

PERFECT 7

**Weekly
Current Affairs**

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



1 India's Food Basket

Needs Dinerrification

- 2 Sex Workers Must not be forgotten in COVID-19 Response
- 3 Publicness, Decentralisation of Science and Governance : Tools to measure Epidemic
- 4 Flattening the Curve : A Call for Collective Action to Limit the Effects of COVID-19
- 5 New Norms of the World Order in Times of COVID
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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01

India's Food Basket : Needs Dinerification

Why in News?

- ◆ The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the problems of food, nutrition and livelihood security confronting a large number of rural people, in particular, migrants to cities.

Background

- ◆ COVID-19 has brought into sharp focus the need to reorient our food basket. Plant-based nutrition will be seen as a more sustainable system of production and consumption from the environment and nutrition viewpoint. This fits well with SDG-12 (responsible consumption and production).
- ◆ Food security refers to the production of sufficient quantities of both high-quality protein and dietary energy. Animal protein (meat, egg, fish, etc.) and plant protein (pulses, legumes and nuts) are the two main sources of protein in general. Food security continues to be a matter of grave concern for India. Despite being the second largest producer of food, India is home to the world's



second largest undernourished population (195.9 million).

- ◆ India, a country with high concentrations of poor and malnourished people, long promoted a cereal-centric diet composed of subsidized staple commodities such as rice and wheat to feed its population of more than a billion. Today, however, dietary patterns are changing. Policy makers, researchers, and health activists are looking for ways to fight hunger and malnutrition in the country. As they shift their focus

from calorie intake to nutrition, neglected foods such as pulses (the dried, edible seeds of legumes) are gaining attention.

Case for Pulses

- ◆ Though production of pulses in the recent decade has increased but is not in pace with the increase in population. Pulses for being a major source of protein in Indian diet and for being resource conserving and environmental friendly, the increase in pulse production will act as a panacea for problems like nutritional security.

- ◆ The dietary pattern has shifted away from cereals and pulses toward fruits, vegetables, processed food and food items of animal origin. The decline in the consumption of pulses has led to increase in malnutrition and decline in protein intake.
- ◆ Naturally, the cost of food is also significant to India's poorest population, and in recent years the country has suffered a persistent problem of food price inflation. Many basic foods exhibit a higher average rate of inflation than the overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
- ◆ Pulses, in fact, constitute the most common source of non-cereal protein in India, where the frequency of pulse consumption is higher than that of any other protein source. This is closely linked with the Indian tradition of vegetarianism—widespread reliance on plant-based diets—a common and deeply ingrained dietary pattern that dates back at least 2,500 years. Indians

constitute about 70 percent of the world's population of vegetarians. About three-quarters of Indian vegetarians are lacto-vegetarians—that is, although they do not consume meat or eggs, they have no prohibitions for milk or other dairy products. And up to 25 percent of India's vegetarians are lacto-ovo vegetarians—they too do not eat meat, but they consume eggs as well as dairy products.

Policy Mismatch

- ◆ India's food policy has focused on cereals since the Green Revolution in the mid-1960s. But today, Indian food consumption baskets have changed significantly. Yet, agricultural policy continues to favour cereals, and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buys millions of tons of wheat and rice at minimum support prices (MSP). As a consequence, farmers prefer to produce cereals. This has meant more than adequate supply. It is not a surprise that the

prices of cereals have remained stable, while the prices of vegetables see wild swings.

- ◆ Nutrition norms as well as rising household incomes should have pushed food production away from cereals to non-cereals. But owing to a pro-cereal policy, this has not happened. The supply of vegetables, milk and pulses in the country has not risen as it should have.
- ◆ India spends lakhs of crores to produce wheat and rice, which then doesn't get sold. It's because the food policy has remained pro-cereal since the 1960s.

Sustainable Diet

- ◆ Red gram and Bengal gram (chana) account for most of India's pulse production, followed by black gram and green gram. They are grown in rice fallow cultivation (coastal regions) of Andhra and Orissa. Red gram (kharif crop) is grown mainly in the Deccan plateau, while Bengal gram (rabi crop) is grown in different parts. Increasing population, improved incomes and enhanced awareness about nutrition has boosted demand for pulses in the last two decades.
- ◆ This year the imports are expected to be below 1 mt. Currently, the retail price of tur dal is hovering around Rs 100/kg. Balancing farmers' welfare and consumers' welfare is a tough ask. The MSP for pulses has increased every year.
- ◆ Although these support prices provided relief for the farmers,



on many occasions, the market price was less than the support price, especially when large-scale imports took place, and when the government did not procure enough quantities at the support price.

- ◆ By 2030, when our population crosses 150 crore, the estimated demand for pulses will be 33 mt. If we have to meet the requirements and avoid imports, our current yields of 835kg/ha have to go up by at least 30% in this decade.
- ◆ Efforts to develop higher-yielding varieties are going on, especially at the Directorate of Pulses Research, based at Kanpur, and ICRIASAT, Hyderabad.
- ◆ Since pulses are mostly rainfed crops, there is an acute need to develop varieties which mature faster. We must invest in using modern science and technology to develop hybrids in red gram.
- ◆ Farmers use heavy doses of pesticides to control the pod borer in red gram and the diseases in black gram and green gram. Researchers have been trying to develop varieties that are tolerant to borer but have not been very successful. There is a strong case to use Bt technology, used in cotton to control the same insect. This can dramatically

reduce the use of pesticides and increase yields in red gram and Bengal gram.

- ◆ Micro-irrigation tool like Hose Reel technology-based irrigation system could be perfectly suited for these crops.
- ◆ To fight yield-reducing water stress, we should not hesitate to use modern technology like the GM trait Water Use Efficiency, which will act as an insurance policy for the farmers against drought.
- ◆ Similarly, we should use modern genomics and dig deeper into their genome to find useful genes that can help these crops to resist pests, diseases and water stress conditions. Private investments could be encouraged in this area through strong PPP projects.
- ◆ Market reforms to improve profitability are critical. While the new e-NAM is expected to help, we may have to make more efforts in setting up village-level primary processing and grading centres. The government may encourage new entrepreneurs and FPOs to jump in by providing them with policy and funding support.
- ◆ Pulses need to be included in PDS and in the mid-day meals to improve nutrition standards.

Way Forward

- ◆ Pulses are important in improving the nutritional status of rural populations in the semi-arid tropics of India. Several issues need addressing.

Among them are technological, environmental and policy measures to increase pulse area, production and consumption, including addressing price volatility; campaigns underlining diet diversification, behavioral change and awareness on pulse diets; empowering women with access to new knowledge and technological interventions, skill enhancement on post-harvest processing and value addition; and involving them in all stages of the value chain.

- ◆ Therefore, need of the hour is to increase production and availability of pulses by adopting various innovative measures like institutional and policy support, development and wider adoption of High Yield Varieties (HYV) and low cost technologies, proper extension services for production and marketing of pulses, development of value chain, etc.



General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Q. Pulses are needed to expand the food basket and also to suit Indian diet in sustainable manner. Elaborate.

02

Sex Workers Must not be forgotten in COVID-19 Response

Why in News?

- ◆ As countries maintain or adjust public health measures, emergency legislation, and economic policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, sex workers around the world have seen their incomes disappear as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- ◆ The Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) and UNAIDS released a joint statement in April 2020, calling on countries to take immediate, critical action to protect the health and rights of sex workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ◆ On 17 May 2020, the medical journal 'TheLancet', published a study pointing out the include sex-workers in the Covid response framework.

Background

- ◆ June 2 is observed as International Sex Workers Day to bring to the fore the miserable living conditions under which this community works. Around the world, sex workers are being forgotten in government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. As sex workers and their clients self-isolate, sex workers are finding themselves unprotected, increasingly vulnerable and unable to provide for themselves and their families.
- ◆ As the global crisis deepens, sex workers are increasingly faced with the difficult choice of isolation with no income or support or working at a risk to their own health and safety. Another problem has been that the majority of affordable

short-term housing opportunities have closed while sex workers struggle to pay rent or pay hotel room fees. This disappearance of short-term housing, coupled with the shuttering of workplaces, has resulted in sudden homelessness for sex workers in several countries, a situation that is especially aggravated for migrant sex workers, many of whom are also finding themselves stranded by border closures.

- ◆ Sex worker organisations have rapidly responded to COVID-19 by circulating hardship funds; helping with financial relief applications; advocating for governments to include sex workers in the pandemic response; calling for basic labour rights to facilitate safer working conditions; and providing health and safety guidance for those moving online or unable to stop direct services.
- ◆ Worldwide, government initiatives have included supplying food packages to sex workers in Bangladesh, the provision of emergency housing in England and Wales, and the inclusion of sex workers in financial benefits in Thailand, the Netherlands, and Japan. Yet these schemes often exclude the most marginalised, including those who are homeless, transgender, or migrants.

Structural Discrimination and Marginalisation

- ◆ As with all aspects of health, the ability of sex workers to protect themselves against COVID-19 depends on their individual and interpersonal behaviours, their work environment, the availability of community support, access to health and social services, and broader aspects of the legal and

economic environment.

- ◆ Stigma and criminalisation mean that sex workers might not seek, or be eligible for, government-led social protection or economic initiatives to support small businesses. Police arrests, fines, violence, disruption in aid by law enforcement, and compulsory deportation have been reported by sex workers across diverse settings, fuelling concerns that the pandemic is intensifying stigma, discrimination, and repressive policing.

Increased Vulnerability

- ◆ Increased prevalence of underlying health conditions among sex workers might increase risk of COVID-19 progressing to severe illness. Demand for shelter and supported housing has increased as sex work venues have been shut down or rental payments default through loss of income.
- ◆ Existing mental health problems are likely to be exacerbated by anxiety over income, food, and housing, alongside concerns about infection from continuing to work in the absence of social protection.
- ◆ Risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 is heightened for those who share drug paraphernalia for drug use.

Sex-worker Crisis in India

- ◆ Sex workers lived on the brink of invisibility, while the lockdown meant a complete loss of income and a struggle for daily survival. In urban red-light areas, multiple women stay together in squalor. Tiny dilapidated rooms across narrow streets, where social-distancing is impossible to follow. Their financial situation is worse because sex workers often have no savings.

Key Interventions by the Lancet Study for Sex-workers

- All interventions and services must be designed and implemented in collaboration with sex-worker-led organisations.

Social and Structural Interventions

- Financial benefits and social protection for all sex workers including migrants with illegal or uncertain residency status.
- Immediate cessation of arrests, raids, and prosecutions for sex work and minor drug-related offences, and long-term reform of policies and laws that have been shown to be harmful to health.
- Provision of emergency housing to those who are homeless, moratorium on evictions, and assistance with rent or mortgage repayments for those in need.

Health Services

- Appropriately targeted health promotion advice on prevention of COVID-19 with language translation.
- Distribution of hand sanitiser, soap, condoms, and personal protective equipment.
- Maintenance and extension of person-centred services to address needs associated with mental health, alcohol and other drug use, physical and sexual violence, and sexual and reproductive health, including HIV treatment and transition-related care.
- COVID-19 testing and contact tracing among sex workers and marginalised groups.

- ◆ They now risk being homeless, as they are unable to pay rent because of no income. The core clientele of sex workers has traditionally been migrant workers and men away from their families.
- ◆ Sex workers now face months without any business, considering migrant workers are also struggling to cope with little to no income and a long-term economic downturn. While the homeless and beggars were being put in shelters, people rarely acknowledge the existence and plight of sex workers.
- ◆ The Centre, on March 26, announced the allocation of Rs 1.70 lakh crore under the PradhanMantriGaribKalyanYojana to help the poor "fight the battle against coronavirus". All women account-holders under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

would receive cash transfers of Rs 500 per month for the next three months. Very few sex workers, however, have Jan Dhan accounts and most have no documents because their existence is denied by the governments.

- ◆ The Right To Food as a fundamental right is statutorily imbibed in the National Food Security Act, 2013 (also known as the Right to Food Act). The act aims to provide subsidised food grains to approximately two-thirds of India's population. Sex workers, however, are not included as beneficiaries for this statutory relief either.
- ◆ The provision of food, however, is the least of the worries that sex workers face: Several suffer from diseases, especially a high prevalence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis.

- ◆ Access to proper healthcare has become increasingly difficult as healthcare centres across the country attempt to deal with rising COVID-19 cases. The Union government has been negligent about the existence of commercial sex workers and has taken no steps to mitigate their plight in terms of sanctions and packages for them.

Way Forward

- ◆ Achieving healthier communities and controlling COVID-19 requires a collective and inclusive response. Resources and support for sex workers need to be prioritised. Involvement of communities in social protection schemes, health services, and information will enable sex workers to protect their health during this pandemic as equal citizens, in line with principles of social justice.
- ◆ Reforms of social and legal policies, including decriminalisation of sex work, can reduce discrimination and marginalisation of sex workers and enable provision of vital health and social services. Therefore, there is a critical need for governments and health and social care providers to work with affected communities and front-line service providers to co-produce effective interventions.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Q. During the pandemic which has led to lockdown and other social-distancing norms, has exacerbated the sex-worker crises to almost a human-crisis. Comment.

03 Publicness, Decentralisation of Science and Governance : Tools to measure Epidemic

Why in News?

- ◆ According to the recent ICMR serological sample study conducted in mid-May, barely 1 per cent of non-metropolitan India was infected. Thus, as the infection spreads and eventually stabilises, there is a lot of heavy lifting that the states must do. As we see virus moving and mutating fast, we need decentralised approach to diversify our response so that it suits local situations.

Introduction

- ◆ Since the brahmastra of lockdown is now exhausted, the message of prevention and the device called containment zones are the only ways left to manage the epidemic. This includes allied activities: The demarcation of the boundary, testing, treatment, tracing and quarantine. Hidden inside this box of practices are the answers to questions such as: Why is Karnataka doing better than Maharashtra in terms of mortality?
- ◆ But this will mean measuring the disease and its management at the scale where the disease unfolds. The older colour-coded zone label, introduced by the Centre on April 14, was at the district scale. That quickly became a collective punishment with little measurable benefits.
- ◆ One consequence was that districts were unhappy with the return of migrants simply because that could change their colour. The second problem was that the red-ness of a region was equated with the need

for lockdowns, since that was the only visible instrument.

What can be achieved within the Current Framework?

- ◆ A well designed metrics at the ward and community scale will help the science develop. They can guide the people and the administration and allow the states to compare practices and learn from each other.
- ◆ Firstly, any area classification must include key socio-economic and demographic determinants, for example, the density of the area, number of people in dwellings with one room or less, or the fraction of people using community toilets. Much of the infection is spreading within dense clusters. Such metrics would indicate vulnerable areas and the limits to reduction in contact rate through policing. Here, decongestion measures such as out-migration may be required. This will also serve as a guide to the future of the locality or ward.
- ◆ The pandemic added a new dimension in centre-state relationships, with many state chief ministers showing the leadership in dealing with the health and socio-economic issues in their areas. It forced a change in a centralised governance structure that had become the norm in the past half-decade, where decisions were taken by a few members of the central government. The national government had to discuss the response with all political parties and also the chief ministers of all the states.

- ◆ The situation brought to the fore the importance of parallel decision making, where the national government announced the lockdown to promote social distancing, and the state chief ministers developed the day-to-day action plans and communicated with the people.
- ◆ Ensuring that our villages and towns are prepared to meet the disease is an important objective. One metric to measure preparedness is the number of beds, doctors and ambulances per 1,000. This may then be compared with the active cases in the region. In fact, the adverse mortality in some areas is directly correlated with the local shortage of medical care.
- ◆ An important addition would be village-level data on the running of the local quarantine, the functioning of the PDS and availability of drinking water.
- ◆ Coming to prevention, the importance of masks, distance and open ventilation is still not appreciated. A simple statistical metric is to measure the prevalence of masks in an area. This can be done by installing cameras in suitable locations and counting people with masks. Social distance measures are also amenable to indicators. For example, the fraction of buses which have installed a sheet between the driver and the passengers, or recording innovative ways of ticket vending. Popularity of such colour-coding may be effective in social mobilisation.

- ♦ Mitigation and adaptation require social comprehension and local solutions. These need scientific studies by regional institutions and partnerships with civil society. Creating and supporting good metrics and providing data is an important step in that direction. This will not only save lives, it will reduce fear and help re-start normal life. And yet, the central bureaucracy and elite scientific institutions have not followed this route.

A Decentralised Approach

- ♦ A decentralised approach is critical in times of a public health emergency. Such a model is based on an equitable distribution of land and resources in cities. This model limits mobility and provides space for healthy interaction in smaller scales.
- ♦ A decentralised planning approach also provides opportunities and benefits of distributing health and water infrastructure across the city. In most cities across India, secondary and tertiary health care units are concentrated, negatively impacting the timely delivery of health services.
- ♦ At the same time, the primary health infrastructure in cities is not in a state to cater to the demand of neighbourhoods.
- ♦ Decentralised infrastructure and services provide a range of benefits for all stakeholders. From the users' point of view, decentralised systems are more economical: They

reduce dependency on the central system, provide the opportunity for resource recovery and can be planned and modified according to the requirement of the users. From the authorities' point of view, these systems reduce their overall load, and help in better resource management.

Decentralising Scientific Community

- ♦ In the past few months, as we have dealt with this pandemic, we have educated ourselves, discovered innovative solutions to limit the spread of this virus, and presented affordable diagnostic strategies.
- ♦ In addition to this, we have begun learning how to co-exist with this virus in the long term. These necessity-driven innovations point towards the fact that nurturing the scientific community through gradual and sustained development and the propagation of a scientific environment is critically important towards becoming a "Pandemic-ready" nation in the future.
- ♦ In the few months since we first encountered this infectious pathogen, researchers around the world have embarked upon an almost undeclared joint venture. They have proceeded at breakneck speed to decipher and target various aspects of this virus in an attempt to find ways of limiting the infection, stopping its spread, and eventually devising a potential cure for COVID-19.
- ♦ These aspects include but are not limited to the virus's structure, its mechanism of infection, its molecular biology, the origins of its nucleic acid sequence, and the epidemiology of disease spread.

Way Forward

- ♦ The epidemic has underlined that publicness and decentralisation of science and governance is the only way to atma-nirbharta, of creating knowledge and the professional ability to solve our own problems. Without this, the post-corona Indian society would be an unhappy attempt at making the old arrangement work in a degraded reality of fearful and angry people.
- ♦ Handling a pandemic is not a job which can only be entrusted to a specific and special forces, i.e. the scientific community. It is a threat that affects every individual, thus the response should come from every individual.
- ♦ Government's capabilities are limited to issuing orders and allocating resources, citizen participation in terms of protection from the virus is also important. Therefore, there is a pressing need for decentralization which is needed to empower every unit to fight against the pandemic, be it general public, state governments or international scientific community.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Q. The coronavirus pandemic has underlined that publicness and decentralisation of science and governance. Discuss how the decentralization will empower every unit to fight against the pandemic.

04

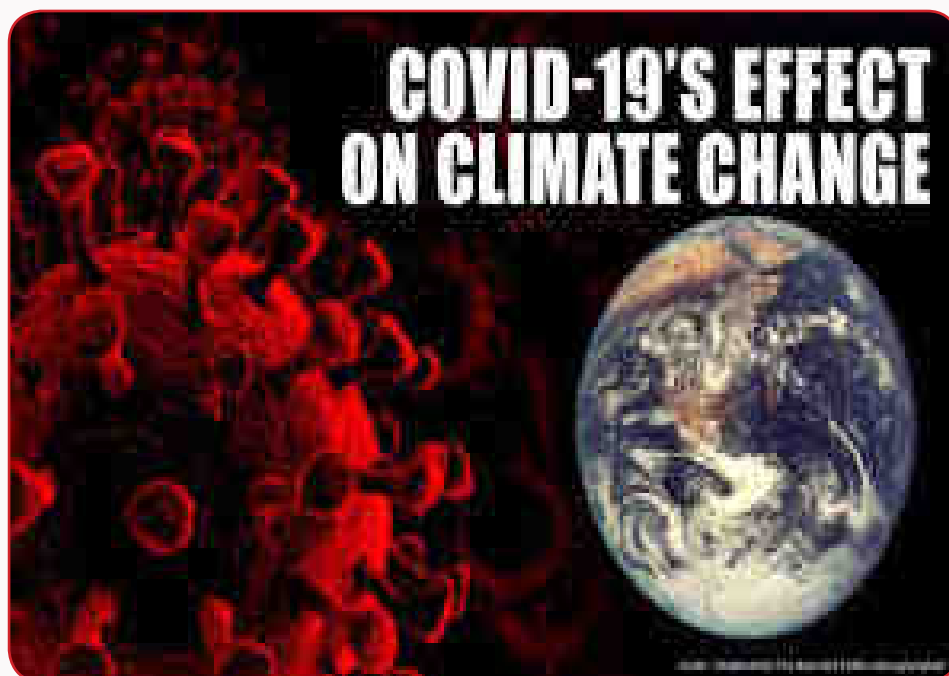
Flattening the Curve : A Call for Collective Action to Limit the Effects of COVID-19

Context

- ♦ Everyone has now heard of "flattening the curve," the call for collective action to limit the worst effects of COVID-19. Advocates of climate action have begun to note the uncanny similarities between unchecked climate change and the pandemic, including the challenges brought by exponential growth, increased public awareness of the problem, and the imperative of a unified public response. Pandemics know no boundaries, and neither do the effects of climate change. Both pandemics and climate change have the most impact on vulnerable communities; but ultimately they affect us all.
- ♦ Both jeopardize the safety, well-being and inherent dignity of those affected. And both trigger legal and ethical obligations of governments and the private sector to protect and safeguard the civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights that pandemics and climate change threaten equally. Because climate change, like COVID-19, is a global problem with local consequences, addressing it will require a collaborative and coordinated set of solutions implemented locally, nationally, regionally and internationally.

Background

- ♦ COVID-19 has unwittingly given humanity a brief respite from the climate change curve. Carbon



- emissions from fossil fuels have surely reduced during pandemic. How long this respite will last ironically depends on the extent to which the global economy has been wrecked by COVID-19. Commentators are already talking about a paradigm shift in the structure and functioning of societies once the pandemic subsides.
- ♦ This is also a make-or-break moment for the climate trajectory which has to be flattened within a few years if we are to avoid dangerous climate change. Nature's kindness is not expected to last beyond a 2°C rise in temperature as the carbon sequestered into vegetation will be thrown back into the atmosphere. Also remember that earth has already warmed by 1°C and we really have only another 1°C (or 0.5°C if we are concerned about island nations) as a safety margin.
- ♦ COVID-19 has elicited an unprecedented response worldwide. Only cognitive psychologists can explain why the spectre of dangerous climate change impacting human civilizations has not yet evoked a comparable response. There seems to be wishful thinking that technology can be used to suck out billions of tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere and store this safely somewhere, but available ones are extremely slow and expensive.
- ♦ Harebrained schemes to regulate solar radiation by geo-engineering are bound to bring nasty surprises. There is no substitute to reducing Green House Gases(GHG) emissions. Technologists, economists and social scientists must plan for a sustainable planet based on the principles of equity and climate justice within and across nations.

It is the responsibility of leaders to alter their mindset and act on the looming climate crisis with the same alacrity they have shown on COVID-19.

Keeling Curve

- ◆ While the world focuses on the coronavirus, there is another form of this simple curve that we desperately need to flatten; but it is soaring. The Keeling Curve is a graph showing the accumulation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the Earth's atmosphere since 1958. It turns out that shutting down the world's economy and air routes have not been enough to lower global emissions. The Keeling Curve is named after its creator, Dr. Charles David Keeling. The flatter the curve, the more manageable it is.
- ◆ Despite the brief environmental respite, CO₂ levels hit a new record in May. According to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, atmospheric carbon dioxide reached more than 417 parts per million (ppm), the highest monthly level ever recorded in human history, the highest in fact for millions of years.
- ◆ Climate change involves not just a change in temperature but every other component of weather, including rainfall, humidity and wind speed. Indirect effects follow, such as a rise in sea levels from melting glaciers. Globally there have been several extreme weather events such as hurricanes, heat waves or

droughts. While no single event can be directly attributed to climate change, the collective trends are consistent with climate change predictions.

- ◆ The Climate Impact Lab at the University of Chicago put out a warning for India last year that if global CO₂ emissions continue to gallop at the present rate, average summer temperatures would rise by 4°C in most States. Extremely hot days (days above 35°C), which were only five days in 2010, would increase to 15 days by 2050 and to 42 days by 2100 on average across all districts. A more moderate emissions scenario, as a result of countries largely fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Agreement, would keep average global temperature rise below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

Money is the Issue

- ◆ The most common excuse is that the world cannot afford to curb GHG emissions for fear of wrecking the economy. An article in Nature in 2019 highlighted the financial dimensions of tackling the looming climate crisis. Apparently, the wealthy nations are spending over \$500 billion each year internally on projects aimed at reducing emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, however, estimates that a sustained annual investment of \$2.4 trillion in more efficient energy systems is needed until 2035 in order to keep warming below the more

ambitious 1.5°C relative to pre-industrial levels. To put this in perspective, that is about 2.5% of the global GDP.

- ◆ Some of the wrangling over money relates to the amounts that the wealthy nations, which have caused most of the GHGs resulting in global warming, agreed to pay other countries to cope with climate change. At the UN Climate Conference in 2009, the richest nations had pledged to provide \$100 billion in aid each year by 2020 to the poorer countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In 2017, for which data are available, only \$71 billion had been provided, with most of the money going towards mitigation and less than 20% towards climate adaptation. Such numbers had been challenged prior to the 2015 Paris Summit by many countries, including India, because much of the so-called aid provided did not come out of dedicated climate funds but, rather, development funds or simply loans which had to be repaid. It thus seems unlikely that the rich countries will deliver \$100 billion in tangible climate finance during 2020.

Learning from Covid-19 Fight

- ◆ COVID-19 is teaching us an important lesson about "flattening the curve." We now know that by taking early action like social distancing, we have a fighting chance to avoid a catastrophic build-up of infected patients that can overwhelm the

health care system. Pushing out the crisis timeline also provides an opportunity for medical innovators to find and test therapeutics and, ultimately, a vaccine that can vanquish the virus.

- ◆ This flatten-the-curve teaching also applies to the climate crisis. The timeline differs and, thankfully, the strategies for attacking climate are far more economically palatable than those for the coronavirus. But the message is the same: If we take action now to decarbonize our economy, we have a fighting chance to keep the global temperature rise in check, avoiding the most catastrophic consequences of climate change. Indeed, because of the long life of the climate-damaging greenhouse gases that we are adding to the atmosphere, if we miss our chance to shave off peak emissions, we may be living “above the line” with a climate catastrophe for a very long time.

Way Forward

- ◆ Developing countries were the least prepared for the arrival of COVID-19, just as they are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Coronavirus has



affected every economy in every sense and so is the capability of the climate change.

- ◆ Pandemics won't last forever and there is a surety of ending the pandemic. But climate changes can induce changes which will not be just unfavourable rather irreversible. It can range from toughening of living conditions on earth to extinction of species. No specie on the planet can survive such a crisis which will be as global as the COVID-19, but its impact will far out-weigh the pandemic. Flattening the curve is not just a fancy talk but a surviving strategy.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Q. What are the lessons learnt from the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, which can be pragmatically applied to flatten the climate change curve?

05

New Normal of the World Order in Times of COVID

Why in News?

- ◆ The crisis and the necessary public health response are causing the largest and fastest decline in international flows in modern history. Current forecasts, while inevitably rough at this stage, call for a 13-32% decline in merchandise trade, a 30-40% reduction in foreign direct investment, and a 44-80% drop in international airline passengers in 2020. These numbers imply a major rollback of globalization's recent gains, but they do not signal a fundamental collapse of international market integration.
- ◆ The pandemic has prompted a new wave of globalization obituaries, but the latest data and forecasts imply that leaders should plan for — and shape — a world where both globalization and anti-globalization pressures remain enduring features of the business environment.

Background

- ◆ We are going towards a new normal now. Much of what we saw in terms of global integration of trade and finance would suffer in the short run. The economic crisis that has besieged the world since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to some searching questions about the future of globalisation.
- ◆ The "Great Recession" of 2008 brought fresh doubts about it with some narrowing the problem

down to financial globalisation. Uncertainties about the future of globalisation have arisen in the wake of the disruptions that the "Great Lockdown" has caused in all major economies, with the possible exception of China.

- ◆ The World Trade Organization (WTO) had predicted that global trade volumes could decline by 13-32% in 2020. The WTO's worst case scenario of trade volume decline is significantly worse than the impact of the "Great Depression" on trade; between 1929 and 1932, trade volumes declined by almost 25%.
- ◆ Several commentators have argued that the world economy is going through a phase of "slowbalisation" or even "deglobalisation", but these tendencies are not likely to sound a death knell for globalisation. There are others who have pointed out that the global economy is facing multiple challenges, not least from the intense economic rivalry between the US and China, with both countries trying to gain ascendancy.

Decoupling Tendency

- ◆ The worrying aspect for globalisation was that major economies have been showing signs of getting decoupled from the global economy. For all major advanced and emerging economies, their ratios of trade to gross domestic product (GDP), an indicator of openness, have

declined. The largest trader, China, showed this tendency prominently. In 2008, China's trade to GDP ratio was close to 58%, but a decade later it was barely 38%.

- ◆ India too showed a similar tendency: its trade to GDP ratio reached nearly 56% in 2012 but was down to 43% in 2018. Yet another indicator of decoupling is the shrinking of the global value chains (GVCs) or production networks.
- ◆ The GVCs have typified the era of globalisation as production lines were sliced and diced across national boundaries, increasing the interconnectedness between countries.
- ◆ Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), who are among the most engaged in the GVCs, have also slowly but surely increased their reliance on domestic suppliers for fuelling their exports. If decoupling of economies from the global markets was already undermining the process of globalisation, the policy responses of several countries to bail their economies out the depths of the present crisis would surely pose greater threats. The US has led the way by adopting the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provided \$2.2 trillion, or about 10% of the country's GDP, to stimulate the economy.
- ◆ There is thus a distinct possibility that China would be able to

consolidate its position in the global economy further. If this possibility indeed becomes real, would the traditional backers of globalisation accept the new normal?

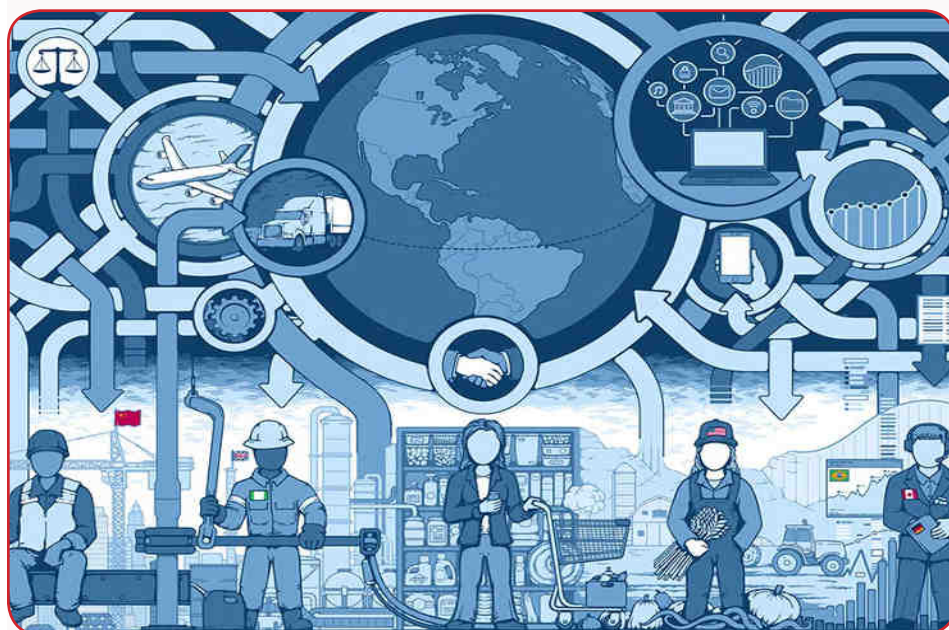
Globalization's Post-Coronavirus Prospects

- ♦ **Globalization will go local:** There was a strong consensus COVID-19 will advance the backlash against globalization amid the sharpest reduction in international flows (e.g., trade, investment, people) in modern history. With vulnerabilities in cross-border supply chains exposed, we can expect supply chains to be restructured, with built-in redundancy and resilience at the expense of some efficiency. Manufacturing will come closer to home markets, boosting the trend toward regionalization and re-localization. Similarly, agricultural supply-chain issues which have caused shortages and gluts are accelerating the rise of local and vertical farms, which are more resilient.

- ♦ **New concept of human mobility will emerge:** Labor mobility has fallen sharply since the start of the pandemic, as governments have clamped down on travel and immigration – restrictions that will likely persist. But even as the pandemic reduces the flow of people, it will enable a different concept of labor mobility. If people can't relocate for work, work will relocate for people. For jobs that can be performed remotely, companies will move to global remote workforces. Many people now working remotely have found they prefer it, while employers have discovered they can manage remote teams effectively and see potential to reduce real estate expenses. This has sped up the arrival of a long-anticipated trend: the delinking of talent from place. New corporate talent models will be required, which will likely include the following dimensions:

- ♦ Recruiting talent globally and convening the best teams for projects rather than maintaining standing headcount.

- ♦ New metrics and rewards for onboarding, promotion, succession planning and leadership, with empathy and soft skills coming to the fore as success factors.
- ♦ Convergence of human resources and operations.
- ♦ COVID-19 also accelerated two trends driving change in business models: Digital transformation and the corporate shift to long-term value. With virtual and digital replacing physical wherever possible, adoption of automation, AI, and AR/VR will surge, participants predicted. The ability to deploy computing power, bandwidth, the cloud and cyber security will define winners. Success will depend on continuous business model innovation with agile, open collaboration. Pandemic has put human welfare and sustainability front and center. Consumers see a new role of companies for good and will value companies demonstrating a long-term value agenda in culture, purpose and ethics.



Opening for India

- ♦ This is the time of a medical emergency. Crisis time calls for togetherness and partnership. Countries have to work together while dealing with the crisis, particularly for the post-crisis recovery. India's advantage is its leadership. Stable and strong leadership is in command. No



event better demonstrates why a stronger network between countries is so vital to design a strategy for the entire Asian region.

- ◆ People who are ill with Coronavirus need doses of new medicines, which then go on building antibodies, save lives, improve oxygen levels and speed up recovery. In the same way, countries today need “economic antibodies” to save the economies from further disasters. Gradual opening of the economies and adjusting in “New Normal” is the need of the hour. Stimulus works well when it is well coordinated. India must step up its diplomatic strength in South and Southeast Asia as there are new scope and opportunities. For example, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is gone, but India can bounce back if we follow up our pending tasks in trade,

physical and digital connectivity, health and non-traditional security areas. Activating the Indo-Pacific this time may return high dividends in the post-pandemic period.

- ◆ India’s diplomacy has played major role in managing the crisis on a 24×7 basis, be in lifting the distress people from several parts of the world or following the pandemic minute by minute or settling immediate and complicated queries. Indian diplomacy should not stop here. India must continue to play a larger role in building a cohesive neighbourhood in this “New Normal” at a time when the partnership will be guided by new ethics, challenges and responses.

Way Forward

- ◆ The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed changes that seemed unthinkable just a few months ago.

Understanding the pandemic’s impact demands scanning for risks and drawing insights from a wide range of domains.

- ◆ COVID-19 looks like a “bend but won’t break crisis” for globalization. International flows are plummeting, but globalization — and opposition to globalization — will continue to present business opportunities and challenges. Careful attention to the drivers of globalization’s future can help companies navigate through and even profit from globalization’s turbulence. A volatile world of partially connected national economies expands possibilities for global strategy even as it complicates the management of multinational firms. Now is the time for global corporations to show their value by harnessing the best of the world’s capabilities to end the pandemic and bolster the recovery.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Q. COVID-19 has impacted globalisation and there are fears that it may have reversed it. There are various takes on the future of globalisation. India has its own role to play in the new normal in the post-COVID world. Comment.

06

Shapes of Economic Reconery : An Understanding

Why in News?

- ◆ The rolling lockdowns due to Covid have sent the economy into a tailspin. Growth in India and indeed much of the world is set to fall off a cliff in FY21.
- ◆ Economic pundits now seem to be in love with prognosticating on the shape the economic recovery (U, V, W, Z, L, J, Swoosh, Inverted square root) will take once the dust settles.
- ◆ In this article we will understand the language of the above curves.

Background

- ◆ The duration of the coronavirus recession will only be obvious in hindsight. Past recessions and recoveries have followed four common shapes: V, U, W and L, where the letters describe the trajectory of Gross Domestic

Product (GDP), employment and other key metrics tracking economic conditions.

- ◆ Thankfully, recessions do not last forever, and neither will a coronavirus recession. At some point, the economy will reopen and start growing again, although what the recovery might look like is unclear.
- ◆ Governments are trying different methods and policies for the recovery. But predicting the existence of a potent virus is not possible. A given mutation can lead to further crisis or can even slow down. But economic models are needed to give predictability in this uncertain environment.

Recovery shape: U

- ◆ In a U-shaped recovery, it takes many months, if not years, for the economy to recover. The

long, flat stretch of sideways growth comprises the bottom of the U shape. The Great Recession is a good example of a U-shaped recession. In other words, a U-shaped recovery — resembling a bathtub — is a scenario in which the economy, after falling, struggles and muddles around a low growth rate for some time, before rising gradually to usual levels.

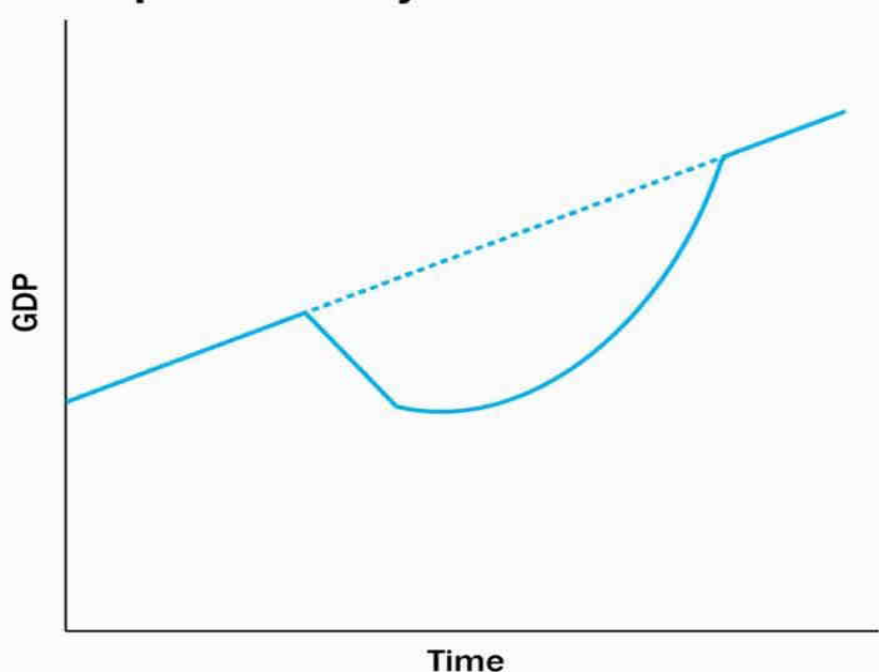
- ◆ If COVID-19 causes a longer, U-shaped recovery, that could mean the economy wouldn't begin recovering until the end of 2020 or even early 2021. There are a few reasons this could happen. First and foremost, if it takes longer to get the surge in coronavirus cases under control, it could delay when states and regions can begin reopening their economies.

- ◆ In addition, if many businesses end up going bankrupt during the period of economic shutdown or are otherwise unable to reopen, there will be fewer jobs when the stay-at-home orders end, creating more economic dislocation. Finally, consumers might not be ready to start spending when things reopen, especially if they are still scared to go out or they do not get enough financial assistance.

◆ Recovery Shape: Z

- ◆ The Z-shaped recovery is the most-optimistic scenario in

U-Shaped Recovery



which the economy quickly rises like a phoenix after a crash. It more than makes up for lost ground (think revenge-buying after the lockdowns are lifted) before settling back to the normal trend-line, thus forming a Z-shaped chart.

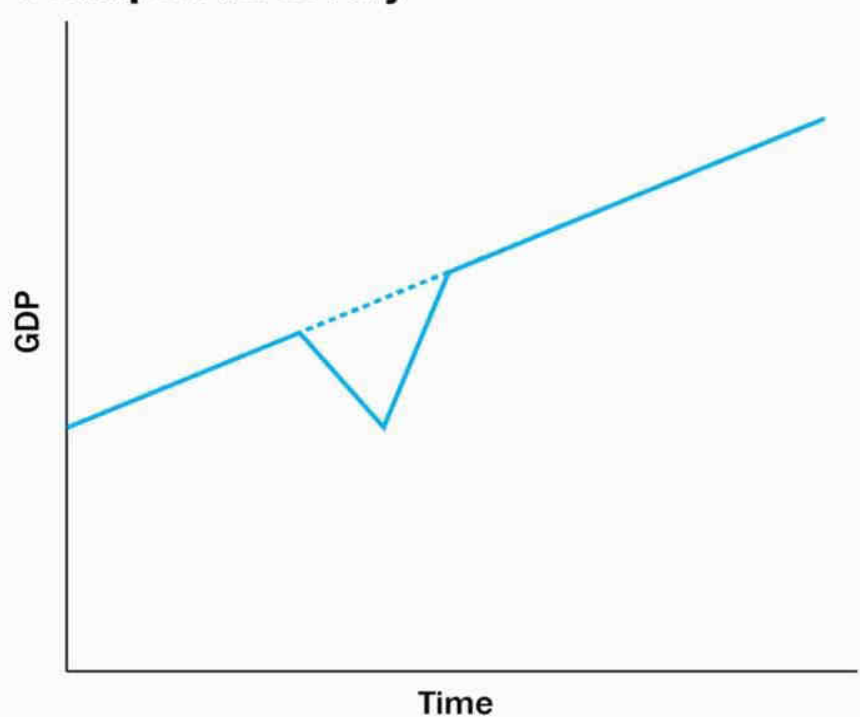
♦ Recovery Shape: W

- ♦ In a W-shaped recession, the economy begins to recover rapidly, but then falls into a second period of decline. This is also known as a double-dip recession—the two economic declines create the shape of a W. This shape signifies of the threat of the second wave of virus.
- ♦ Here, the world wins only a temporary respite, with the virus returning in winter. However, the world will be better prepared, testing facilities will be more widespread and the western world more willing to live with restrictions on individual freedoms, slowing the spread of the disease. Growth will plummet after the initial recovery following easing of restrictions. But greater success in dealing with the return of the virus will see growth recover much faster.

♦ Recovery Shape: V

- ♦ V-shaped recovery in which the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.
- ♦ Here, the world recovers quickly. Like China, where

V-Shaped Recovery



harsh lockdown measures not only contained the virus from spreading to other areas, but lifting of restrictions has also seen a rapid recovery in economic activity. The virus is defeated for good and does not return. Even if it does, it is no more feared than the ordinary flu. In any case, majority of the population already has immunity against it.

- ♦ Once we are in recovery mode, the recovery will be very fast as global supply chains could be reconnected instantly. However, the timing of the recovery depends on how we manage the virus over the next few months. If we are able to contain COVID-19 quickly, we will have a V-shaped recession. If we are not able to contain COVID-19 in the near future, we will have a U-shaped recession.

♦ Recovery Shape: L

- ♦ Here, lockdown measures continue, although with varying intensity, till much later in the year. Economic growth plummets and stays low for a long time. It is only by Q2, 2021 that the world takes slow hesitant steps towards recovery, with recovery to pre-COVID-19 levels likely only by 2023. It is a worst case scenario.
- ♦ If everything goes wrong in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, there is the potential for an L-shaped recession. This could happen if we cannot control coronavirus outbreaks, which would lead to years-long shutdowns and sluggish growth, if not outright stagnation.
- ♦ While an L-shaped recession is possible, most experts do

not think it will happen. Only 8% of companies predict that an extended recession, that lasts until 2022 or longer, will happen.

♦ **Recovery Shape: SWOOSH**

- ♦ Neither L nor U nor V, will do. Instead, we look for a tick mark-style profile.
- ♦ That implies a sharp downturn, then gradual recovery as lockdowns are eased more gently than they were imposed.
- ♦ With consumer spending possibly impaired by a higher propensity to save and serious potential curbs on investment, it is likeliest scenario for the world economy's rebound post lockdown to be quite soft,

Other Shapes

- ♦ There is the J-shaped recovery, a somewhat unrealistic scenario, in which growth rises sharply from the lows much higher than the trend-line and stays there.
- ♦ Inverted square root shaped recovery. Financier George Soros, who coined this term years ago, explained that while there could be a rebound from the bottom, the growth slows and settles a step down.

Applying the Curves

- ♦ The Indian economy was slowing down even before Covid hit, and the trouble has now been amplified manifold because of the lockdowns. Experts predict a fall of up to 5 per cent in the GDP in FY-21. This is clearly a crisis situation, and our getting out of the hole will depend a great deal on the shape of the economic recovery that will hopefully follow. A Z- or at least V-shaped recovery would be the most preferable. If not, we should at least have a U-shaped recovery or a Swoosh to get back on our feet in a couple of years.
- ♦ A W-shape will bring in much pain before the eventual gain, while an L-shape or the Inverted-square root will make a wreck of the growth train.
- ♦ So, which of these shapes will recovery take in India? Much depends on how the global economy recovers. For once, our lower integration with the global value chain might even work to our advantage. Even so, the short-term outlook is bleak — barring agriculture, that is likely to fare reasonably well, thanks to a normal monsoon.

- ♦ For the rest, supply disruptions, the return of labour from urban centres, lack of capital from risk-averse banks, government reluctance to extend the required level of fiscal support, and the fact that states with urban hotspots (accounting for 64% of GDP) will be among the last to resume normal activities means growth in industry and services will suffer. Since these two sectors together account for more than 80% of GDP, growth will suffer in tandem. Over the medium to long-term, however, the outlook is much brighter. As countries, world over, realise the folly of depending on a single source for their components and raw materials, and look to diversify, they are likely to turn to India.

Way Forward

- ♦ Overall, the shape of economic recovery is determined by both the speed and direction of GDP prints. This depends on multiple factors including fiscal and monetary measures, consumer incomes and sentiment. 📊📈📉

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

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

Q. Suggest the economic recovery route for India in a post-Covid scenario. Which shape of curve can best define your economic recovery model and why?

07

Human Centric Development Model and COVID-19

Why in News?

- ◆ The global COVID-19 pandemic has shaken economic fundamentals all over the world. When economic policies are changing their track, guidance from well proven economic giant like Kuan Yew and father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi is more than needed at this time.

Background

- ◆ Unprecedented economic situations have called for unprecedented measures. Corona pandemic has led to many paradigm shifts. Some are positive and some negative. Among the list of negative impacts, it has triggered a crisis of unemployment in Indian cities as well in villages. Migrant labourers are affected severely and India

has experienced a migrant exodus from cities to villages.

- ◆ A welfare socialistic state like India has opted to relax labour laws which makes easy for companies to hire and fire employees, in order to attract investments. In addition, state governments, which are facing exodus of migrant labourers, are trying to create jobs locally and provide home to their citizens.
- ◆ In state like Uttar Pradesh (UP), the Chief Minister has decided to generate employment and growth within the state so that people do not have to migrate outside for their livelihood.
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh's ambitions are in the right direction which is focused to provide wholesome development instead of islands of development. A right policy can

do much better by learning from other proven best-practices.

- ◆ Moreover, UP will be competing with neighbouring States (Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, etc.) and also States further away, which will also be working harder to grow jobs. These states need a good plan. They would do well to take some lessons from Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father of modern Singapore, and from Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Indian nation.

Finding Alternatives

Singapore Model

- ◆ In an alternative model, the central narrative driving all policies is not the size of the economy, but the growth of employment, skills and incomes of citizens. Singapore's remarkable development since the 1970s, and its "whole of government" approach, was driven by this narrative. Lee Kuan Yew declared that Singapore would become a "developed" country very fast. The incomes of common citizens would be taken to developed-country levels. Per-capita income was his criteria and not the GDP growth. For this, citizens must have jobs with good wages.
- ◆ To earn good wages, they need skills. As wages rose in Singapore, companies would move production to other countries.



Therefore, enterprises and people there were encouraged to be fast learners who could move up the value chain. Lee insisted that investors provided with land and incentives to operate in Singapore must also set up world-class training facilities.

- ◆ Lee invited companies from the United States (US), Europe, and Japan to set up manufacturing facilities in Singapore and use Singapore labour. The companies were attracted by the large pools of low-cost labour in Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. Amongst these countries, Singapore was the most attractive for its location. But Lee had a condition they were not prepared for. He did not want them to merely set up labour-intensive assembly factories. Lee wanted wages to rise in Singapore, so that per capita incomes would

rise. Therefore, he wanted the companies to train Singaporeans to do higher-value work.

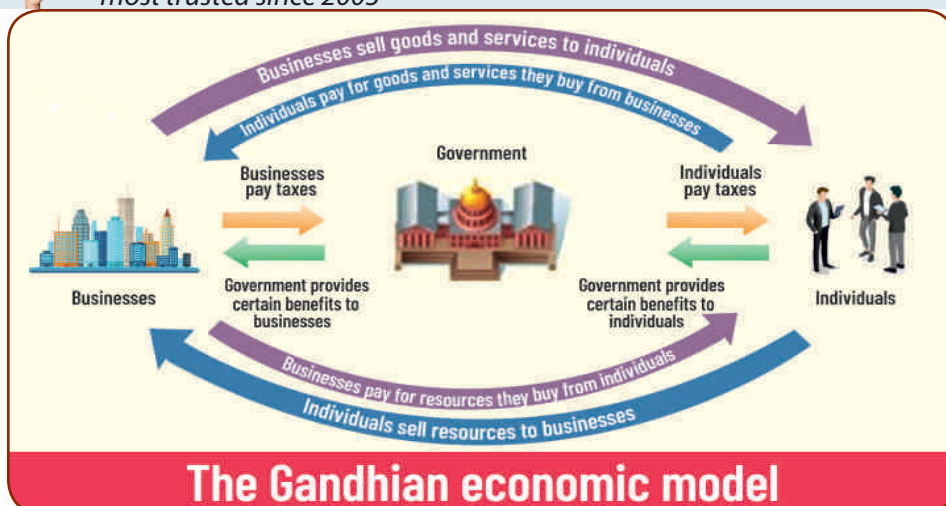
- ◆ Multinational Corporations (MNCs) could 'plug and play' in larger labour markets. If wages rose in Singapore, which Lee wanted, he feared they would move their assembly operations to the neighbouring countries. Lee promised the companies world-class infrastructure, an efficient administration, and low taxes. In return, he wanted the companies to help the government by investing in continuous upgradation of their employees' skills, so that Singaporeans would earn more and Singapore would become fully 'developed'.
- ◆ Lee turned to J.R.D. Tata to set up a training centre and a precision tool room in partnership with the Singapore government, and help

build foundations for Singapore's industrial growth. Lee's objective was to constantly upgrade the labour from manual to skilled labour, then to higher level knowledge workers and finally expert level labour which can demand higher wages.

Gandhian Model of Growth

- ◆ Singapore is a city state with about 6 million citizens, while UP, with a population of more than 200 million, has dozens of towns and thousands of villages. Migrants are returning from India's cities to villages in UP and other States. They are returning to a world Gandhi knew well.
- ◆ Gandhi said that unless people in India's villages have economic and social freedom, India cannot be a free country. This was his vision of 'poorna Swaraj'.
- ◆ Gandhi also knew the potential of India's poorest people, who were merely statistics for the economists. Above all, he believed that the economy must serve human needs, rather than human beings becoming fodder for the GDP. This was a vision that Lee Kuan Yew had too: for him, the ultimate measure of Singapore becoming fully developed was not the size of its GDP, but the incomes of its citizens.
- ◆ **Basic principles of Gandhian model are:**
 - ◆ Human beings and local communities must be the means for human progress —





and their well-being must be the purpose of progress too.

- ◆ Governance must be strengthened at the local level, in villages and cities.
- ◆ Wealth is good, but wealthy people must be only trustees of a community's wealth, and not its owners.
- ◆ Alienation of owners from workers must be reduced with the creation of new models of cooperative capitalist enterprises, where the workers, not remote capitalists, or the state, are owners of the enterprises.
- ◆ The Gandhian Economic Order is based on simplicity, decentralization, self-sufficiency, cooperation, equality, non-violence, human values, self-sufficient village units, and nationalisation of basic industries, Swadeshi and the theory of trusteeship. These, in turn, will solve the problems pertaining to labour, capital, production, distribution and profit, etc.
- ◆ No policy is perfect. Each is a compromise in its own way. To choose between good and bad compromises, you must have an ideal as a reference. This ideal policy must be envisioned from the perspective of the poorest citizens in a human-centred development paradigm.
- ◆ The test of public policies must be not what is good for investors and for the GDP, but what is good for the people, especially those who are the most powerless.

Way Forward

- ◆ UP does not have a 'migrant' problem. It has a 'citizen' problem. All citizens of the State (and India too) deserve jobs, livelihoods and a good life with dignity, whether they are migrants or not. The test of public policies must be not

what is good for investors and for the GDP, but what is good for the people, especially those who are the most powerless. In Lee's, Tata's, and Gandhi's books, diluting the rights of workers to make life easier for investors was not done.

- ◆ India had come to a fork in the road in 1947: it could run behind the West to catch up; or it could take a path less taken, using a 'Gandhian' approach for human development. It chose to run behind the others. Now, we are back at the crossroads. The health crisis and the economic crisis have made people everywhere consider what path we should take after this crisis. Back to the 'normal' economics of GDP or towards a more human and more local economics?
- ◆ Guidance from those like Mahatma Gandhi, who were close to the soil are more relevant than those who are close to the west.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Q. Uttar Pradesh's changing economic model to provide jobs and opportunities to the labour in their home state thereby reducing the outflow of labour is human centric economic model. This model can further learn from Singapore's Lee Kuan and Mahatma Gandhi, who were pioneers in blending economic growth to human welfare. Comment.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

Border Adjustment Tax (BAT)

1. Why in News?

- Recently, NITI Aayog member VK Saraswat (a former chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation) has favoured imposing a border adjustment tax (BAT) on imports to provide a level-playing field to domestic industries. Also, he stressed on the need to identify reforms that can be immediately undertaken.



2. About BAT

- BAT (also known as a border-adjusted tax, destination tax, destination-based cash flow tax or a border tax adjustment) is a tax on goods based on location of final consumption rather than production.
- BAT is a duty that is proposed to be imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs levy that gets charged at the port of entry.
- The idea is to bring similar goods in the imported and domestic baskets at par.

3. The Concern

- The Indian industry has been complaining to the government about domestic taxes like electricity duty, duties on fuel, clean energy cess, mandi tax, royalties, biodiversity fees that get charged on domestically produced goods as these duties get embedded into the product.
 - But many imported goods do not get loaded with such levies in their respective country of origin and this gives such products price advantage in the Indian market.
- The Commerce and Industry ministry has agreed that this demand of the Indian industry is reasonable and is convinced that the domestic uncreditable duties on 'Made In India' goods put them at disadvantage vis-a-vis similar imported products.

4. Trade Effects

- In theory, BAT is trade neutral: the stronger domestic currency would make exports more expensive internationally, lowering demand for exported products while reducing the costs incurred by domestic firms in purchasing goods and services in foreign markets, helping importers.
- Thus, the anticipated strengthening of the domestic currency effectively neutralizes the BAT, resulting in a trade-neutral outcome. However other studies indicate that currency adjustments may not always flow through to price adjustments, shifting the incidence of the tax to consumers and/or producers.

6. Will a Border Adjustment Tax be WTO Compatible?

- Countries that are members of Geneva-based global watchdog World Trade Organisation (WTO) have locked the upper limits of customs levies for product lines that they trade in. Any additional duty that gets imposed by WTO members are scoffed upon and in many instances, extra customs duties led to countries being dragged to international arbitration under WTO.
- India's Commerce Ministry believes that the proposed extra customs duty through the BAT is compatible to global trade norms. Officials maintain that article II: 2(a) of GATT allows for import charge that is equal to the internal tax of the country with respect to a "Like Product" or an item from which the imported product is made. Legal opinion on the proposed levy has also been taken.

02

A Declared Foreigner and Foreigners' Tribunal

1. Why in News?

- Siddeque Ali became the last to be released from the only detention centre in Barak Valley as the beneficiary of a Supreme Court order.



2. About Declared Foreigner

- A declared foreigner (DF) is a person marked by any of the 100 Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) in Assam for allegedly failing to prove their citizenship after the State police's Border wing marks him or her as an illegal immigrant.

3. About Foreigners' Tribunal

- The 1964 order on Constitution of Tribunals said: "The Central Government may by order, refer the question as to whether a person is not a foreigner within meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946 (31 of 1946) to a Tribunal to be constituted for the purpose, for its opinion."
- The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
- Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
- The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, unique to Assam, to determine if a person staying illegally is a "foreigner" or not.
- In other parts, once a 'foreigner' has been apprehended by the police for staying illegally, he or she is produced before a local court under the Passport Act, 1920, or the Foreigners Act, 1946, with the punishment ranging three months to eight years in jail.
- Once the accused have served the sentence, the court orders their deportation, and they are moved to detention centres till the country of origin accepts them.

4. Composition of FT in Assam

- Each FT member is appointed under the Foreigners Tribunal Act, 1941, and Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1984, as per the guidelines issued by the government from time to time.
- A member can be a retired judicial officer of the Assam Judicial Service, a retired civil servant not below the rank of secretary and additional secretary with judicial experience, or a practising advocate not below the age of 35 years and with at least seven years of practice.
- A member is also required to have a fair knowledge of the official languages of Assam (Assamese, Bengali, Bodo and English) as well as be conversant with the historical background to the foreigners' issue.

6. Necessity of Such Measures

- Extreme urgency in the matter is that the lives of such detainees are at risk in light of coronavirus or COVID-19 due to densely populated detention camps.
- Many of those excluded are illiterate and poor, and some are victims of a spelling error in their names or a mistake in their age in documents offered for proof of citizenship.
- Detention of such persons indefinitely where there is no possibility of their deportation amounts to arbitrary detention and is thereby a violation of the personal liberty of the detained persons guaranteed as a fundamental right to all persons in the territory of India by Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

5. Who can Approach?

- The amended Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019 empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals.
- Earlier only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect, but with the final National Register of Citizen (NRC) about to be published and to give adequate opportunity to those not included, this has been done. If a person doesn't find his or her name in the final list, they could move the Tribunal.

03 Juneteenth Day

1. Why in News?

- Recently, United States (US) President Donald Trump gave in to pressure and announced the postponement of his upcoming election rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma by a day so that it does not clash with Juneteenth, the day that celebrates the end of slavery in the US.
- Trump was criticised for his decision to hold his rally on June 19 in Tulsa, the city that saw some of the worst massacres of black people in US history witnessed in 1921.

2. What is Juneteenth?

- Juneteenth is the portmanteau of June and nineteenth and while it is not a federal holiday, it is recognised as a state holiday in over 45 US states.
- The day is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US and is observed on June 19.
- It is also known as Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day.

3. Emancipation Proclamation

- On January 1, 1863, then-president Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that "all persons held as slaves" within the states in rebellion "are, and henceforward shall be free." There were some four million slaves at the time.
- Even so, over 2.5 years after Lincoln's proclamation, many slave owners continued to hold their slaves captive by hiding this information from them and holding them slaves for one more harvest season, as per the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

4. Largely Symbolic

- On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery. Since then, Juneteenth has become a largely symbolic date representing freedom for African Americans.



5. Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921

- According to the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum, after World War I, Tulsa was recognised for its affluent African American community, which was known as the Greenwood District or the "Black Wall Street". In June, 1921 a series of events that took place there, "nearly destroyed" the entire Greenwood area.
- On May 30, 1921, a black man named Dick Rowland was imprisoned for allegedly assaulting a white woman. After his arrest, an "inflammatory report" published in the May 31 edition of the Tulsa Tribune spurred a confrontation between black and white armed mobs. Some of the members of the mobs armed themselves to protect Rowland, while others wanted to lynch him.
- On June 1, 1921 the Greenwood area was looted and burned down by white rioters. The incident referred to as the Tulsa race massacre or the Tulsa race riot, resulted in the deaths of over 300 people and is noted as one of the worst episodes of racial violence in US history.

6. Special Significance

- Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US.
- In addition to marking a date of major significance in American history, Juneteenth has always been both a day of remembrance and an opportunity for African-Americans to honor their history and celebrate Black culture.
- The day has evolved over the years with people and communities developing their own traditions and customs. For instance, some communities purchased land for celebrating the day, such as Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas. Juneteenth was recognised as an official holiday in Texas on January 1, 1980.
- For Texans, the first Juneteenth celebration started from 1866, with community-centric events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, historical and cultural readings and musical performances.
- With the recent killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta by white policemen and the continuing protests over the treatment of African Americans by law enforcement, there is much discussion and introspection about race in America.

04 Naval Liaisons at RMFC and EMASOH

1. Why in News?

- After joining the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as Observer in March, India is looking to post Navy Liaison Officers at the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar and also at the European maritime surveillance initiative in the Strait of Hormuz for improved Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).
- The Navy Liaison Officers is expected to be posted at EMASOH by July and at the RMIFC by September or October. India has an LO at the IFC in Singapore for over four years now.



5. Other Collaborations

- IFC-IOR is coordinating with similar centres across the globe. These include Virtual Regional Maritime Traffic Centre (VRMTC), Maritime Security Centre- Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery (ReCAAP), Information Fusion Centre-Singapore (IFC-SG), and International Maritime Bureau - Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC).
- The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization that links African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles. There are also seven observers: China, India, Japan, the Sovereign Order of Malta, the European Union, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, and the United Nations.

2. About RMFIC

- The RMFIC functions under the aegis of the IOC of which India became an Observer in March 2020 along with Japan and the United Nations.
- On April 29th, 2018, at the Ministerial Conference on Maritime Safety and Security held in Mauritius, five States from the Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Region (ESA-IO), namely Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Union of Comoros and Seychelles, signed the Regional Agreement for the Setting up of a Regional Maritime Information Exchange and Sharing Mechanism in the Western Indian Ocean.
- The missions of the RMIFC is to :
 - Collect, fuse and analyze maritime information ;
 - Establish a regional Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) and maintain a Recognized Maritime Picture (RMP) ;
 - Interact with the Regional Center of Operations Co-ordination (RCOC) ;
 - Produce reports and studies related to regional maritime safety and security and the marine domain in general.
- In this general area of interest, RMIFC collects and processes the following 12 themes which serve as the basis for information management: Violent acts at sea; Unreported and unregulated illegal fishing; Maritime Incidents; Traffic and contraband by sea; Maritime natural event / AHSC; Irregular migration and human trafficking by sea; Proliferation of Arms and Security Initiative (PSI); Maritime Critical Infrastructure; Pleasure / maritime tourism; Marine environment; Maritime cybercrime and Others.

3. About EMASOH

- The European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH) headquarters is composed of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and French officers and based at the French naval base in Abu Dhabi.
- The aim is "to monitor maritime activity and guarantee freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz."
- On February 5, 2020 the initiative was declared operational by the French Ministry of Armed Forces.

4. Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region

- The IFC-IOR has been established at Gurugram (India) in December 2018, and is collocated with Information Management and Analysis Centre which is jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
- The information Exchange at the IFC-IOR is initially undertaken by virtual means, using telephone calls, faxes, emails and video conferencing over internet. Subsequently, to enable better interconnection, quicker analysis of information and provide timely inputs, the IFC-IOR would host LO from partner countries.
- Additionally, towards enhancing capability building, the IFC-IOR also undertake conduct of exercises and training capsules in maritime information collection and sharing. The setting up of IFC-IOR underscores the governmental approach and effort in line with the vision of Security and Growth of All in the Region (SAGAR).
- France became the first country to deploy a LO at the IFC-IOR followed by the US and several other countries including Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom have announced their intention to post LOs.

05

New Guidelines for Import of Exotic Species

1. Why in News?

- The wildlife division of the Union environment ministry has issued rules for dealing with the import of exotic species and will assess the existing scale of possession within the country.
- The Centre intends to streamline the process by officially identifying those handling such species or involved in their legal trade, as per mandates of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which India is a signatory to.



2. Need for the Guidelines

- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has issued an advisory saying people importing “exotic live species” will have to make a voluntary disclosure.
- The move comes as the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) has raised global concern about illegal wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases.
- This will help in better management of the species and guide the holders about proper veterinary care, housing and other aspects of well-being of the species.
- The database of exotic animals will also help in control and management of zoonotic diseases on which guidance would be available from time to time to ensure safety of animals and humans.
- Experts have welcomed the move and said it will create a process where all imports will be screened. As of now, the imports are being made through the Director General of Foreign Trade and State Forest departments are not kept in the loop.
- This is the first step in controlling the illegal pet trade.

3. Mass Extinction of Species

- MOEFCC has decided to collect stock information from the holders of such species through voluntary disclosure in next six months.
- The registration will be done for the stock of animals, new progeny, as well as for import and exchange.
- The declarer would not be required to produce any documentation in relation to the exotic live species if the same has been declared within six months of the date of issue of the advisory. For any declaration made after 6 months, the declarer shall be required to comply with the documentation requirement under the extant laws and regulations.
- Holders of such species have to visit the website (www.parivesh.nic.in) and fill up the requisite forms in order to complete the stock registration process.
- This is the first time that CITES Appendix listed animals will be examined by the State Forest department.
- Earlier it was limited to customs officers to check whether the animal is being imported following CITES rule. For CITES Appendix III listed animals, the department has no role in it once they crossed the customs point.

4. Exotic Species

- The advisory issued earlier this month defines “exotic live species” as animal or plant species moved from their original range (location) to a new one. Several exotic species of birds, reptiles, small mammals, fishes and even some plants are imported.
- The Ministry has said “exotic live species” shall be construed to mean only “the animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora”.
- (CITES Appendix I, no trade happens, Appendix II trade can happen with prior permission and in Appendix III there are a large number of animals and birds which can be traded.)

06

Sikkim Tibet Convention of 1890

1. Why in News?

- The skirmishes and the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at Naku La in Sikkim in May 2020, in an area of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) that is considered settled, may be Beijing's way of attempting a new claim.
- India has highlighted the historical Sikkim-Tibet Convention of 1890 as proof of India's ownership of the territory.
- Referring to a major scuffle that took place at Naku La on May 9, the sources said it was unusual for Chinese troops to open up a part of the LAC that has not been in contention before.



2. Undemarcated but Settled Boundaries

- Meetings between former Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in 2003 and maps exchanged subsequently indicated that India recognised the Tibetan Autonomous Region as a part of China, and Beijing recognised Sikkim as a State of the Indian union, the boundary at Sikkim while undisputed, remains undemarcated on the ground.
- In 2017, after the Doklam stand-off near the India-Bhutan-China trijunction, then Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee that "there are still steps to be covered before the boundary is finalised."
- India accepted the 1890 treaty as "the basis for alignment", but the treaty had only been "partially implemented on the ground".
- Prior to Sikkim's merger with India in 1975, the Chinese side accepted the Watershed based alignment of the International Border (IB), and in a Note dated December 26, 1959 stated, "The Sikkim - Tibet boundary has long formally been delimited and there is neither any discrepancy between the maps, nor any dispute in practice."

3. Convention of 1890

- The Convention of 1890 was entered by the King of Great Britain on behalf of India before independence and around the time of independence, the Indian Independence (International Arrangement) Order, 1947 was notified by Secretariat of the Governor-General (Reforms) on August 14, 1947.
- In terms of Order of 1947, the government of India is bound by the said Convention of 1890. However, India's affirmation of the Convention of 1890 was limited to the alignment of the India-China border in Sikkim, based on watershed, and not with respect to any other aspects.
- As per Article (1) of Convention of 1890, it was agreed that the boundary of Sikkim and Tibet shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents, from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Mochu and northwards into other rivers of Tibet. The line commences at Mount Gipmochi, on the Bhutan frontier, and follows the above-mentioned water-parting to the point where it meets Nepal territory.
- However, Tibet refused to recognise the validity of Convention of 1890 and further refused to carry into effect the provisions of the said Convention. In 1904, a treaty known as a Convention between Great Britain and Tibet was signed at Lhasa.
- As per the Convention, Tibet agreed to respect the Convention of 1890 and to recognise the frontier between Sikkim and Tibet, as defined in Article (1) of the said Convention. On April 27, 1906, a treaty was signed between Great Britain and China at Peking, which confirmed the Convention of 1904 between Great Britain and Tibet.
- The geographic alignment of the features was so prominent that it could easily be identified and recognized. Even analysing the available Google images of the pass, the location of Naku La could be discerned by anyone as the watershed parting line in the area was very prominent. There exists no ambiguity with respect to the location of the pass, since geographic realities cannot be altered.

07

Solar Eclipse

1. Why in News?

- On June 21, it was not just a summer solstice having the longest day of the year but also an annular solar eclipse witnessed in major parts of the world, including India.



2. Solar Eclipse Phenomena

- When Moon comes between the Sun and Earth, the shadow falls on the surface of the Earth. The Sun is entirely covered by the Moon for a brief period. Those places that are engulfed by the dark, dense umbral shadow of the Moon experience the total solar eclipse.
- A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes directly between the Earth and the Sun, completely blocking the Sun's light. During an annular solar eclipse, the Moon does not completely cover the Sun as it passes, leaving a glowing ring of sunlight visible.
- An annular eclipse can only occur under specific conditions. The Moon must be in its first lunar phase, and it must also be further away from Earth on its elliptical orbit, appearing smaller in the sky than it usually would. Because the Moon appears smaller under these circumstances, it cannot fully block out the Sun, forming what's called a "ring of fire" or "ring of light."
- Partial solar eclipses happen when the Moon comes between the Sun and Earth, but the Moon only partially covers the Sun's disk.

3. Solar Eclipse 2020

- On June 21, the annular eclipse started for the people of Congo in Africa and progress through South Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Indian Ocean and Pakistan, before entering India over Rajasthan. It then moved on to Tibet, China, Taiwan, before ending at the middle of the Pacific Ocean.
- In some places, the summer solstice happened on the same day as the annular solar eclipse, an event that won't happen again until June 21, 2039.
 - During the solstice, the Earth's axis – around which the planet spins, completing one turn each day – is tilted in a way that the North Pole is tipped towards the Sun and the South Pole is away from it.

4. About Heliophysics

- Heliophysics is the science of the Sun and the physical connections between the Sun and the solar system.
- Solar eclipses have provided natural laboratories for intriguing scientific discoveries.
- The sun may be the Earth's closest star, but this body's very brightness makes it a challenge to observe. The light from the solar body drowns out the fainter corona, the outer atmospheric layer of the star, a wispy region that becomes visible when the moon completely blocks the face of the sun during a total solar eclipse.
- Before scientists could send satellites to space to study the corona, which became possible during the space age, researchers used solar eclipses to probe how the corona varied over 11 year solar cycle
- Eclipses also provided insights into coronal mass ejections (CMEs), material from the Sun that is spewed into space via enormous explosions. If a CME collides with Earth, the event can harm power and communication systems, as well as astronauts in space. With the Sun blocked during an eclipse, these clouds of charged particles could be spotted.
- Solar prominences, the large accumulation of cooler gas held in place in the atmosphere by the Sun's magnetic field, were also first recorded during a solar eclipse.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 Border Adjustment Tax (BAT)

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'border adjustment tax':

1. BAT is a tax on goods based on location of final consumption rather than production.
2. It is proposed to be imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs levy that gets charged at the port of entry.
3. The idea is to bring similar goods in the imported and domestic baskets at par.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All statements are correct. BAT (also known as a border-adjusted tax, destination tax, destination-based cash flow tax or a border tax adjustment) is a tax on goods based on location of final consumption rather than production.

BAT is a duty that is proposed to be imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs levy that gets charged at the port of entry. The idea is to bring similar goods in the imported and domestic baskets at par.



02 A Declared Foreigner and Foreigners' Tribunal

Q. With reference to the 'foreigners' tribunal', consider the following statements:

1. The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a "foreigner" or not.

2. As per the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.

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 tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, unique to Assam, to determine if a person staying illegally is a "foreigner" or not.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.



03 Juneteenth Day

Q. With reference to the 'Juneteenth Day', consider the following statements:

1. Juneteenth day is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US and is observed on June 19.
2. Since June 19, 1865, Juneteenth has become a largely symbolic date representing freedom for African Americans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. Juneteenth is the portmanteau of June and nineteenth and while it is not a federal holiday, it is recognised as a state holiday in over 45 US states. The day is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US and is observed on June 19.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery. Since then, Juneteenth has become a largely symbolic date representing freedom for African Americans. 

04 Naval Liaisons at RMFC and EMASOH

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization that links African Indian Ocean nations.
2. India has joined the Indian Ocean Commission as a permanent member in 2018.
3. China, Japan and Seychelles are the observer states of the Indian Ocean Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization that links African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In 2020, India has joined Indian Ocean Commission as an observer state.

Statement 3 is incorrect. There are also seven observers: China, India, Japan, the Sovereign Order of Malta, the European Union, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, and the United Nations. 

05 New Guidelines for Import of Exotic Species

Q. Consider the following statements with respect of new guidelines for import of exotic species:

1. The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has issued an advisory saying people importing "exotic live species" will have to make a voluntary disclosure.
2. This is the first time that CITES Appendix listed animals will be examined by the State Forest department.
3. CITES Appendix III, no trade happens, Appendix II trade can happen with prior permission and in Appendix I there are a large number of animals and birds which can be traded.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. The wildlife division of the Union environment ministry has issued rules for dealing with the import of exotic species and will assess the existing scale of possession within the country.

Experts have welcomed the move and said it will create a process where all imports will be screened. As of now, the imports are being made through the Director General of Foreign Trade and State Forest departments are not kept in the loop. This is the first time that CITES Appendix listed animals will be examined by the State Forest department.

Statement 3 is incorrect. CITES Appendix I, no trade happens, Appendix II trade can happen with prior permission and in Appendix III there are a large number of animals and birds which can be traded. 

06 Sikkim Tibet Convention of 1890

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Sikkim Tibet Convention of 1890':

1. The treaty was formalised between India and Chinese kingdom.

2. India's affirmation of the Convention of 1890 was limited to the alignment of the India-China border in Sikkim, based on watershed, and not with respect to any other aspects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The treaty was formalised between Britain and Chinese kingdom. It was signed at Calcutta Convention in 1890. The Convention of 1890 was entered by the King of Great Britain on behalf of India before independence.

Statement 2 is correct. Around the time of independence, the Indian Independence (International Arrangement) Order, 1947 was notified by Secretariat of the Governor-General (Reforms) on August 14, 1947. In terms of Order of 1947, the government of India is bound by the said Convention of 1890. However, India's affirmation of the Convention of 1890 was limited to the alignment of the India-China border in Sikkim, based on watershed, and not with respect to any other aspects.



07 Solar Eclipse

Q. With reference to the 'solar eclipse', consider the following statements:

1. A solar eclipse is witnessed when the Moon is aligned between the Sun and Earth, blocking the light received by the Earth from the Sun.
2. An annular solar eclipse, on the other hand, happens when the Moon does not completely cover the Sun as it passes, leaving a glowing ring of sunlight visible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. A solar eclipse is witnessed when the moon is aligned between the Sun and Earth, blocking the light received by the Earth from the Sun. An annular solar eclipse, on the other hand, happens when the Moon is the farthest from the Earth, because of which, it looks smaller and does not block the entire view of the Sun creating a "ring of fire" effect.



7 IMPORTANT NEWS

01

Ozone Pollution

- ◆ According to an analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), ozone — a harmful pollutant — increased in several cities while particulate matter and nitrous oxide levels fell during the lockdown.

Reasons Behind

- ◆ Ozone is primarily a “sunny weather problem” in India. Ozone is not directly emitted by any source but is formed by photochemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and gases in the air under the influence of sunlight and heat. It can be curtailed only if gases from all sources are controlled.



- ◆ Normally, every year, winter pollution is what draws our attention. The characteristics of summer pollution are different: there are high winds, intermittent rains and thunderstorms, and high temperature and heat waves. This is in contrast to winter — with its inversion, lower mixing height of air, and cold and

calm conditions that trap the air and the pollutants in it.

About Ozone

- ◆ Ozone (O₃) is a colourless, reactive oxidant gas. It is a highly reactive gas; even short-term exposure of an hour is dangerous for those with respiratory conditions and asthma and that's why an eight-hour average is considered for ozone instead of the 24-hour average for other pollutants.
- ◆ Ozone at ground level is a harmful air pollutant, because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in “smog.” Elevated ground-level ozone exposures affect agricultural crops and trees, especially slow growing crops and long-lived trees. 🌐🌐🌐

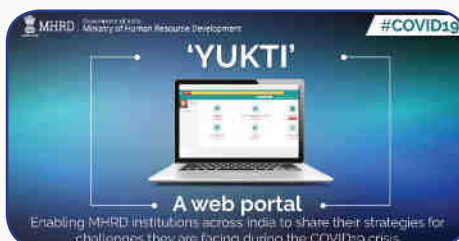
02

YUKTI 2.0 Platform

- ◆ Union Minister of Human Resource Development has launched an initiative ‘YUKTI 2.0’ to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions.

Key Highlights

- ◆ YUKTI 2.0 is logical extension of earlier version of ‘YUKTI (Young



India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation’, an initiative of MHRD, to identify ideas relevant in COVID pandemic. The portal intends to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way.

- ◆ Through this portal, the Ministry of Human Resource Development will endeavor to ensure that students, teachers and researchers in higher educational institutions are getting appropriate support to meet the requirements needed to advance their technologies and innovations. Significance
- ◆ It will also help in fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in our academic institutions.
- ◆ The database of both platforms will provide a clear picture of the state of the innovation ecosystem of our higher educational institutions. This will also help the government to identify bottlenecks and formulate appropriate policies to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the country.
- ◆ It will provide the best possible help to support creative innovations and technologies to help the society at large.
- ◆ These portal will prove to be a milestone towards promoting innovations and entrepreneurship culture in our higher education system and involving youth in nation building.
- ◆ YUKTI 2.0' will help us identify many more disruptive solutions from our higher and technical institutions. <>><

03

Chaolung Sukapha

- ◆ Recently, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has ordered the arrest of a Kolkata-based political commentator, Garga Chatterjee, who had described Chaolung Sukapha as a “Chinese invader”.

Who was Chaolung Sukapha?

- ◆ Sukapha was a 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries. Contemporary scholars trace his roots to Burma.
- ◆ Sukapha was a leader of the Ahoms. He reached Brahmaputra valley in Assam from upper Burma

in the 13th century with around 9,000 followers.

- ◆ According to the book 'A History of Assam', which is written by Sir Edward Gait, Sukapha is said to have left a place called Maulung in AD 1215 with eight nobles and 9,000 men, women and children — mostly men. He had with him two elephants, and 300 horses. Gait wrote that In 1235, Sukapha and his people settled in Charaideo in upper Assam after wandering about for years, defeating those who protested his advance, and temporarily staying at different locations.

Who are the Ahoms Today?

- ◆ The founders of the Ahom kingdom had their own language and followed their own religion. Over the centuries, the Ahoms accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.
- ◆ Today, the Ahom community is estimated to number between 4 million and 5 million.
- ◆ Sukapha developed very amiable relationships with the tribal communities living here — especially the Sutias, the Morans and the Kacharis. Inter-marriage also increased assimilation processes.

Importance of Sukapha

- ◆ Sukapha's significance — especially in today's Assam — lies in his successful efforts towards assimilation of different communities and tribes. He is widely referred to as the architect of “Bor Asom” or “greater Assam”.
- ◆ To commemorate Sukapha and his rule, Assam celebrates “Asom Divas” on December 2 every year. <>><



04

Global Education Monitoring Report 2020

- ◆ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has released the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2020.

Key Highlights

- ◆ According to the report, there is a lack of accountability in the education sector which has led to a jeopardy of progress in the area. Emphasizing that accountability is indispensable, therefore it is necessary in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ◆ The report noted that inequality and damage to learning is caused when blame for systematic educational problems is laid disproportionately on one actor, triggering negative side effects.
- ◆ The report noted that efforts to maintain learning continuity during the pandemic may have actually worsened exclusion trends. During the height of school closures in April 2020, almost 91% of students around the world were out of school.



- ◆ Education systems responded with distance learning solutions, all of which offered less or more imperfect substitutes for classroom instruction. While many poorer countries opted for radio and television lessons, 55% of low-income, 73% of lower-middle-income and 93% of upper-middle-income countries adopted for online learning platforms for primary and secondary education.

Key Recommendations

- ◆ The report suggested that schools should create an accountability system for teachers and administration that is supportive.

- ◆ It also suggested that punitive mechanisms— especially those based on narrow performance measures— should be avoided, democratic participation should be allowed, independent institutions should be set up to handle complaints and media freedom to scrutinise the education system should be respected.
- ◆ Other suggestions included the developing of credible and efficient regulations for all education providers and making the right to education justifiable.

India Related Findings

- ◆ India has used a mix of all three systems (radio, TV and online platforms) for educational continuity.
- ◆ Even as governments increasingly rely on technology, the digital divide lays bare the limitations of this approach. Not all students and teachers have access to adequate internet connection, equipment, skills and working conditions to take advantage of available platforms.



05

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2020

- ◆ The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as 'World Drug Day', is celebrated annually on 26 June. The theme of World Drug Day 2020 is "Better Knowledge for Better Care." The theme emphasizes the need to improve the understanding of the world drug problem and how in turn, better knowledge will foster

greater international cooperation for countering its impact on health, governance and security.

- ◆ Drug abuse, however, does not only include consumption of drugs such as cocaine, hallucinogens, cannabis, opiates among others, but also includes prescription medications such as painkillers and sleeping pills.

Problem of Drug Abuse

- ◆ According to the World Drug Report 2020 published by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, around 35.6 million people across the world are victims of drug abuse. Young adults and teenagers account for the largest share of those using drugs and most of them suffer from HIV, Hepatitis C and other related diseases. Only one out of

eight people who need treatment and rehabilitation are able to get it.

- ◆ There are many who are victims of drug abuse and would like to quit but are unable to help themselves due to lack of awareness and social stigma. One out of three drug users is a woman but women represent only one out of five people in treatment.
- ◆ The number of deaths due to use of drugs and related disorders went up 71 per cent in the last decade.

India and Drug Abuse

- ◆ India, possibly because of its strategic location, is more prone to drug activities including drug trafficking and local consumption. The influence of westernization, changing family structure and peer pressure are some of the reasons behind drug abuse.

Indian Government's Programmes

- ◆ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) are involved in alcohol and drug demand reduction policies and drug de-addiction programme (DDAP) in the country.
- ◆ Various e-Health web based programmes related to prevention of substance abuse such as alcohol e-Help (alcoholwebindia.in/ intervention) operated by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) and m-Cessation



programme (nhp.gov.in/quit-tobacco) for tobacco cessation have been initiated by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- ◆ National AIDS Control Programme (NACP): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has implemented various targeted interventions programme for IDUs such as Needle and syringe programme, and Opioid substitution therapy. 

06

Draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020

- ◆ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has proposed a draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020, that seeks to replace the current notification which goes back to 2006. However, the Delhi High Court extended till August 11 the time granted to the public for sharing their opinion on the draft notification. However, activists and environmentalists are demanding the scrapping of the draft EIA 2020 altogether if it is not strengthened.

Background

- ◆ A signatory to the Stockholm Declaration (1972) on Environment, India enacted laws to control water (1974) and air (1981) pollution



soon after. But it was only after the Bhopal gas leak disaster in 1984 that the country legislated an umbrella Act for environmental protection in 1986.

- ◆ Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, India notified its first EIA norms in 1994,

setting in place a legal framework for regulating activities that access, utilise, and affect (pollute) natural resources. Every development project has been required to go through the EIA process for obtaining prior environmental clearance ever since.

- ◆ The 1994 EIA notification was replaced with a modified draft in 2006. Earlier this year, the government redrafted it again to incorporate the amendments and relevant court orders issued since 2006, and to make the EIA “process more transparent and expedient.”

The Contention

- ◆ The 2020 draft offers no remedy for the political and bureaucratic stronghold on the EIA process, and thereby on industries.

Instead, it proposes to bolster the government’s discretionary power while limiting public engagement in safeguarding the environment.

- ◆ Additionally, the new draft exempts a long list of projects from public consultation. For example, linear projects such as roads and pipelines in border areas will not require any public hearing.
- ◆ All inland waterways projects and expansion/widening of national

highways will be exempt from prior clearance. These include roads that cut through forests and dredging of major rivers.

- ◆ The 2020 draft also exempts most building construction projects of built-up area up to 1,50,000 sq m. This is a reiteration of the Environment Ministry’s December 2016 notification that was set aside by the National Green Tribunal in December 2017. The government subsequently moved the Supreme Court but did not get any relief. <>>

07

First Joint Venture Hydropower Project of India-Bhutan

- ◆ India and Bhutan has signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchhu joint venture hydroelectric project in Bhutan that is to be completed in five years. The Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited is a joint venture between Bhutan’s Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) and India’s Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN).

About the Project

- ◆ The 600 MW run-of-the-river project is located on the lower course of the Kholongchhu River in Trashiyangtse district in eastern Bhutan. The project includes an underground powerhouse of four 150 MW turbines with water impounded by a concrete gravity dam of 95 metres height.

Significance

- ◆ The signing of the concession agreement will lead to



commencement of construction and other works of this first Joint Venture Hydroelectric Project between India and Bhutan. The project is expected to be completed in the second half of 2025.

- ◆ The importance of hydropower development as an important pillar of mutually beneficial bilateral economic cooperation.

Other Projects

- ◆ With this, four hydroelectric projects of bilateral cooperation (336 MW Chukha Hydro electric project, the 60 MW Kurichhu Hydro Electric project, the 1,020 MW Tala Hydro Electric Project and the 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydro Electric Project) totalling over 2,100 MW, are operational in Bhutan. <>>

7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



02



04



06

01

Corona pandemic has accentuated challenges to global order. Therefore, in post-COVID world new framework is needed and India must be rule-shaper. Do you agree? Give reasons.

02

"Parliament represents will of the people, ways must be found for it to convene and debate in times of COVID-19." Discuss.

03

Discuss how a successful Indian resistance to China's expansionism would redefine Asia's geopolitics.

04

India has banned 59 apps originating from China. What will be the impact of the ban?

05

Discuss the 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana' and its implications in the present context.

06

India's vulnerability to drug trafficking due to its location in Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle. Therefore, it is more prone to drug activities including drug trafficking and local consumption. Elaborate.

07

Discuss the importance of 'placebo effect' in clinical trials.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)



01



03



05

01

What is the status of Koalas in IUCN Red List ?

Vulnerable

02

Which international city has hosted CogX - the world's largest events on Artificial Intelligence?

London

03

Which forest reserve is located on Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border?

Poba Reserve Forest

04

What is the theme of 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2020'?

Better Knowledge for Better Care

05

Which ministry is celebrating the "Sankalp Parva" from 28th June to 12 July 2020?

Ministry of Culture

06

Which state has launched 'Project Platina' - world's largest' plasma therapy trial for COVID-19 patients?

Maharashtra

07

Which state has launched 'Godhan Nyay Yojana ' to procure cow dung from farmers and make animal husbandry commercial profitable?

Chhattisgarh

7

IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



- 01** "Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men."

Martin Luther King
- 02** "I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong."

Mahatma Gandhi
- 03** "Longing for love, the search for knowledge and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind."

Bertrand Russell
- 04** "Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love."

Albert Einstein
- 05** "Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness."

George Washington
- 06** "Never look back unless you are planning to go that way."

Henry David Thoreau
- 07** "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

John F. Kennedy

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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.

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

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

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