations framework or IGN is a group of nation-states working

within the United Nations to further reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

- ♦ The IGN is composed of several different international organizations, namely:
 - ♦ The African Union;
 - ♦ The G4 nations;
 - ♦ The Uniting for Consensus Group (UfC), also known as the “Coffee Club”;
 - ♦ The L69 Group of Developing Countries;
 - ♦ The Arab League; and
 - ♦ The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Way Forward

- ♦ Multilateralism has been decimated in recent times and must be strengthened as mentioned in the MEA's vision document that states India's overall objective during this tenure in the UN Security Council will be the achievement of N.O.R.M.S: A New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System.
- ♦ Foreign policy is directed by the national goals and priorities which keep on changing with regard to changing global dynamics. Keeping a rigid foreign policy harms the nation as it may lose a strategic edge plus a wrong posturing to an ally could harm national interests. 

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Important International institutions, agencies and for-a-their structure, mandate.

Q. “India’s foreign policy is directed by national interests and the ability to manoeuvre it as per the contemporary global scenario” Comment on the given statement in the light of India’s efforts to reform UN and aiming for a permanent seat.

05

BRICS Gears UP to Tackle Terrorism

Why in News?

- ◆ For the first time, the bloc of five emerging economies (BRICS) have approved a counter-terrorism strategy aimed at strengthening linkages on combatting terrorism and sharing of “timely” information
- ◆ The document was released after the leaders of Russia, India, Brazil, China and South Africa held their 12th annual summit through a video conference on 17th November 2020.

Introduction

- ◆ At the 12th BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his virtual address, called upon countries to tackle the problem of terrorism in an organised manner and highlighted economic recovery amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◆ Without naming any country specifically, Prime Minister Modi urged action against the countries who support and assist terrorists, and stated, “Terrorism is the biggest problem the world is facing.”
- ◆ “Some countries are like black sheep of the family,” said the Russian President Vladimir Putin, while endorsing PM Modi’s comments related to terrorism.
- ◆ The Summit was virtually hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and attended by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.
- ◆ The BRICS summit is important, as it provides the Chinese and the Indian leadership an opportunity to exchange their thoughts on

key priorities in the backdrop of the continued tension in eastern Ladakh. Both the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS have provided recent opportunities for exchange of ideas between the two sides.

BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy

- ◆ “The BRICS countries reaffirm that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any act of terrorism, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever motives and purposes, is a crime and has no justification,” said the policy document.
- ◆ Further, the paper asserts that all the five countries recognise that the international community should take the “necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism, including cross-border movement of terrorists”.
- ◆ Besides, the document observes that “terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group.”
- ◆ Among the “principles” listed out in the strategy document, the first was that it was based on “full respect for the sovereignty of the participating countries and non-interference in their internal affairs.”
- ◆ A goal of this new policy was to improve “practical cooperation” among the security agencies by communicating “timely and accurate information.”

- ◆ Another principle was the “rejection of double standards” in countering terrorism.
- ◆ The BRICS declaration countries also underlined the cross-border movement of terrorists. BRICS countries “recognize that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity, security of States, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism, including cross-border movement of terrorists”.
- ◆ The last principle was that the five countries should “address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and attach full importance to countering the extremism conducive to terrorism”.

Other Matters Discussed

- ◆ In his address, PM Narendra Modi once again underlined the need for the reform of the UN Security Council, and also other multilateral bodies including the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ◆ On the UNSC reforms, the PM talked about India being a firm supporter of multilateralism and committed to the values of the United Nations.
- ◆ He also highlighted the steps India is taking towards self-reliance in the Post-COVID world. And shared with the member countries the efforts India is making towards

having a COVID Vaccine and how the production and delivery capabilities will work in the interest of humanity. And sought support from other members for waiving of intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines.

- ◆ India and South Africa had sought a waiver of IPR for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ◆ With the summit held against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the joint statement recognised the role of “extensive immunization” and called for availability of “quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable” vaccines.
- ◆ PM Modi also paid homage to the soldiers who were killed in WWII, which included 2.5 million warriors from India.

BRICS Block on the Globe

- ◆ It is considered to be an influential bloc and represents almost 3.6 billion world population and the member countries have a combined GDP of \$16.6 trillion.
- ◆ The 12th edition of BRICS Summit hosted by Russia, under the theme of 'Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth', is being held virtually in the wake of pandemic.
- ◆ India will be taking over the chairship of the BRICS, which would be the third BRICS Presidency for the country since its inception, after 2012 and 2016, and will host the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021.

Skeptics on BRICS

- ◆ The BRICS is widely derided, especially in the West, where it is

variously described as a talk shop among apparently incongruent powers and a meaningless investment-banking acronym long past its sell-by date.

- ◆ It is difficult to consider China as an emerging power anymore. To put that country and South Africa at the same table makes for manifestly curious optics, given that the Chinese economy is roughly 36 times bigger than that of South Africa's.
- ◆ Brazil and Russia, beyond both being commodities exporters, have as much, or as less, in common as Brazil and Nigeria, for example.
- ◆ And then, of course, there are India and China, whose geopolitical rivalry now threatens to erupt into overt military hostilities.

India and BRICS

- ◆ The BRICS allows India and China to modulate their rivalry within the setting of a small grouping, even when bilateral relations remain rocky.
- ◆ Another aspect here is the role of Russia. As close observers of the India-China standoff in Ladakh will attest, Moscow continues to play an important though discreet role in bringing both sides to the negotiating table. India's dependence on Russia weaponry is deep enough for New Delhi to be not able to offend Russian sensibilities directly. The very fact that Russia is chairing the BRICS this year almost axiomatically implied that Indian participation in the BRICS activities despite everything else.
- ◆ As India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has emphasised

that, BRICS provides India a transcontinental reach by virtue of Brazil and South Africa's presence.

- ◆ New Delhi's participation in a variety of informal arrangements is a low-cost way for it to signal its aspirations as a global power, even though – in the strict material sense – its equities, say in South America, remain limited.

Way Forward

- ◆ Adoption of BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the nations spread across different continents do represent the global acceptance of the menace of terrorism which is being suffered by India for so long.
- ◆ Terrorism affects the civilised world and can be tackled by global participation. Terrorism today is supported by international money transfers, propaganda and other acts which are spun across many nations.
- ◆ Acceptance of the problem and preparing a roadmap are first steps to countering such menace. Also, the adoption of counter terror strategy by various multi-lateral organisations specially like BRICS signals the rise of India on a global platform. <<<>>>

General Studies Paper- II

Topic

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

Topic

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

Q. What is the significance of BRICS for India? How can India leverage its role in multilateral organisations to counter the menace of terrorism?

06

Decomplexing Interstate River Disputes : New Roadmap

Why in News?

- ◆ Since 1956, five interstate water disputes tribunals have been set up for Krishna, Godavari, Narmada, Cauvery and Ravi-Beas rivers. Though the time limit is five years, Ravi-Beas took 33 years, Cauveri consumed 29 years, and the other tribunals took around a decade each.
- ◆ The Centre recently presented three Bills in Parliament: River Basin Management Bill, 2019; River Water Disputes Bill, 2019; and Dam Safety Authority Bill, 2019.

Introduction

- ◆ Indian federalism is facing a serious challenge on the river front. The River Basin Management Bill, 2019, proposing 13 river basin authorities for various river basins; River Water Disputes Bill, 2019, proposing a dispute resolution committee (DRC); and Dam Safety Authority Bill, 2019, which shifts the states' rights and authority over rivers to the Centre.
- ◆ The question is: Who should have the final say on river waters — Centre, states, people's representatives or bureaucrats? The Constitution puts water as a subject under the State List. The Union comes in only in case of interstate rivers and disputes over it.
- ◆ Exercising its jurisdiction over interstate rivers, Parliament passed two significant legislations in 1956 — River Boards Act and Interstate Water Disputes Act.
- ◆ The River Boards Act enables the Centre to create boards to advise

on the integrated development of inter-state basins, in consultation with the states concerned. The river boards were supposed to prevent conflicts by preparing development schemes and working out the costs to each state. However, no such water board has ever been created.

- ◆ The National Commission for Review of Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) observed that the River Boards Act has remained a dead letter. The Centre once contemplated shifting water from the State List to the Union List, citing effective resolution of interstate river disputes and linking of rivers. It evoked mixed reaction.

Constitutional Ambiguities

- ◆ NCRWC recommended a comprehensive central legislation, after consultation with states, to define the constitution and jurisdiction of river boards to regulate, develop and control all interstate rivers. States have a constitutional duty to protect the rights of its people over rivers that pass through them.
- ◆ The Sarkaria Commission recommended that once a state makes an application under the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, the Centre must, within a year, appoint a tribunal. It proposed that the Centre should also have suo motu power to appoint a tribunal if it is satisfied that a dispute exists.
- ◆ Though water is a State subject, interstate rivers and river valleys fall under the Union List. Parliament can make law, but with the objective to expedite dispute resolution.
- ◆ The Interstate River Water Disputes Act enables an aggrieved state to request the Centre to refer a dispute to a tribunal in case of

inter-state rivers or river valleys. This means unless the state asks for, the Centre has no role to play.

- ◆ Water disputes arise when the action of one state affects the interests of one or more other states. Even in case of a serious dispute, a state cannot directly approach the tribunal. A state has to beg the Centre to refer an interstate river dispute to a tribunal.

Final Adjudicator Undefined

- ◆ The nature of the adjudicatory mandate in case of interstate river disputes has also led to an institutional ambiguity between the tribunals set up by the Centre and the role of the apex court of India — Supreme Court.
- ◆ In a departure from the 1935 Act, the Constitution of India has laid down in Article 262 that the Parliament or the national legislative body would enact a law that would bar the Supreme Court of India from interfering in the interstate water disputes.
- ◆ Hence, this creates a constitutional exception for the Supreme Court which is otherwise mandated to adjudicate all other areas of interstate as well as centre-state disputes in India as enshrined in Article 131 of the Indian Constitution.
- ◆ But, on the other hand, Article 136 also empowers the Supreme Court to hear appeal against the verdict or awards given by all Tribunals and Commissions under its appellate jurisdiction.
- ◆ Hence, if Article 262 deters the highest judiciary from adjudicating interstate river water disputes, article 136 empowers the Supreme Court to hear appeals against the tribunals and also ensure implementation of the tribunal.

- ◆ So, despite the constitutional bar by one provision, the apex court remains the adjudicatory body along with the tribunals in deciding the interstate river water disputes.

Rivers, Basins and Dams

- ◆ On the basis of Sarkaria Commission's report, the Centre introduced the Interstate River Water Dispute (Amendment) Bill, 2019. If enacted, it would make it mandatory for the Centre to constitute a tribunal on states' request or suo motu.
- ◆ It binds the Centre to set up DRC to amicably resolve the issue by negotiations in one year. If the DRC cannot settle the dispute, the Centre must refer it to the interstate tribunal within three months.
- ◆ The River Basin Management Bill, 2019, gives more power to Central bureaucrats over interstate river basins. Chief ministers of 13 river basin states will advise, public representatives will be consultants to their body called 'council', while the body of public servants called 'authority' will decide how to develop, conserve and distribute the resources in interstate river basins.
- ◆ The Centre is seemingly implementing the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission and National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) through this Bill. However, both the reports had proposed a wide-based democratic composition and functioning.

- ◆ The Dam Safety Bill, 2019, could take away the states' autonomy over major irrigation dams in their territories since the Centre has proposed a new authority for dam safety. This would give immense power to the Centre because the National Dam Safety Authority would decide safety and all other issues. An additional secretary in the Central Water Commission would head the National Dam Safety Authority and the states would be bound to follow the authority's instructions or suffer penalties. The states would have no say and no appeal.

Constitutional Complexities and State Territories

- ◆ The primacy of "unity of the nation superseded other considerations of natural resource distribution like the river or potential disputes over these resources." Interestingly, the Constituent Assembly Debates reveal that the issue of interstate river disputes have occupied very limited space in the priority pyramid of the Constitution makers, hence invoked very limited debate and discussion.
- ◆ The boundaries of states in India have continued to alter, based on cultural and political factors without considering much regarding the historical and ecological dynamics of these regions.
- ◆ These changes complicate the existing jurisdictional and resource-sharing agreements, including the ones related to interstate river water disputes and becomes sources of interstate political

contestation within the repeatedly recreated territorial reality.

- ◆ This also gives rise to conflictual claims of property and user rights over river water by the constantly recreated provincial units in India.

Way Forward

- ◆ The Interstate River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the proposed River Basin Management Bill, 2018 are the two major impending legislations which seek to reform and refurbish the interstate river water governance architecture in India.
- ◆ There are more deep-seated problems which can only be addressed by constitutional amendments and addressing the formulation of state territories of factors which are more obvious and natural rather than political ones. Water is going to be a scarce commodity and union government needs to maintain the unity by being pro-active in managing river-disputes.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers

Topic:

- Separation of powers between various organs, dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary;

Q. Water being on a state list while inter-state rivers are covered in Union List under Seventh Schedule has created much ambiguities in managing inter-state river disputes. Comment on the given statement in the light of recent bills tabled in parliament.

07

Daunting Task of Vaccine Distribution : Navigating the Odds

Why in News?

- ◆ A Covid vaccine could soon become a reality. The world is now gearing up for a rollout and working on developing infrastructure that serves the purpose to inoculate 7.5 billion people spread across seven continents.
- ◆ U.K. became the first western country to authorize the use of a COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 1, when its medicines regulator gave the greenlight to the vaccine produced by Pfizer and BioNTech.
- ◆ The politics of the vaccine — especially as major powers seek to derive geopolitical advantage from it or nationalism prevails over collective good — will matter. The procurement of vaccines, especially for India, will hinge on agreements it is able to strike both bilaterally and multilaterally — while leveraging its own domestic production capacity.

Background

- ◆ Within days of COVID-19 being declared an international public health emergency on January 30, multiple groups of scientists began working on a vaccine. At the same time, governments began working on back-room deals to lock in their access to these vaccines ahead of anyone else.
- ◆ Currently, Pfizer and Moderna have achieved a high degree of efficacy — at over 90%, it is much safer than initially assumed — using radical technologies which have the potential to tackle other critical diseases. There are other vaccines too, many at the third stage of trial, with a high possibility of success. All of this means that by early next year, the world will have a basket of vaccine options on the menu to choose from.
- ◆ In the race to get the vaccine first, the announcement by U.K. raises

expectations for the impending decisions by regulators in the U.S. and the E.U., who are still poring over data from the vaccine's trials. China and Russia approved vaccines for use in some groups in June and August respectively, without waiting for the results of large-scale efficacy trials. Thus, UK is the first country to approve vaccine for its population.

- ◆ While it's normal and expected for world leaders to prioritize their own countries' interests, analysts say vaccine nationalism can become dangerous when public health decisions are driven by domestic political concerns, or when a prized commodity — inoculation against a deadly disease — is wielded as a geostrategic weapon.
- ◆ In total, wealthy countries have already signed deals to secure 3.7 billion doses from western drug-makers, by mid-September 2020. Canada also signed deals with two companies to secure a guaranteed 88 million doses, enough for every citizen to be vaccinated at least twice.
- ◆ These deals are expected to further drive up prices, potentially making vaccines even more unaffordable for many poorer countries.

Bio-technology Fast-tracked Covid Vaccine Development

- Unlike older, slower ways of developing vaccines, which involve stimulating the body's immune system by injecting inactivated or weakened viruses, Moderna and other companies created platforms that work like the operating system on a computer, allowing researchers to quickly insert new genetic code from a virus — like adding an app — and create a new vaccine.
- The method employs a synthetic form of a genetic molecule called messenger RNA, or mRNA, to cause human cells to make a harmless viral protein called a spike, which then stimulates the immune system to make antibodies and immune cells that can recognize the spike quickly and counterattack when needed.
- Earlier efforts to test new types of vaccines in outbreaks like SARS, MERS and Zika had fizzled when the threat from those viruses receded, before large clinical trials could be carried out. But the outbreak spreading in China had the hallmarks of a prolonged pandemic, a tragedy but also a perfect testing ground for the new biotechnology.

Challenges for India

- ◆ For India the challenges would be both in the logistics of the supply chain and in the health workforce needed to administer the vaccine and monitor the adverse effects. The former may be more easy to solve.
- ◆ Organising the administration of the vaccine to the huge (1.35 billion) population will call for a large health workforce. It will be especially demanding if it is a two-dose vaccine.

- ◆ Experts noted that nothing on the scale of vaccination planned for COVID-19 has been attempted in India before.
- ◆ With nearly 250 COVID-19 vaccines under development across seven different technology platforms, with the WHO reporting 42 candidates in clinical trials, it will be a big logistical challenge to transport over 10 billion doses globally
- ◆ For India, one of the biggest challenges would be cold chain (management), depending upon what vaccine is to be deployed.
- ◆ There would be limited capacity to store, let alone transport vaccines to all parts of the country if we require minus 20 degree Celsius or minus 70 degree Celsius temperatures.
- ◆ India should go with vaccines that require storage and transport in liquid form (that is, between 4 degree Celsius and 10 degree Celsius) and not the ones that have to be kept frozen.
- ◆ The funding requirement for distribution of free vaccine to all Indians will be huge. Serum Institute of India Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla asked the government whether it had Rs 80,000 crore required over the next one year for distribution of COVID-19 vaccine.

India's Capability

- ◆ India, the seventh-largest country in the world, is home to nearly 1.30 billion people -- the second highest after China's 1.4 billion. When the Covid outbreak started, it was speculated that India wouldn't be able to handle the crisis, but its battle against coronavirus and efforts have set an example for the world. The world is appreciating India's quick

action. Now the scientists have inched closer to creating a Covid vaccine, the world has set its eyes on India again to study how it will undertake the massive exercise.

- ◆ The strategy behind Covid-19 eradication efforts requires adopting tactics to deploy the vaccine like a cluster bomb. Pick up a geography, vaccinate 65 per cent of the population post-haste, shift to the next region, repeat until the whole country is done.
- ◆ India could conduct this simultaneously in multiple blocks, until entire districts and states can achieve herd immunity by way of vaccination. The task can be achieved within weeks, like is ably demonstrated during national elections.
- ◆ In India, the magic ratio of 65 amounts to approximately 880 million people — not unsurmountable for India, a country that holds national elections that cater for more than 900 million eligible voters.
- ◆ When it comes to vaccine distribution, India has an incentive of handling the chain of supply and identifying the population in the need. The Southeast Asian country has successfully eradicated polio and TB by reaching every nook and corner of the country in a record time. India's polio vaccine strategy is widely acknowledged by the world and often finds a reference that how the country with such a vast population worked tactfully with several agencies at different levels to deliver a shot.

Way Forward

- ◆ After the U.K.'s announcement, Europe's regulator—the European

Medicines Agency (EMA) -pointed out that it is moving toward a longer-term authorization that requires more checks and evidence to be submitted than the temporary approval. The U.S. FDA will hold a meeting of its advisory panel on Dec. 10 and is expected to announce shortly after if it will authorize the vaccine.

- ◆ Though India itself could be the vaccine super-power in vaccine manufacturing, but may have to rely on international pharma companies to meet the demand. India has the pharma infrastructure for producing very high quantity in a short span but, production for the whole nation has never been tried before.
- ◆ The main challenge for India will be to provide vaccination on a national scale along with the follow up. Though India has the capability, but the scale of challenge this time is overwhelming. <>>

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Topic:

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

Q. Vaccine for the coronavirus pandemic is on the cards, but for India which has the second largest population and second most affected country on the globe, vaccine distribution and logistics are also a daunting task. Comment.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

Geo-heritage Sites of Visakhapatnam

1. Why in News?

- The recent incident of overcrowding and reckless acts of visitors endangering the natural arch of Mangamaripeta beach, once a secluded beach, has raised concerns among geologists and heritage activists on the need to safeguard the sites of the region and establish a geo park.
- While there are 147 UNESCO Global geo parks spread across 41 countries, India is yet to have one of its own. The scope in India is immense — Visakhapatnam alone is replete with many unique sites.



5. Measures to be Taken

- In July 2019, INTACH organised a campaign along with the Department of Tourism, Archaeology and Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority to create public awareness on geo heritage spots in the region.
- Adequate signage and interpretation centres are set up in the area to create awareness among tourists.
- The way forward is to engage the local community in becoming the custodians of this heritage site by making them understand the geological value.

2. Geological Sites

- Geological sites are a record of important geological phenomenon that are a key to trace the evolutionary history of earth and its changing processes.
- The term geological heritage is used for natural geological or geo-morphological features that have aesthetic, intrinsic or scientific and educational value, that provide unique insight into geological processes affecting the formation or evolution of Earth.
- Culturally significant geo heritage sites are places in which geologic features or landscapes played a role in cultural or historical events. Aesthetically significant geo heritage sites are landscapes that have a visual appeal because of their geologic features or processes.
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) declares geo heritage sites for protection and maintenance.
- Globally, geo parks are sustained through geo tourism activities like excursions, nature trails, guided tours, hiking and academic meets.

3. Erra Matti Dibbalu (red sand dunes)

- Among the 34 notified National Geological Heritage Monument Sites of India by the Geological Survey of India, is the Erra Matti Dibbalu or coastal red sediment mounds located between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam.
- The width of the dunes vary from 200 metres to two kilometres, spread across five kilometres along the coast.
- Erra Matti Dibbalu (red sand dunes), natural rock formations at Mangamaripeta, million-years-old Borra Caves and volcanic ash deposits said to have originated from the volcanic eruption of Toba in Indonesia 73,000 years ago near Araku.
- Such sand deposits have been reported only from three low latitude tropical regions in South Asia — the Teri Sands of Tamil Nadu, the Erra Matti Dibbalu in Andhra Pradesh and Red Coastal Sands of Sri Lanka.

4. Cause for Concern

- Every monsoon the sediments are washed away, turning the sea a bright red.
- Further degradation due to human interference such as digging, climbing, littering are affecting their stability and exacerbating erosion.

02

General and Specific Consent to CBI

1. Why in News?

- Recently, a Calcutta High Court order expanded its jurisdiction to investigate the central government employees in West Bengal without seeking specific consent of the state government.
- There are at least seven states at present which have withdrawn general consent to the CBI requiring the agency to seek case-specific permission. They are Mizoram, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Jharkhand.
- All of these states are ruled by the opposition parties except Mizoram, where the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) is part of the NDA but invariably takes a stance opposite of the BJP.



2. CBI: Background

- The CBI came into being during the World War II, when the colonial government felt the need to probe cases of corruption in the War and Supply Department. A law came in 1941. It became the DSPE Act in 1946.
- The Act to set up CBI was not passed by Parliament. It was created by an executive order of the government and thus, the CBI is not a statutory body.
- The CBI functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the central government, and is exempted from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

3. CBI and General Consent

- Section 6 of the DPSE Act authorises the central government to direct CBI to probe a case within the jurisdiction of any state on the recommendation of the concerned state government.
- The courts can also order a CBI probe, and even monitor the progress of investigation.
- The Supreme Court and High Courts, however, can order CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the state. There is a provision in the CrPC that allows search and investigation in a state by outside agency but it has to happen through a local court.

4. Types of Consent for CBI

- There are two types of consent for a probe by the CBI. These are: general and specific.
- When a state gives a general consent to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.
- When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government. If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.
- This hurdle impedes seamless investigation by the CBI. A general consent is given to facilitate that seamless investigation in a case of corruption or violence.

5. Types of cases the CBI investigates in a state

- The CBI investigates three types of cases through three specialised wings. The Anti-Corruption Division that probes cases of corruption against public servants.
- The Economic Offences Division probes crimes of financial malfeasance, bank frauds, money laundering, black money operations, and the like. However, the CBI usually transfers cases of money laundering to the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- There is a Special Crimes Division to investigate cases of violence such as murder, crimes related to internal security such as espionage, narcotics and banned substances, and cheating. It is this division of the CBI that generally handles cases that get wide media coverage, for example, actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

03

Vulture Action Plan:2020-25

1. Why in News?

- Recently, Union Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister launched a 2020-25 Vulture Action Plan for vulture conservation in the country.
- While the ministry has been leading a vulture conservation project since 2006, the plan now is to extend the project until 2025 to not only halt the decline, but also actively increase the number of vultures in India.



5. Other Efforts

- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) also set up the Vulture Conservation Breeding Program, which has successfully bred three critically endangered species in captivity for the first time.
- The ministry has also launched conservation plans for red and Egyptian vultures, with breeding programs for both.
- Ensuring minimal use of Diclofenac and an area is declared a vulture safe zone only when no toxic drugs are found in secret pharmacies and carcass surveys. livestock, for two consecutive years, and vulture populations stable and not declining.
- The action plan aims to implement what has already been implemented by ensuring that the sale of veterinary NSAIDs is regulated and that livestock are treated only by qualified veterinarians.

2. Background

- The number of vultures has seen a sharp decline – up to 90 percent in some species – in India since the 1990s in one of the most drastic declines in bird populations in the world.
- Between the 1990s and 2007, the number of three currently critically endangered species – the white-backed, long-billed and slender-billed vultures – crashed in mass, with 99% of the species being wiped out.
- The number of red-headed vultures, also currently critically endangered, decreased by 91% while Egyptian vultures by 80%.
- The Egyptian vulture is listed as 'endangered', while the Himalayan, bearded and cinereous vultures are 'near threatened'.
- The MoEFCC published the 2006 Vulture Conservation Action Plan with DCGI banning veterinary use of diclofenac in the same year and the decline in the vulture population halted by 2011.

3. Reason for the Decline

- The crash of vulture populations came to light in the mid-1990s and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac – a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) used to treat pain and inflammatory diseases such as gout – in carcasses. that the vultures would feed.
- Just 4-0.7 per cent of animal carcasses contaminated with diclofenac was sufficient to decimate 99 per cent of vulture populations.
- Vultures Species found in India
- There are nine recorded species of vultures in India –
 - ☛ White-backed,
 - ☛ Long-billed,
 - ☛ Slender-billed Oriental,
 - ☛ Himalayan,
 - ☛ Red-headed,
 - ☛ Egyptian,
 - ☛ Bearded,
 - ☛ Cinere,
 - ☛ The Eurasian Griffon.

4. Important objectives for the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025 (APVC)

- Prevent the poisoning of the principal food of vultures, the cattle carcasses, with veterinary NSAIDs, by ensuring that sale of veterinary NSAIDs is regulated and is disbursed only on prescription and by ensuring that treatment of livestock is done only by qualified veterinarians.
- Carry out safety testing of available molecules of veterinary NSAIDs on vultures. The new molecules should be introduced in the market only after they are proved to be safe following safety testing on vultures.
- The Drugs Controller General of India must institute a system that automatically removes a drug from veterinary use if it is found to be toxic to vultures. Such a system would ensure that drugs other than diclofenac that are toxic to vultures like aceclofenac and ketoprofen are banned for veterinary use.
- There is a need to establish additional Conservation Breeding Centres in the country. Currently, there are 8 Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres in different parts of the country. While the primary focus of these centres is breeding of vultures, they also serve as Vulture Conservation Centres.

04

Need for Fake News Countering Mechanism

1. Why in News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court has asked the Centre to explain its “mechanism” against fake news and bigotry on air, and to create one if it did not already exist.



2. Background

- The apex court made the above observation after an affidavit was submitted before it by the secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Amit Khare in the matter of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and others versus Union of India and another.
- As Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that the Central government has enough powers to regulate content of TV channels but is mindful that the right to free speech as a fundamental right is available to the media, the court asked him to create a mechanism for addressing grievances related to fake news if none existed at present.
- The court also asked the Centre to submit a response within three weeks about the mechanism it possessed under the Cable TV Network Regulation Act to stop fake news and what action it has taken.

5. Other Provisions

- One can file a complaint with the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) which represents the private television news and current affairs broadcasters.
- Indian Broadcast Foundation (IBF) is a body where one can file complaints against contents aired by 24*7 channels for promoting smoking, abuse, or any violent action by online or offline.
- Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC) deals with complaints relating to the TV content which is objective or fake news, where the Broadcaster incites communal hatred, encourage violence against woman, child abuse or promotes consumption of drugs.
- The Press Council of India (statutory body) can warn newspaper agencies, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist if it finds that a newspaper or a news agency has violated journalistic ethics.
- The issue with these bodies is that they don't have detrimental penalising powers.

3. MeitY Response

- In its response, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MeitY) submitted through the affidavit that the Central government has issued several directions to prevent dissemination of fake news leading to abrogation of communal harmony and that advisories were also sent out by the MIB to the channels from time to time to adhere to the programme code.
- The ministry charged that “the petition is based upon vague assertions based upon certain ‘fact checking news reports’ to contend that entire media is perpetrating communal harmony and hatred towards one particular community” and was seeking “wide ranging, vague, unrestrained pre-telecast restriction that too on the basis of unverifiable reports.”
- The affidavit also mentioned how the MeitY, which has the power to block information under Section 69 A of the IT Act 2000 and Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, has already issued advisories categorically informing the intermediaries to remove false news or misinformation concerning COVID-19 which are likely to create panic among public and disturb the public order and communal harmony.

4. Laws Regarding Fake News

- Section 66D of Information Technology Act- Punishment for cheating by personation by using computer resource.
- Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act- Punishment for false warning.
- Section 505(1) of Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860- Punishment for making, publishing or circulating any statement, rumour or report which may cause fear for an alarm to the public, or to any section of the public.
- Section 153 of IPC- Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot—if rioting be committed—if not committed.
- Section 499 and 500 of IPC- Defamation and punishment for defamation.

05

Article 32: A Valuable Fundamental Right

1. Why in News?

- Recently, a Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde observed that it is “trying to discourage” individuals from filing petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution.
- The observation came during the hearing of a petition seeking the release of journalist Siddique Kappan, who was arrested with three others while on their way to Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, to report on an alleged gangrape and murder.



2. Article 32 of Indian Constitution

- It is one of the fundamental rights listed in Part III of the Constitution that each citizen is entitled.
- Article 32 deals with the ‘Right to Constitutional Remedies’, or affirms the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution.
- It states that the Supreme Court “shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part”.
- The right guaranteed by this Article “shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution”.
- Only if any of these fundamental rights is violated a person can approach the Supreme Court directly under Article 32.

3. In Cases of Violation of Fundamental Rights

- Both the High Courts (under Article 226) and the Supreme Court (under Article 32) can be approached for violation or enactment of fundamental rights through five kinds of writs:
 - ☛ **Habeas corpus**— Considered to be among the most important writs for personal liberty, habeas corpus literally means to ‘produce the body’. It is invoked to seek relief in cases where a person has been unlawfully detained.
 - ☛ **Mandamus** — Issued by a higher court to a lower court or a government official or body, directing them to perform duties that they have refused to do.
 - ☛ **Certiorari** — A superior court issues a certiorari writ for re-examination of an action or decision by a lower court. It is invoked when a judgment has been delivered in violation of principles of natural justice or in opposition to the procedure established by law.
 - ☛ **Prohibition** — To stop a lower court from going ahead with certain proceedings to ensure that it does not exceed its jurisdiction.
 - ☛ **Quo warranto** — to prevent people from assuming positions in public office when she or he is not entitled to it.

4. Supreme Court’s observations on Article 32 Over the Years

- In *Romesh Thappar vs State of Madras* (1950), the Supreme Court observed that Article 32 provides a “guaranteed” remedy for the enforcement of fundamental rights.
- “This Court is thus constituted the protector and guarantor of fundamental rights, and it cannot, consistently with the responsibility so laid upon it, refuse to entertain applications seeking protection against infringements of such rights,” the court observed.
- During the Emergency, in *Additional District Magistrate, Jabalpur vs S S Shukla* (1976), the Supreme Court had said that the citizen loses his right to approach the court under Article 32.
- Constitutional experts say that it is eventually at the discretion of the Supreme Court and each individual judge to decide whether an intervention is warranted in a case, which could also be heard by the High Court first.

06

Looming Ethnic Civil War in Ethiopia

1. Why in News?

- Recently, Ethiopia's Nobel Prize winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed started a military operation in the rebellious Tigray region in the country's north.
- Mr. Abiy has said it would be a limited campaign focusing on the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the militia-cum-political party that runs the region. However, almost two weeks into the conflict, Ethiopia risks falling into an ethnic civil war with regional implications.



2. Background: TPLF

- The TPLF was founded in 1975 as a resistance army of the Tigrayan people against the military dictatorship, which was called Derg.
- The leftist Derg, which was formed in 1974, would change its title in 1987 but practically remained in power till it was ousted by the armed rebels in 1991.
- The TPLF played a crucial role in ousting the junta from power and they were welcomed as national heroes in 1991.
- TPLF leader Meles Zenawi took over as the interim President in 1991 and became the first elected Prime Minister in 1995. He is largely seen as the architect of the country's ethno-federal system and remained in power till 2012.
- But over the years, the government led by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the coalition put together by Mr. Zenawi, was accused of being increasingly authoritarian and there were frequent mass protests in the regions.
- Though the EPRDF contains regional political parties such as the Amhara Democratic Party, the Oromo Democratic Party and the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, the TPLF remained the dominant political force.
- In 2018, the EPRDF chose Mr. Abiy, a former military intelligence officer, to lead the government amid growing protests and a political deadlock.

3. Cause of Conflict

- Though the EPRDF provided a stable rule with high economic growth for 17 years, there was mounting criticism against the country's ethno-federal arrangement.
- The Tigray people make up roughly 6% of the population, while the Oromos have a 34% share and the Amharas 27%. While the TPLF controlled the levers of power through the EPRDF, the Oromos alleged marginalisation and called for better representation.
- Mr. Abiy purged TPLF functionaries from key government posts, released political prisoners (jailed by the TPLF-led government) and promised freer media.
- He reached out to Eritrea, a sworn enemy of the TPLF, which shares a long border with the Tigray region.

5. Geopolitical Angle

- Mr. Abiy's outreach to Eritrea had outraged the TPLF, which had fought a prolonged war with the Eritrean government along the Tigray border.
- The TPLF now accuses Eritrea of backing Mr. Abiy's offensive.
- Tigray region shares a border with Sudan. The TPLF enjoyed good relations with Sudan's ousted dictator Omar Bashir.
- Sudan has an unresolved border dispute with Ethiopia. If Sudan's new rulers (the transition government includes civilian and military leaders) keep the old links with the TPLF active and the border open for the rebels, the conflict could go on. If it does, it could derail Mr. Abiy's reform agenda at home as well as the diplomatic agenda abroad.

4. Triggering Event

- Mr. Abiy formed a new political coalition, the Prosperity Party, all constituents of the EPRDF, except the TPLF, joined the new platform.
- The TPLF saw the formation of a new party as an attempt by Mr. Abiy to consolidate more power in hands.
- The party's leadership shifted from Addis Ababa to Mekele, the Tigray regional capital.
- In August, when Mr. Abiy's government decided to postpone parliamentary elections, citing COVID-19, the TPLF openly challenged the decision. They accused the Prime Minister of power grab and went ahead holding elections in the region in defiance of the federal government.
- On November 3, TPLF militants attacked a federal military command in the Tigray region and captured military hardware and equipment, prompting Mr. Abiy to declare the military operation.

07

Karnataka Declassifying Deemed Forests

1. Why in News?

- Recently, Karnataka Forest Minister announced in the Assembly that the state government would soon declassify 6.64 lakh hectares of the 9.94 lakh hectares of deemed forests in the state (nearly 67%) and hand it over to Revenue authorities.
- The move has been taken after a study of the actual extent of deemed forest areas by local committees headed by officials from the Revenue, Forest and Land Records Departments in every district.

2. Background

- In 2014, the then government decided to have a relook at the categorisation of forests. It said some of the 'statutory forests' had been wrongly classified as 'deemed forest' by the expert committee constituted after the Supreme Court order.
- The government also said that where the dictionary definition of forests was applied to identify thickly wooded areas as deemed forests, a well-defined scientific, verifiable criteria was not used, resulting in a subjective classification of areas as deemed forests.
- The subjective classification in turn resulted in conflicts between the Forest Department and other departments like Revenue, Irrigation, Public Works and Energy, the government argued.
- There is also a commercial demand for mining in some regions designated as deemed forests.
- Committees constituted during the Congress regime identified 5.18 lakh hectares of deemed forest land that could be released from the 9.94 lakh hectares total deemed forest.
- An affidavit was filed in the Supreme Court in 2019 following a Cabinet decision. After the BJP came to power in 2019, the amount of deemed forest land to be released was revised to 6.64 lakh hectares.



3. Deemed Forests according to Supreme Court

- While the concept of deemed forests has not been clearly defined in any law including the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, the Supreme Court in the case of T N Godavarman Thirumalpad (1996) accepted a wide definition of forests under the Act.
- The Supreme Court order on December 12, 1996 says that "the word 'forest' must be understood according to its dictionary meaning. This description covers all statutorily recognised forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (1) of the Forest Conservation Act"
- The term 'forest land' occurring in Section 2 will not only include 'forest' as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any areas recorded as forest in the government record irrespective of the ownership.
- The provisions enacted in the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the conservation of forest and the matters connected therewith has been apply clearly to all forest so understood irrespective of the ownership or classification thereof.

4. An expert committee Report (2002)

- An expert committee constituted by the Karnataka government after the Supreme Court order identified 'deemed forests' as "land having the characteristic of forests irrespective of the ownership".
- 'Deemed forests' could be:
 - ☛ thickly wooded areas of the Revenue Department not handed over to the Forest Department;
 - ☛ thickly wooded areas recommended to be handed over to the Forest Department;
 - ☛ thickly wooded land distributed to grantees but not cultivated; and
 - ☛ thickly wooded plantations of the Forest Department
- Reports by expert committees in 1997 and 2002 identified 43.18 lakh hectares of forest land for conservation in Karnataka, which included 33.23 lakh hectares notified forest area as per forest records and 9.94 lakh hectares 'deemed forests'.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 Geo-heritage Sites of Visakhapatnam

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Erra Matti Dibbalu are red sand dunes which are among the 34 notified National Geological Heritage Monument Sites of India.
2. The term geological heritage is used for natural geological or geo-morphological features that have aesthetic, intrinsic or scientific and educational value, that provide unique insight into geological processes affecting the formation or evolution of Earth. In India, geographical heritage sites are declared by Geological Survey of India (GSI).

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: (c)

Explanation. Both the statements are correct. Among the 34 notified National Geological Heritage Monument Sites of India by the Geological Survey of India, is the Erra Matti Dibbalu or coastal red sediment mounds located between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam. Erra Matti Dibbalu (red sand dunes), natural rock formations at Mangamaripeta, million-years-old Borra Caves and volcanic ash deposits said to have originated from the volcanic eruption of Toba in Indonesia 73,000 years ago near Araku.

Such sand deposits have been reported only from three low latitude tropical regions in South Asia — the Teri Sands of Tamil Nadu, the Erra Matti Dibbalu in Andhra Pradesh and Red Coastal Sands of Sri Lanka.

Geological sites are a record of important geological phenomenon that are a key to trace the evolutionary history of earth and its changing processes. The term geological heritage is used for natural geological or geo-morphological features that have aesthetic, intrinsic or scientific and educational value, that provide unique insight into geological processes affecting the formation or evolution of Earth. Geological Survey of India (GSI) declares geo heritage sites for protection and maintenance.



02 General and Specific Consent to CBI

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. CBI needs permission from the state governments under 'Specific Consent' for every case it needs to investigate. While in 'General Consent', one-time permission is given and the CBI does not need permission for every case.
2. Many states have withdrawn 'general consent to CBI' and Calcutta High Court has expanded its jurisdiction to investigate central government employees in a state without the permission of state government.

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

- a)
b)
c)
d)

Answer: ()

Explanation. Both the statements are correct. Recently, a Calcutta High Court order expanded its jurisdiction to investigate the central government employees in West Bengal without seeking specific consent of the state government. There are at least seven states at present which have withdrawn general consent to the CBI requiring the agency to seek case-specific permission. They are Mizoram, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Jharkhand.

There are two types of consent for a probe by the CBI. These are: general and specific. When a state gives a general consent to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.

When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government. If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.



03 Vulture Action Plan:2020-25

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to vulture conservation in India :

1. Since Vulture Conservation Project -2006, will be ending it will be replaced by 2020-25 Vulture Action Plan
2. Veterinary use of diclofenac has been long banned in India since 2006.
3. There are many vulture breeding programmes which have successfully worked, now the plan seeks to expand such programs under the renewed project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation. Statement 1 is incorrect. Recently, Union Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister launched a 2020-25 Vulture Action Plan for vulture conservation in the country.

While the ministry has been leading a vulture conservation project since 2006, the plan now is to extend the project until 2025 to not only halt the decline, but also actively increase the number of vultures in India.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The crash of vulture populations came to light in the mid-1990s and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac – a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) used to treat pain and inflammatory diseases such as gout – in carcasses. that the vultures would feed. The MoEFCC published the 2006 Vulture Conservation Action Plan with DCGI banning veterinary use of diclofenac in the same year and the decline in the vulture population halted by 2011.

There is a need to establish additional Conservation Breeding Centres in the country. Currently, there are 8 Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres in different parts of the country. While the primary focus of these centres is breeding of vultures, they also serve as Vulture Conservation Centres. 🔄🔄🔄

04 Need for Fake News Countering Mechanism

Q. With reference to the menace of fake news in India, consider the following statements:

1. There are certain provisions in Indian Penal Code to tackle the menace of fake news but as, there is no established law or regulatory mechanism to deal with it.
2. IT Act 2000 can be used to censor media incase of fake news or any broadcast related to mala fide intent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation. Both the statements are correct. Section 505(1) of Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860- Punishment for making, publishing or circulating any statement, rumour or report which may cause fear for an alarm to the public, or to any section of the public; Section 153 of IPC- Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot—if rioting be committed—if not committed; Section 499 and 500 of IPC- Defamation and punishment for defamation. All these provisions do deal with the issue of fake news, but there are no specific laws to deal with fake news.

MeitY, has the power to block information under Section 69 A of the IT Act 2000 and Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, has already issued advisories categorically informing the intermediaries to remove false news or misinformation concerning COVID-19 which are likely to create panic among public and disturb the public order and communal harmony. Also, Section 66D of Information Technology Act- Punishment for cheating by personation by using computer resource. 🔄🔄🔄

05 Article 32: A Valuable Fundamental Right

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 32 itself is a fundamental right, which is meant to protect the fundamental rights of the citizens.
2. Article 32 is not absolute; it can be restricted in certain given situations.
3. To address the violation against one's fundamental rights, a person has to approach Supreme Court, as it is the only body which can provide relief to the aggrieved citizen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation. Statement 1 and 2 are correct. It is one of the fundamental rights listed in Part III of the Constitution that each citizen is entitled. Article 32 deals with the 'Right to Constitutional Remedies', or affirms the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution. It states that the Supreme Court "shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part".

The right guaranteed by this Article "shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution". During the Emergency, in Additional District Magistrate, Jabalpur vs S S Shukla (1976), the Supreme Court had said that the citizen loses his right to approach the court under Article 32.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Both the High Courts (under Article 226) and the Supreme Court (under Article 32) can be approached for violation or enactment of fundamental rights. Constitutional experts say that it is eventually at the discretion of the Supreme Court and each individual judge to decide whether an intervention is warranted in a case, which could also be heard by the High Court first.



06 Looming Ethnic Civil War in Ethiopia

Q. With reference to emerging situation of civil war in Ethiopia, consider the following statements:

1. The civil war in Ethiopia was started when its Nobel Prize winning Prime Minister launched a military offensive on Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which is also a military-cum-political organisation.
2. Ethiopia's civil war has a danger of spilling into an international conflict where other nations like Eritrea and Sudan will be involved. The warring party in the civil war has movement along the international borders and had earlier links with ousted Sudanese dictator.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation. Both the statements are correct. Recently, Ethiopia's Nobel Prize winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed started a military operation in the rebellious Tigray region in the country's north. Mr. Abiy has said it would be a limited campaign focusing on the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the militia-cum-political party that runs the region. However, almost two weeks into the conflict, Ethiopia risks falling into an ethnic civil war with regional implications.

Mr. Abiy's outreach to Eritrea had outraged the TPLF, which had fought a prolonged war with the Eritrean government along the Tigray border. The TPLF now accuses Eritrea of backing Mr. Abiy's offensive. Tigray region shares a border with Sudan. The TPLF enjoyed good relations with Sudan's ousted dictator Omar Bashir.



07 Karnataka Declassifying Deemed Forests

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The definition of 'forests' for the purpose of conservation is taken as per the dictionary meaning and it includes statutorily recognised forests, areas recorded as forest in the government record, forests designated as reserved, protected and also forests defined under Forest Conservation Act.
2. Once declared as a deemed forest, the areas cannot be de-notified or declassified and are reserved for the purpose of conservation and biodiversity.

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. The Supreme Court order on December 12, 1996 says that "the word 'forest' must be understood according to its dictionary meaning. This description covers all statutorily recognised forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (1) of the Forest Conservation Act". The term 'forest land' occurring in Section 2 will not only include 'forest' as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any areas recorded as forest in the government record irrespective of the ownership.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Recently, Karnataka Forest Minister announced in the Assembly that the state government would soon declassify 6.64 lakh hectares of the 9.94 lakh hectares of deemed forests in the state (nearly 67%) and hand it over to Revenue authorities. The move has been taken after a study of the actual extent of deemed forest areas by local committees headed by officials from the Revenue, Forest and Land Records Departments in every district.



7 IMPORTANT NEWS

01

Climate Emergency in New Zealand

Why in News?

- ◆ Recently, New Zealand joins 32 other countries including Japan, Canada, France and Britain that have declared a climate emergency.
- ◆ New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern promised its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025 as it declared a climate emergency, a symbolic move that critics said needed to be backed with greater actions to reduce emissions.

Government Efforts

- ◆ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the climate emergency declaration was based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings that to avoid more than 1.5 degree Celsius rise in global warming, emissions would need to fall by around 45% from 2010 levels by 2023 and reach zero by around 2050.
- ◆ Nearly half of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, mainly methane.



- ◆ In her first term she passed a Zero Carbon Bill, which sets the framework for net zero emissions by 2050 with an exemption for farming, and banned new offshore oil and gas exploration.
- ◆ The government has promised the public sector will achieve carbon neutrality by 2025. Government agencies would have to measure and report emissions and offset any they can't cut by 2025.
- ◆ The programme will be backed by a NZ\$200 million (\$141 million) fund to finance replacing coal boilers and help purchase electric or hybrid vehicles.

Political Opposition

- ◆ After an hour-long debate, a majority of parliamentarians voted in favour of the declaration. The main opposition National Party voted against it saying it was nothing but "virtue signalling".
- ◆ Critics also say that Ardern's government has not done enough to enhance New Zealand's "clean, green" reputation since she took office in 2017.
- ◆ Climate Action Tracker – a science-led independent assessment service – rates New Zealand's climate policies "insufficient" to meet its goals under the 2015 Paris climate accord.



02

First Ever SCO Online International Exhibition

- ◆ Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India & Chair of the SCO Council of Heads of Government in 2020, launched the first ever SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage, during the 19th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (SCO CHG), held on 30th November 2020 in New Delhi, in videoconference format.
- ◆ This SCO online International exhibition, first ever of its kind, is developed and curated by National Museum, New Delhi, in active collaboration with SCO member countries. The exhibition deploys state of the art technologies like 3D scanning, WebGL platform, virtual space utilization, innovative curation and narration methodology etc.
- ◆ Buddhist philosophy and art of Central Asia connects Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries to each other. This online international exhibition presents an excellent opportunity for visitors to access, appreciate and compare Buddhist art antiquities from SCO countries on a single platform and from the comfort of their home. Such transnational online exhibition also has potential to connect, heal and rejuvenate communities in current pandemic times.
- ◆ The international exhibition gives a glimpse of the artistic wealth displayed in various museums across Asia, and represents the artistic excellence embedded within an eclectic historical timeline spanning across the development of different Schools of Buddhism.
- ◆ National Museum, New Delhi has unfolded a new dimension in museum experiences by developing this online 3D virtual exhibition.
- ◆ The participating institutions are National Museum (New Delhi), Indian Museum (Kolkata), National Museum of Kazakhstan, Dun Huang Academy (China), National Historical Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic, Museums of Pakistan, State Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow (Russia), National Museum and National Museum of Antiquities, Tajikistan and renowned archaeological sites of Uzbekistan.
- ◆ The visitors can explore the Indian Buddhist treasures from the Gandhara and Mathura Schools, Nalanda, Amaravati, Sarnath etc. in a 3D virtual format. The Pakistan hall depicts the life of Gautama Buddha and Buddhist Art through a collection of impressive Gandhara art objects from Karachi, Lahore, Taxila, Islamabad, SWAT and Peshawar museums. These include fasting Siddhartha and footprint of Buddha from Sikri, meditating Buddha from Sahri Bahloi, miracle of Sravasti from Gandhara etc.



03

Technical Recession in India

- ◆ The Indian economy contracted for the second straight quarter, albeit at a slower pace, as restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 were eased and economic activity resumed. India's real GDP fell to 7.5% in the July-September quarter compared to a contraction of 23.9% in the three months ended June, showed data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation by the end of November 2020.
- ◆ GDP at current prices was estimated at Rs 47.22 lakh crore, showing a contraction of 4.0 percent. In gross value added terms, the economy contracted 7% compared to a contraction of 22.8% last quarter.
- ◆ Manufacturing grew by 0.6% in July-September after shrinking by a massive 39% in the preceding quarter, the report said. While the agriculture sector grew by 3.4%, trade and services contracted by 15.6%.
- ◆ The 23.9% GDP contraction in the April-June quarter triggered massive unemployment in small and medium-size businesses and created rural distress.

Technical Recession

- ◆ A technical recession is a term used to describe two consecutive quarters of decline in output. In the case of a nation's economy, the term usually refers to back-to-back contractions in real GDP.

- ◆ The most significant difference between a 'technical recession' and a 'recession' is that while the former term is mainly used to capture the trend in GDP, the latter expression encompasses an appreciably more broad-based decline in economic activity that covers several economic variables including employment, household and corporate incomes and sales at businesses.
- ◆ Another key feature of a technical recession is that it is most often caused by a one-off event (in this case, the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns imposed to combat it) and is generally shorter in duration.



04

Inauguration of Honey FPOs

- ◆ The Honey FPO Programme of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited. (NAFED) was inaugurated by Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 26th November 2020. The inauguration programme was hosted online and attended by the new Honey FPOs, farmers and FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisation) from various parts of the country.
- ◆ Govt. of India is promoting the creation of FPOs in view of their significant role in fulfilling the mission of implementing agricultural reforms in the country. Promotion & Formation of FPOs is the first step for converting Krishi into Atmanirbhar Krishi. For this purpose new Central Sector Scheme for Formation & Promotion of new 10,000 FPOs was launched.
- ◆ Under the new FPO scheme, so far National Level Project Management Advisory and Fund Sanctioning Committee (N-PMAFSC) had allocated 2200 FPO clusters for 2020-21 to all Implementing agencies. N-PMAFSC allocated 500 FPOs to SFAC, 600 FPOs to NABARD & 500 FPOs to NCDC, 100 FPOs to Watershed



Development Department of Karnataka, 50 FPOs to SFAC-Haryana, 50 FPOs to Tamil Nadu SFAC, 50 FPOs to North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC), 100 FPOs to NRLM Division of MoRD for the current FY (2020-21). Additionally specialized FPOs to be formed, 100 Organic FPOs by INM, DAC&FW, 100 Oilseed FPOs by DAC&FW and 50 commodity specific FPOs by NAFED with value chain development.

- ◆ Implementing Agencies had also identified the block wise clusters. FPOs will be developed by specialist 'Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs)' engaged by Implementing Agencies. NAFED had already empanelled the CBBOs and other IAs are in the process of empanelment of CBBOs.

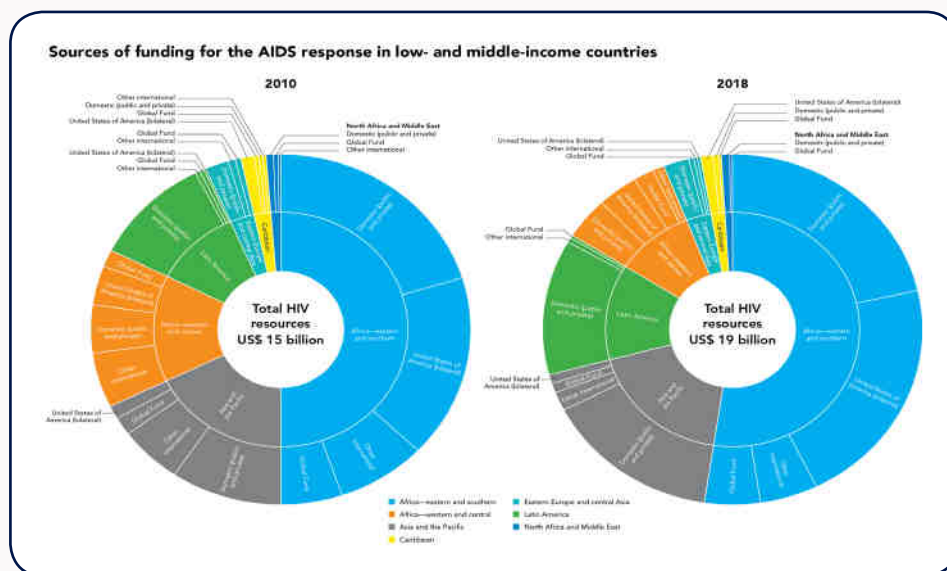
- ◆ National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited.(NAFED) has been appointed as the 4th National Implementing Agency other than SFAC, NABARD and NCDC for the creation of 10,000 FPOs by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW). NAFED has recently taken over the national level Federation of Indian FPOs and Aggregators (FIFA) with the aim of creating sustainable small holder institutions to enhance collective capacities, shortening of agri produce value chains for equitable returns to all stakeholders and leveraging technology for enhanced transparency, scale and seamless agri. produce trading. Creation of Honey FPOs is one of the thrust areas of FIFA's business plan.



05

UNAIDS Report on HIV AIDS

- ◆ A new report released by UNAIDS on Friday ahead of World AIDS Day (December 1) states that the global HIV response was off track even before the Covid-19 outbreak and has now been set back further.
- ◆ The report, 'Prevailing against the pandemic by putting people at the centre', said that five years after a global commitment was made to fast-track the HIV response and end AIDS by 2030, the world is off track.
- ◆ As COVID-19 pushes the AIDS response even further off track and the 2020 targets are missed, UNAIDS is urging countries to learn from the lessons of underinvesting in health and to step up global action to end AIDS and other pandemics
- ◆ Although some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, such as Botswana and Eswatini, have done remarkably well and have achieved or even exceeded the targets set for 2020, many more



countries are falling way behind. The high-performing countries have created a path for others to follow.

- ◆ Insufficient investment and action on HIV and other pandemics left the world exposed to COVID-19. Had health systems and social safety nets been even stronger, the world would have been better positioned to slow the spread of COVID-19 and withstand its impact. COVID-19 has shown that investments in health save lives

but also provide a foundation for strong economies. Health and HIV programmes must be fully funded, both in times of plenty and in times of economic crisis.

- ◆ Fast-Track Targets, which expire at the end of this year, will not be achieved, the report said. Thirty-eight million people are living with HIV with more than 12 million waiting for life-saving HIV treatment, according to the report.

06

Fusarium wilt (Panama) Disease in Banana

- ◆ Fusarium wilt with tropical race 4 (TR4) strain is a soil-borne fungal disease that affects mainly

cavendish varieties of banana. Signs of fungus were first spotted three years back in Uttar Pradesh

and later spread to Bihar, putting the region on high alert.

- ◆ While farm scientists from the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) and the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) together have developed a bioformulation called 'ICAR-FUSICONT' to fight the fungus, the lockdown has limited the scale of production.



- ◆ The disease is highly transmissible and easily spreads through the exchange of planting materials (banana suckers), water, and movement of people and equipment. About 50 per cent crop has been lost to this disease in the last two years, hitting the farmers income.
- ◆ In Uttar Pradesh, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Ayodhya, and Sant Kabir Nagar are four highly infected districts. The secondary infection has spread to other three districts of Ambedkar Nagar, Sitapur and Barabanki, according to CSSRI-CISH.
- ◆ In Bihar, the disease spread first from Katihar to Purnia, Bhagalpur, Hazipur and Naugachia districts. The secondary transmission has taken place in Sitamarhi district. 📍📍📍

07

China to Build a Dam on Brahmaputra River in Tibet

- ◆ China is reportedly planning to construct a major hydropower project on Brahmaputra river in Tibet, official media sources have reported on 29th November 2020.
- ◆ The proposal for this project was presented in the 14th Five-Year Plan, and the construction will begin from next year. Talking about the project, Yan Zhiyong, chairman of the Power Construction Corp of China, said China will "implement hydropower exploitation in the downstream of the Yarlung Zangbo River"
- ◆ The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 were adopted by Plenum - a key policy body of the CPC - last month.
- ◆ Details of the plan were expected to be released after the formal ratification by National People's Congress (NPC) early next year.



- ◆ Proposals for dams on the Brahmaputra have evoked concerns in India and Bangladesh, the riparian states, and China has downplayed such anxieties saying it would keep their interests in mind.
- ◆ As a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, the Indian government has consistently conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.
- ◆ China has already operationalised the USD 1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015.
- ◆ About the new dam, the Global Times report said that speculation about China planning to build a "super hydropower station" in Medog county, where the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon is located, have circulated for years.
- ◆ Medog is the last county in Tibet which borders Arunachal Pradesh. 📍📍📍

7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



02



04



06

01

What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?

02

How is the government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?

03

Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.

04

How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism?

05

“Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption”. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer

06

Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help in disaster mitigation in the case of landslides.

07

Explain how the foundations of modern world were laid by the American and French revolution.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)



01



03



05

01

Which state recently, has formulated ordinance on the issue of religious conversions?

Uttar Pradesh

02

Which Gulf country, is the first Arab nation to produce electricity via coal power plant?

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

03

Which nation's cabinet has cleared the law for chemical castration of rapists?

Pakistan

04

Which 'word' is the most searched word in Cambridge Dictionary in 2020?

Quarantine

05

Where are the NSA level talks between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives hosted?

Colombo

06

Which country is decided to return 18th Century stolen idol of Goddess Annapurna to India?

Canada

07

On which river will the "Ramayana cruise tour" will be operated?

Sarayu (Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh)

7

IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



01

01

"I believe in never giving up, no matter what the odds. My mantra is, 'Failure is temporary. Giving up is permanent.' "

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

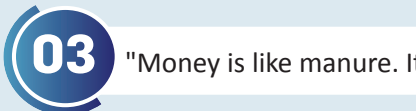


03

02

"Ideas are no one's monopoly, Think big, think fast, think ahead."

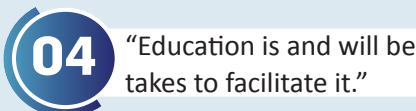
Dhirubhai Ambani



03

"Money is like manure. It stinks when you pile it; it grows when you spread it."

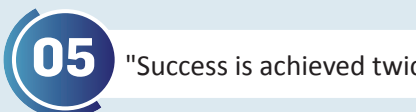
JRD Tata



04

"Education is and will be the most powerful tool for individual and social change, and we must do all that it takes to facilitate it."

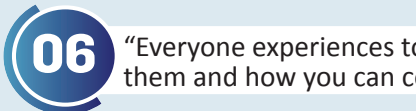
Shiv Nadar



05

"Success is achieved twice. Once in the mind and the second time in the real world."

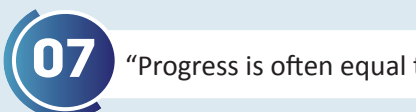
Azim H Premji



06

"Everyone experiences tough times, it is a measure of your determination and dedication how you deal with them and how you can come through them."

Lakshmi Niwas Mittal



07

"Progress is often equal to the difference between mind and mindset."

N. R. Narayana Murthy

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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