

PERFECT 7

**Weekly
Current Affairs**

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

The guiding philosophy of the institute, throughout, has been creation of knowledge base. Dhyeya IAS inculcates human values and professional ethics in the students, which help them make decisions and create path that are good not only for them, but also for the society, for the nation, and for the world as whole. To fulfill its mission in new and powerful ways, each student is motivated to strive towards achieving excellence in every endeavor. It is done by making continuous improvements in curricula and pedagogical tools. The rigorous syllabi not only instills in them, a passion for knowledge but also attempts to teach them how to apply that knowledge in real-life situations. The programmes lay emphasis on well-rounded personality development of the students and also in inculcating the values of honesty and integrity in them.



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7

Weekly
Current Affairs

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01

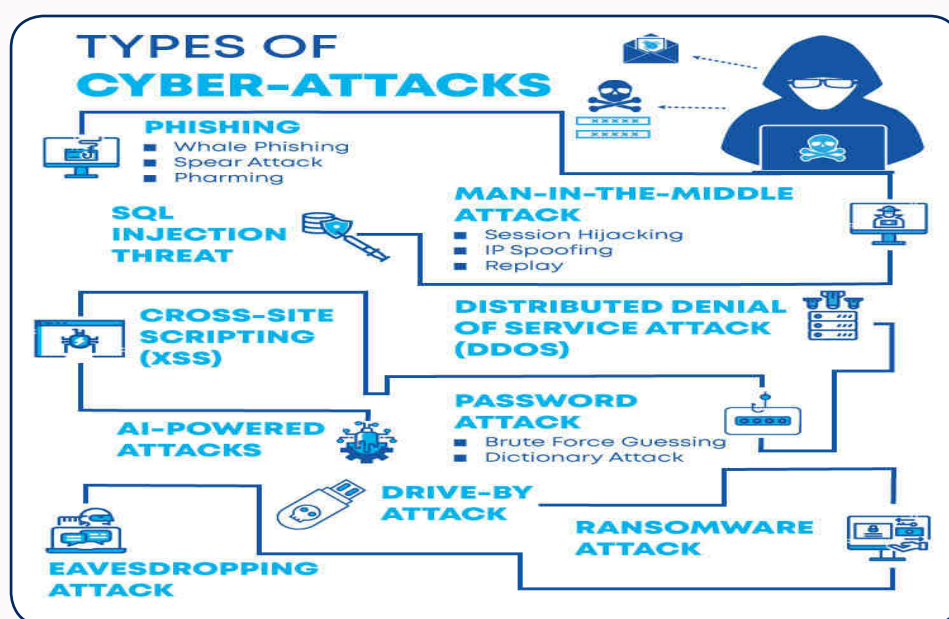
Cyber Security Policy 2013: Needs Review

Why in News?

- ◆ The incidents of cyber-attacks such as phishing, spamming, malware attack, etc. have increased during the lockdown globally. As far as India is concerned, India is among the 10 countries going through cyber-attacks. Therefore, India needs a strong cyber security policy.
- ◆ However, the government had announced that a new Cyber Security Policy, 2020, will be brought out.

Background

- ◆ India announced its first ever national-level Cyber Security Policy in 2013, against the backdrop of revelations of National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance. The policy, which was articulated by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, served as “basically a statement of first principles” rather than a comprehensive framework for cybersecurity policy.
- ◆ Since the announcement of the Cyber Security Policy, India’s cyber landscape has witnessed



growing digitization as part of the Government’s Digital India push, as well as more sophisticated cyber threats.

- ◆ Beyond responding to the changing cyber landscape, the government must also proactively address India’s ability to respond effectively to cyber threats by outlining an institutional framework ensure the country’s digital safety. Indeed, cyber policy in the Indian government has multiple stakeholders, ranging from the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, National Critical Infrastructure Information

Protection Center, the Ministry of Home Affairs through its oversight of investigative authorities, and the newly created National Cyber Coordination Centre.

- ◆ The National Cyber Security Policy broadly outlined a vision for “To create a workforce of 500,000 professionals skilled in cyber security in the next 5 years through capacity building, skill development and training” in 2013. After nearly four years, the number for such skilled personnel is only 50,000 or 10% according to latest reports. An updated Cyber Security Policy should outline specific guidelines

for the training and recruitment of such cyber specialists in a time-bound manner.

Mis-coordinated Approach

- ◆ Although India was one of the few countries to launch a cybersecurity policy in 2013, not much has transpired in terms of a coordinated cyber approach.
- ◆ Unlike the US, Singapore, and the UK where there is a single umbrella organisation dealing in cybersecurity, India has 36 different central bodies—most ministries have their own—that deal with cyber issues, and each has a different reporting structure; each state government has its own Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- ◆ Add to this the fact that while the National Cyber Security Strategy 2020 was to devise a cyber-readiness roadmap for organisations and the government for cyber-readiness, this is yet to be announced.
- ◆ While the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) has responded to cyber threats, it has been late in conducting security checks, and often has released advisories once an attack has taken place.

National Cyber Security Policy, 2013

- ◆ With an aim to monitor and protect information and strengthen defences from cyber-attacks, the National Cyber Security Policy 2013 was released in 2013. The purpose of this framework document is

to ensure a secure and resilient cyberspace for citizens, businesses and the government.

- ◆ The Cyber Security Policy aims at protection of information infrastructure in cyberspace, reduce vulnerabilities, build capabilities to prevent and respond to cyber threats and minimize damage from cyber incidents through a combination of institutional structures, people, process, technology and cooperation. The objective of this policy in broad terms is to create a secure cyberspace ecosystem and strengthen the regulatory framework.
- ◆ A National and sectoral 24X7 mechanism has been envisaged to deal with cyber threats through National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIIPC). CERT-In has been designated to act as a nodal agency for coordination of crisis management efforts. CERT-In will also act as umbrella organization for coordination actions and operationalization of sectoral CERTs.
- ◆ A mechanism is proposed to be evolved for obtaining strategic information regarding threats to information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, creating scenarios of response, resolution and crisis management through effective predictive, prevention, response and recovery action.
- ◆ The policy calls for effective public and private partnership and collaborative engagements

through technical and operational cooperation.

Increasing Risks

- ◆ The border stand-off has further increased worries about enhanced cyber-attacks from China and its close allies. Several advisories have been published by the CERT-IN and media about possibilities of cyber-attacks from China, though not much malicious activity has been observed.
- ◆ Many cyber hackers — state, non-state, professional, freelancer's groups, so-called "anonymous groups" — operate worldwide and conduct attacks internationally.
- ◆ Approximately more than one third of all cyber-attacks worldwide are launched from China. They have one of the largest military groups of cyber experts in the world. Countries like North Korea and Pakistan are also very active on their own and work in close collaboration with the Chinese. These countries have been accused of perpetrating state-sponsored attacks for a variety of purposes.
- ◆ Australian Prime Minister expressed concerns over Chinese cyber-attacks. About 38% of Advance Persistent Threat Vectors like APT40, APT3, APT10 and APT17 have been reported to be developed and deployed by China for espionage, stealing of data and IP. Some APTs are general purpose tools but others are customised for specific countries and purposes. The techniques and tools like APT1, APT3, APT10, APT15, APT17, APT26, etc. have been deployed against India too.

- ◆ The Chinese are in the process of developing technology to penetrate the internet through satellite channels.
- ◆ Pakistan too has deployed APT 36 targeting Indian entities. The role of hacker group called LAZARUS is well known in carrying out attacks on financial targets in India, Bangladesh and other South Asian countries.
- ◆ Malware, or malicious software, can be used for stealing, encrypting or deleting sensitive data as well as for hijacking computing functions. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd, which runs nuclear reactors across the country, in October said it had identified malware in one of its computers in September but its systems were unaffected.
- ◆ Facebook-owned messaging platform WhatsApp in October sued Israeli surveillance firm NSO Group, accusing it of helping clients break into the phones of roughly 1,400 users including in India through a malware. The targets of the hacking included dissidents and journalists.
- ◆ New policy will concentrate on interagency and inter-ministerial coordination to improve the cybersecurity infrastructure. The Union Home Ministry will be the nodal agency in dealing with cybercrime and issues such as cyber forensics, innovation, and research. The electronics and information technology ministry will continue to be responsible for the responses to threats and mitigation.
- ◆ Unlike the previous policy, the new one will lay special stress on cybersecurity awareness among young adults.
- ◆ The Union Human Resources Development Ministry will be roped in to design and run mandatory courses in schools and colleges on “cyber hygiene”. “Cyber hygiene is critical in an increasingly connected world and (good cyber) habits will have to be developed from a very young age. Cyber education will have to be built into curriculums of schools and high schools.
- ◆ The External Affairs Ministry will be in charge of cyber diplomacy, which involves evolving a rule-based system and governance of the worldwide web among other issues.
- ◆ The new policy is likely to be similar to the ones in Singapore, the UK, and Australia, and will make the Prime Minister of India the final

authority on all issues concerning the cyber world. The National Security Advisor (NSA) would assist the Prime Minister, the officials cited above said. India’s Cyber Security Coordinator reports to the NSA. The coordinator will be empowered further and will be responsible for coordinating with different agencies like those engaged in detecting and eliminating threats, those involved in cyber governance etc., and prioritising issues.

Way Forward

- ◆ With countries resorting to digital warfare and hackers targeting business organisations and government processes, India needs comprehensive cybersecurity guidelines and standards for checking cyber vulnerabilities and cyber responses. Therefore, government’s updated policy must go beyond the vision of greater collaboration outlined in the 2013 policy.



Peek into New Policy

- ◆ The policy seeks to create “safe, secure, trusted, resilient and vibrant” cyberspace for India’s “economic progress,” one of the officials cited above said on condition of anonymity.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks, Role of Media and Social Networking Sites in Internal Security Challenges, Basics of Cyber Security; Money-Laundering and its prevention.

Q. “With the changing cyber landscape, India is desperately in need of a new cyber-security policy as the threats have evolved from a simple computer virus to advanced satellite based technologies.” Comment.

02

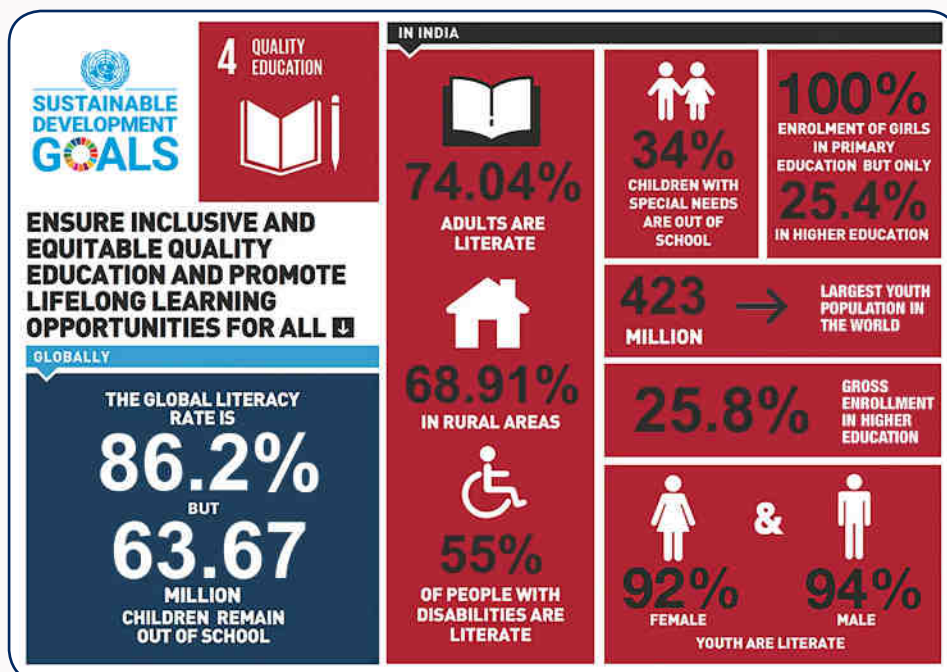
STARS Project to Improve the Quality and Governance of School Education

Why in News?

- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors on 24th June 2020, approved a \$500 million 'Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program' (STARS) to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states. Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools, and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

Background

- In a recent report, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had said that countries including India need to focus on inclusion of students from underprivileged background in crisis times like the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- India recognizes the need to significantly improve its learning outcomes to fuel future growth and meet the demands of the labour market. STARS will support India's response to this challenge by strengthening implementation at the local level, investing in teacher capacity and ensuring that no child of any background is left behind from the right to education.
- India has, over the years, made significant strides in improving access to education across the country; between 2004-05 and 2018-19, the number of children going to school increased from 219 million to 248 million. However,



learning outcomes across age groups remain below par.

STARS in India

- STARS will be implemented through the 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan', the flagship central scheme, in partnership with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- In line with the Sustainable Development Goal for education (SDG 4), the program will help produce better data on learning levels by improving the National Achievement Survey (NAS). India's participation in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a historic strategic decision by the Government of India to obtain data on how India's learning levels compare globally. STARS will assist India in this major step forward.
- India has successfully achieved gender parity in enrolment in primary education. However, for many children, secondary education is the stage when they leave school and enter the workforce. Under STARS, each state is expected to not only stabilize this downward trend but also improve the completion rate for secondary education.
- The STARS program builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank (since 1994), for strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing 'Education for All'. Prior to STARS, the Bank had provided a total assistance of more than \$3 billion towards this goal.
- STARS will support India's renewed focus on addressing the 'learning outcome' challenge and help students better prepare for the jobs

of the future – through a series of reform initiatives. These include:

- ♦ Focusing more directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels by providing customized local-level solutions towards school improvement.
- ♦ Addressing demands from stakeholders, especially parents, for greater accountability and inclusion by producing better data to assess the quality of learning; giving special attention to students from vulnerable sections – with over 52 percent (as a weighted average) of children in the government-run schools in the six project states belonging to vulnerable sections, such as Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and minority communities; and

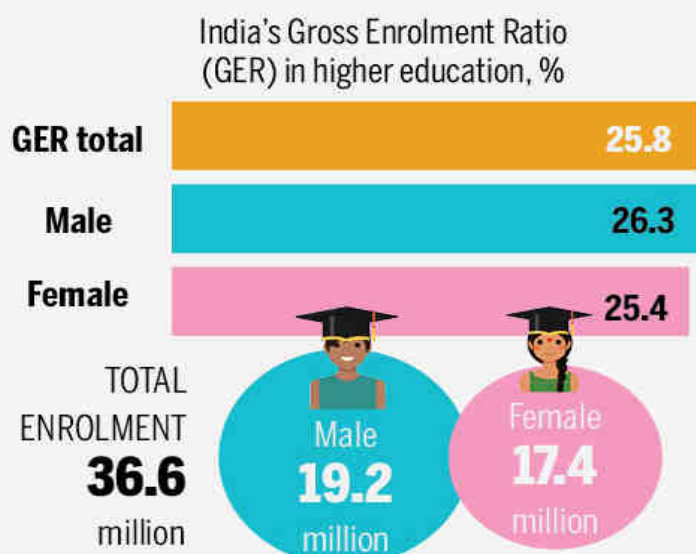
delivering a curriculum that keeps pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the job market.

- ♦ Equipping teachers to manage this transformation by recognizing that teachers are central to achieving better learning outcomes. The program will support individualized, needs-based training for teachers that will give them an opportunity to have a say in shaping training programs and making them relevant to their teaching needs.
- ♦ Investing more in developing India's human capital needs by strengthening foundational learning for children in classes 1 to 3 and preparing them with the cognitive, socio-behavioural and language skills to meet future labour market needs.

Scope of STARS

- ♦ Among other things, the World Bank initiative will focus directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels by providing customized local-level solutions towards school improvement.
- ♦ STARS will help improve learning assessment systems, strengthen classroom instruction, and remediation, facilitate school-to-work transition, and strengthen governance and decentralized management.
- ♦ STARS will support the Government of India's vision to provide greater flexibility to States for school education planning and budgeting. This will help States' implement evidence-based planning to factor in the needs of the most deprived, strengthen accountability at all levels, and thereby adopt a holistic approach to improve education outcomes.

In India, just a quarter of youths aged 18-24 years go to college



Criticism

- ♦ It fails to address the basic capacity issues. Major vacancies across the education system from District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), district and block education offices, to teachers in schools, remain unaddressed. Without capable and motivated faculty, teacher education and training cannot be expected to improve. Similarly, at the block level, an already overburdened bureaucracy cannot be expected to perform miracles without a substantial

increase in trained manpower, support staff and other forms of institutional support.

- ◆ It ignores that decentralising decision-making requires the devolution of funds and real decision-making power. Greater decentralisation can allow accountability to flow to the people rather than to supervising officers. It requires not just investment in the capacity of the front-line bureaucracy but also in increasing their discretionary powers while fostering social accountability.
- ◆ Bank displays an over-reliance on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a panacea that lacks any backing in evidence. It is based instead on the idea that a flawed system can be fixed merely through the injection of more and better technology. In fact, technology does not address most of the systemic or governance challenges; it simply by-passes them. This is not to deny that technology has its uses, but its usefulness depends on whether preconditions for an effective use of ICT-systems have been put in place.
- ◆ Measurement is seen as a way to improve performance. Yet, just like fever does not go away by checking the temperature more frequently, service delivery does

not improve by measurement alone. It is important to know that temperature is high, but more important to understand why it is so.

- ◆ Outsourcing basic governance functions by “expanding private initiatives” and “reducing government tasks” will not make education “more relevant to local needs” or “democratically promote people’s participation by empowering local authorities” as stated in the project document. Institutions of the state, from State-level officials who design policy changes, to district-, block-, cluster- and school-level officials who adapt those policies for solving local problems rely on past experience (institutional memory) to meet new challenges and build additional memories with every new reform they undertake. New private initiatives do not have these institutional memories, nor do they have a grasp of socio-cultural realities that play an important part in the delivery process. While state structures need to develop more skills to enable them to solve both local and structural problems more effectively, it is not clear how they can be imparted by agencies that are extraneous to both the context and the system.

Way Forward

- ◆ India needs to educate and give skills to the manpower in order to make full utilisation of India’s demographic dividend. Programmes like STARS bring much needed funds as COVID-19 has already dented Indian economy. Reliance on ICT is not a gimmick talk but a reality in post-Covid world.
- ◆ Government itself is needed to participate in educating and skilling the masses and it needs to increase the expenditure on education as a whole. The project by World Bank is not a single pill to cure education sector. It is just one of the possible ways, while major work is to be done by the government and its think tanks.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Q. Discuss the major functions and scope of STARS project of World Bank in India. Also highlight the concerns related to it.

03

Surging Cases of Suicides in India and COVID-19

Why in News?

- After the tragic death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput and a teenage TikTok star, an 18-year-old Delhi University girl, who too had a big fan following on the video platform TikTok committed suicide. Depression was found to be the main culprit in these cases.
- The stigma around COVID-19 and the burden of the pandemic have allegedly resulted in suicides across New Delhi, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.
- Police officers said the increase in cases were linked to the economic distress caused by the lockdown, but reasons in many of the cases could not be determined. Doctors say limited access to mental healthcare has made it tougher for them or the patients to reach out.
- A suicide note is rarely recovered and the deaths are generally marked "unnatural death" (UD) in police records.

Background

- Every death by suicide leaves behind a trail of questions and a deep sense of helplessness. In the context of the ongoing and unpredictable COVID-19 pandemic, the helplessness is exacerbated. What is in our control, however, is to do more to identify the crisis building within ourselves and others, and to learn how to avert it.
- Suicide is considered a preventable cause of death and does not always involve a history of mental illness. Societal and global issues can wear down on us and affect our mental and physical health. Recent data from the Global Burden of Disease project

by the World Health Organisation (WHO) shows that the suicide rates for Indian men and women are 1.5 and 2 times the global suicide rate respectively.

- Further, in India, suicide is the number one cause of death for both sexes between the age of 15 and 39, probably pointing to the significant developments related to career and family typically experienced during these ages.
- According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics, more than one student commits suicide in India every hour, with about 28 cases reported every day. The NCRB data shows that the numbers are steadily rising with 10,159 students dying of suicide in 2018, an increase from 9,905 in 2017, and 9,478 in 2016.
- This was further reinforced by a study published in the Lancet Journal in 2019, which says that one in seven Indians has a mental disorder. What is worrisome is that the proportional contribution of mental disorders to the total disease burden in India has almost doubled since 1990, the research states. That means 19.73 crore or 14.35 population of the country is reeling under one or the other mental disorder.

Tackling Mental Health

- Although the world's fifth largest economy, India has spent only 0.05 percent of its health budget annually on mental health over the last few years, much lower than even the average spending of low-income countries, which comes to about 0.5 percent of their healthcare budgets.

Types of Suicide

- French sociologist Emile Durkheim, who has extensively studied the phenomena of suicide has categorised four types of suicides:
- Egoistic suicide reflects a prolonged sense of not belonging, of not being integrated in a community. This absence can give rise to meaninglessness, apathy, melancholy, and depression.
- Altruistic suicide is characterized by a sense of being overwhelmed by a group's goals and beliefs. To commit suicide for a cause of group of people.
- Anomic suicide reflects an individual's moral confusion and lack of social direction, which is related to dramatic social and economic upheaval.
- Fatalistic suicide occurs when a person is excessively regulated, when their futures are pitilessly blocked and passions violently choked by oppressive discipline.

- Further, India has 9,000 psychiatrists, or one doctor for every 100,000 people. The desirable number of psychiatrists is three for every 100,000 people. This means India has a shortage of 18,000 mental health doctors.
- The economic loss to the Indian economy caused by a mental health crisis is estimated to be more than \$1 trillion between 2012 and 2030, according to the WHO.
- Apart from economic reasons, the government is obligated to look after people's mental health under the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (2007), to which India is a signatory.
- In 2017, India acknowledged this by enacting the National Mental Healthcare Act "to provide for

mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfill the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services."

Prevention and Intervention

- ◆ Stigma related to mental health issues prevents help-seeking by persons who are suffering. For instance, non-suicidal self-injury includes acts committed intentionally to hurt oneself but not to kill oneself, such as cutting, scratching, hitting, or burning oneself. These acts are related to higher likelihood of suicide attempts in the future and therefore can be seen as a gateway to suicide attempts. However, such behaviour is often looked down upon and dismissed as attention-seeking.
- ◆ On the contrary, research has consistently shown that people engage in these behaviour to regulate their negative emotions and not to seek attention from others. Therefore, we must not let our assumptions get in the way of providing support and attempts of the patient to reach out to others.
- ◆ Criminalisation of mental health issues also adds to this stigma. Suicide attempts are also no longer considered a criminal act in India under the Mental Healthcare Act passed in 2017.
- ◆ Addressing and treating mental health as an essential component of our well-being has been ignored as there is stigma, discrimination and low manpower availability of health professionals. According to the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) of 2018, the treatment gap

of any mental disorder in India was reported to be as high as 83%.

- ◆ Experts believe that a suicide prevention effort on a wider scale is the only way forward. Using a three-fold mechanism the authorities could either make efforts to target and assist everyone during times of distress or they could undertake selective prevention, i.e. focus on the high-risk groups – recently unemployed, distressed migrant workers, farmers, women experiencing domestic abuse or men with a history of alcoholism.
- ◆ The third could be focusing on the indicated groups, i.e. people with an existing mental health issue who could be moved to counselling and suicide prevention programmes

Scarce Efforts

- ◆ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a mental health helpline – 080-46110007. It received as many as 3,000 calls on a single day post the launch. The 24x7 helpline, on an average, gets around 300 to 350 calls daily, from people suffering from panic and anxiety. Many callers express fear of being infected, especially if they are from groups deemed vulnerable to infections from the coronavirus, such as pregnant women, elderly persons, or those responsible for providing essential services.
- ◆ Snehi, one of India's first psycho-social support centres focused on adolescent mental health, started receiving COVID-19-related calls as early as February.
- ◆ CareMongers, a Facebook community bringing those who need urgent help and those who can provide a solution together with

one platform, has been flooded with requests for procuring psychiatric drugs

Way Forward

- ◆ People with mental health issues rely on long-term care. Discontinued counselling sessions and not being able to meet the doctor or the counsellor can be unnerving for many.
- ◆ In rural areas, help could be even scarcer. Migrant workers returning home are facing ostracisation and stigma. For everyone, livelihood is at stake.
- ◆ Only a pro-active approach can tackle the issue of suicide. It needed to be handled with empathy and institutional support. Social awareness along with timely help and counselling are the main factors dealing with such issues. <<<>>>

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the population by the Centre and States and the Performance of these Schemes; Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies constituted for the Protection and Betterment of these Vulnerable Sections.

Topic:

- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Q. COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed the suicidal rates in the country. There has been increase in the cases of suicide. Discuss how COVID-19 is related to current spike in suicide rates and how it can be dealt?

04

Inevitable Need to Resuscitate SAARC

Why in News?

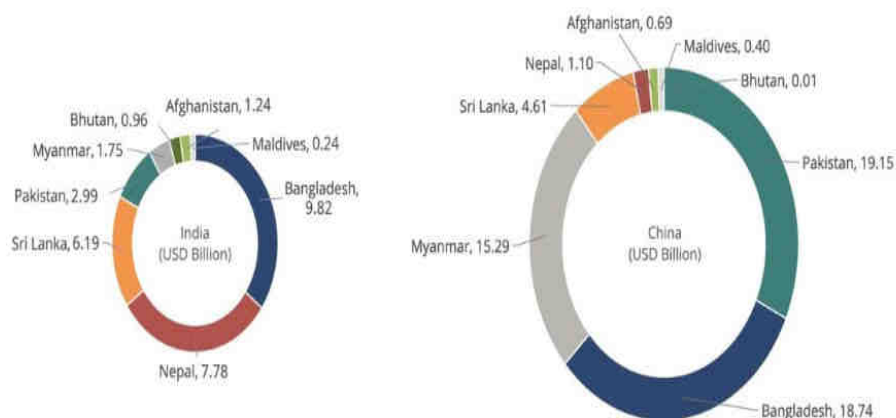
- ◆ India-China border issue is not just a bilateral issue, but relates to Asia in general and South-Asia in particular. Hegemonic and land-grabbing China is resorting to expansionism even after the world has seen two world wars and plentiful of destruction. China is chipping away at India's interests in South Asia.
- ◆ Pakistan acting as a diplomatic proxy for China and stationing troops in Gilgt-Baltistan at the time when India-China standoff in Galwan valley was going on has highlighted the possibility of a two front war. Now Nepal too is moving closer to China for ideational and material reasons. Similarly, many South-Asian nations are moving closer to China which is threatening to India and a regional strategy is needed to counter it.

Background

- ◆ According to a Brookings India study, most South Asian nations are now largely dependent on China for imports despite geographical proximity to India. Therefore, several foreign policy experts argue that India's strategic dealing with China has to begin with South Asia. In this regard, it is important to reinvigorate South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which has been in the doldrums since 2014.

Country-wise share of India's and China's Total Trade with South Asia (N8) in 2018

Bangladesh accounts for approx. one-third of China's trade with South Asia



Note: All figures are in USD Billion
Source: WITS, World Bank

- ◆ SAARC has been in the ICU since 2015, on account of Pakistan's refusal to cooperate in regional connectivity projects, and India's refusal to engage with Pakistan.
- ◆ In the last few years, due to increasing animosity with Pakistan, India's political interest in SAARC dipped significantly. India has been trying hard to isolate Pakistan internationally for its role in promoting terrorism in India.
 - ◆ India started investing in other regional instruments, such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), as an alternative to SAARC. However, BIMSTEC cannot replace SAARC for reasons such as lack of a common identity and history among all BIMSTEC members. Moreover, BIMSTEC's focus is on the Bay of Bengal region, thus making it an inappropriate forum to engage all South Asian nations.
- ◆ However, Pakistan is nowhere near being isolated by the international community.
 - ◆ China stands solidly with Pakistan.
 - ◆ Saudi Arabia has endorsed the Pakistani proposal to keep Kashmir on the agenda of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC).
 - ◆ United States (US) continues to work with Pakistan on terrorism-related issues, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. During President Donald Trump's recent visit to India, he distanced himself from India's cross-border concerns saying that India and its PM were strong enough to handle this problem and other regional countries must help because

the US was more than 8,000 miles away. President Trump's public praise for Pakistan's prime minister for his anti-terror cooperation and his call on India to work on regional peace and stability, in the presence of PM Modi, was nothing short of a subtle but strong snub to India's policy of isolating and not talking to Pakistan.

- ◆ Keeping SAARC in deep-freeze because of Pakistan was not serving anybody's interest.
- ◆ The failure of SAARC framework meant that India's ability to contribute to regional governance has been severely limited, if not completely closed. As India's strategic interests widens in South Asia and beyond, it finds itself in direct geopolitical competition with a rising China whose interests and influence has been rapidly growing in these regions.

CSACF – Direct Challenge to SAARC

- ◆ In an event not much publicised in India, China, on 15 June, launched the 'First China-South Asia Cooperation Forum' (CSACF) in Yunnan Province. It was also attended by the Indian Consul-General in Guangzhou, Sailas Thangal. The parallel, yet unasked question, either at or outside the CSACF venue, was if the new Chinese initiative, alongside the more-visible Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could ring the death-knell for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), where it had failed to go beyond the 'Observer' status, to obtain full

membership.

- ◆ Over 400 ministers, senior officials, delegates and media representatives from all SAARC member-states except Bhutan attended the meeting.
- ◆ Speakers from seven of the eight SAARC countries — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — plus Myanmar and Vietnam from South-East Asia spoke eloquently, lauding Beijing's initiative to launch the CSACF to bring South Asia and China together on one platform.
- ◆ China's CSACF initiative comes at a time when the SAARC has been going through the throes of an existential dilemma, particularly in the context of continual India-Pakistan adversities and the larger institutional failure to make it comparable to the European Union (EU), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional formations across the world. Almost since the launch of the SAARC, or even through the long run-up earlier, India was said to be uncomfortable with the idea of smaller neighbours using the proposed forum to 'gang up' against India, at times under the aegis of Pakistan.

Domestic Challenges

- ◆ There are two major domestic challenges that India faces in revitalising SAARC.
- ◆ First, to reap political dividends at home, and for ideological reasons, there has been an unrelenting top-dressing of anti-Pakistan

rhetoric and Islamophobia on the Indian soil.

- ◆ There's also a recurrent use of the 'Bangladeshi migrant' rhetoric. Such majoritarian politics influences foreign policy in undesirable ways. It dents India's soft power of being a liberal and secular democracy, which gives moral legitimacy to India's leadership in the region. This divisive domestic politics fuels an anti-India sentiment in India's neighbourhood.

- ◆ The economic vision of the Modi government remains convoluted. It's unclear what the slogans of *atma nirbharta* (self-reliance) and 'vocal for local' mean. The government's economic advisers contend that this does not mean autarky. It is yet to be seen that does this translates to protectionism or towards capacity building of domestic companies.

Efforts for Reviving the SAARC

Economic Integration

- ◆ One way to infuse life in SAARC is to revive the process of South Asian economic integration. Therefore, there's a need to resuscitate the negotiations on a SAARC investment treaty, pending since 2007.
- ◆ While South Asian countries have signed trade treaties, the lack of political will and trust deficit has prevented any meaningful movement. According to the World Bank, trade in South Asia stands at \$23 billion of an estimated value of

\$67 billion. India should take the lead and work with its neighbours to slash the tariff and non-tariff barriers.

- ◆ Further, deeper regional economic integration will create greater interdependence with India acquiring the central role, which, in turn, would serve India's strategic interests too.

Regional Integration

- ◆ When Pakistan expressed its reservations on the SAARC-Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) during the Kathmandu Summit in 2014, India along with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal initiated a sub-regional initiative to enhance connectivity and signed the BBIN-MVA in 2015.
- ◆ In another initiative, India has shown generosity to its neighbours with its 'gift' of the South Asia satellite that can be used by neighbours for communication purposes. Here again, Pakistan is the only country that have opted itself out of the project.
- ◆ At the sub-regional level, the Modi government further strengthened groupings such as the BIMSTEC, the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation/ Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and

Nepal (SESEC/BBIN) and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) as part of the Act East policy with the aim to accelerate the integration process in the region. For instance, India pledged to contribute 32 per cent of the annual expenditure on BIMSTEC's permanent secretariat in Dhaka.

- ◆ Another development that underlines India's eastward drive at the sub-regional level is the expansion of the SASEC programme of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to include Myanmar as its seventh member. The inclusion of Myanmar is seeing as 'key to realizing greater connectivity and stronger trade and economic relations between the SASEC sub-region and the countries of East and Southeast Asia.
- ◆ In the Indian Ocean region, the present government has taken major policy initiatives to promote collective action and integrated maritime security coordination. Prime Minister Modi's vision of the Indian Ocean region was outlined in 2015 in the acronym Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

Way Forward

- ◆ India has, therefore, done well to move towards reviving SAARC. Let Pakistan isolate itself by refusing to join in regional projects.
- ◆ Pakistan's pettiness in having a lower representation at the COVID-19 video conference, and its reference to the Kashmir issue, did not go well with other participants. Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani even put Pakistan on the defensive by referring to the closing of borders in facing the epidemic. India can repeat Balakot to punish Pakistan for its cross-border terrorism, without making it an issue in the regional forum.
- ◆ The revival of SAARC will also facilitate India's neighbourhood policy in meeting the challenge of regional strategic encroachment by China through its Belt and Road Initiative.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- India and its Neighborhood-Relations.

Q. Countering China is not just by border stand offs and UN tables, but the war has spilled to regional forums too. In this context highlight the importance of SAARC and challenges it faces to integrate the region.

05

QUAD: A Way to Govern the Churn in Indo-Pacific

Why in News?

- ◆ In the wake of COVID-19 catastrophe, China has escalated its actions on various fronts. In the Indo-Pacific, tensions between China and the US, Australia, India and other countries and the fast deteriorating situation in Hong Kong, are building momentum. These actions seem like calculated diversion and risk.
- ◆ Further, recent clash at Galwan valley in Ladakh region of India and subsequent pull-back at the time of COVID-19 crisis, exposes the dragon claws are not meant for deterrence but otherwise. At this juncture, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) has emerged from a policy discussion platform to a major global policy shift enabler to tame the dragon.

Background

- ◆ China has been resisting international demand for investigation into COVID-19 origins and China's culpability for the pandemic. Meanwhile China's aggressive manoeuvres in the South China Sea; Hong Kong; Taiwan; trade and technology disputes with the US; serious tensions with Australia; and the still unresolved India-China border standoff, which has resulted in a violent conflict shows aggressive, expansionist and land-grabbing nature of Chinese rule.
- ◆ While whole world is reeling under the pandemic crisis,

South China Sea: Chinese claims and disputed islands



China further resorted to 'wolf-warrior' diplomacy. Thereby losing international goodwill and eroding its public image. Its tactic of gaining in strength, while its adversaries remain in disarray has been noted well by the world and global community is taking steps to correct the damage. There has been steps to shift the supply chains away from China and industrialised nations are taking steps to reduce dependence on China. India has also taken steps to counter dependence on China. Internationally, there has been talks of militarising the "QUAD", in response to increasing Chinese muscle flexing across the globe.

- ◆ US position and posturing in the Indo-Pacific is of prime importance to nations from India to the Philippines, and from Australia to Kenya and South Africa. Free

movement in international waters is essential for international trade and growth.

- ◆ America has recorded the largest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatalities in the world while its Indo-Pacific strategy is losing its edge. Washington's latest move – the proposal to transform G7 into G10 or G11, is also indicative of the US's intention to garner assistance from other countries in the region. All the countries suggested for inclusion – Russia, India, Australia and South Korea – are from the Indo-Pacific.

QUAD and the Malabar

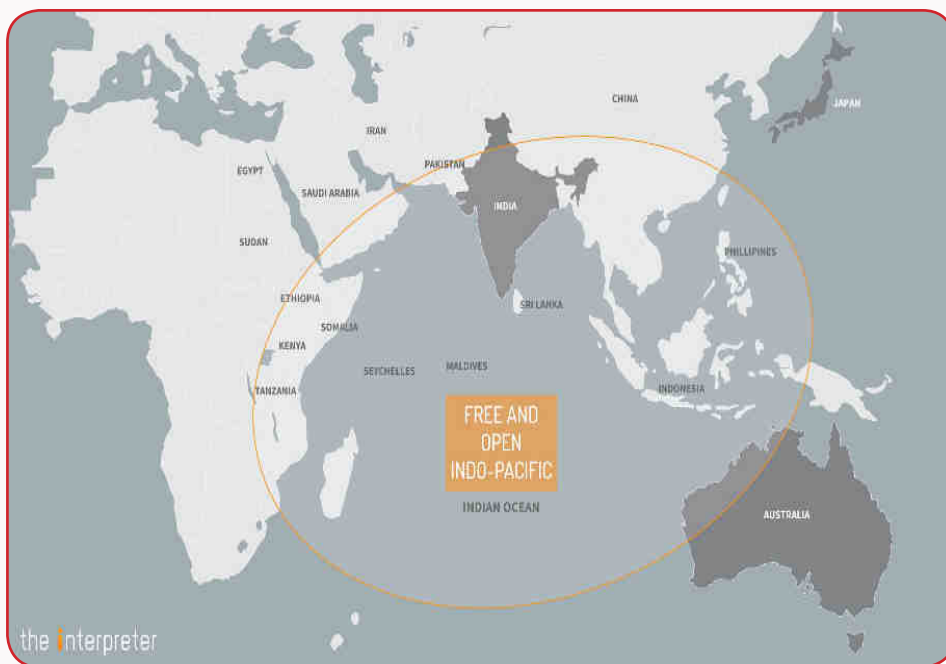
- ◆ India's decision to allow Australia to participate at Malabar 2020 could lead to a re-activation of the QUAD. Since member countries were earlier hesitant to get on the wrong side of Beijing, QUAD

did not really take-off. The last time Australia participated in the naval drill was in 2007 along with Singapore.

- ◆ Australia did requests to India to join the Malabar drill in the past but New Delhi rejected it in a bid to not strain its ties with China. However, the recent India-China tensions at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh may have brought more flexibility to the decision-making process.
- ◆ Japan and the US are unlikely to oppose Canberra's inclusion in the exercise since Chinese aggression in the India and Pacific Ocean have only increased.

QUAD – Prospecting Next Step

- ◆ America's own longstanding global military advantages are on an unquestionable decline, and it clearly needs to stitch together alliances to mitigate challenges posed by China. This overarching sense germinated the concept of the 'QUAD' formation of like-minded democracies i.e. the US, India, Japan and Australia towards joint-force-projection. Each of the 'QUAD' countries have specific security concerns that emanate from a belligerent, expansionist and increasingly provocative China.
- ◆ However, the 'QUAD' has so far remained in the realm of strategic dialogues, white papers and occasional drills — but still does not have the necessary 'bite' of a formal military alliance with a specific purpose e.g. NATO during the Cold War era. For such a fruition, it even needs a theatre of existence and critical posturing



to have the counter-impact on an expansionist China. Such a piece of geography has to be one that is, legitimately owned by a 'QUAD' partner, is in the realm of practical 'patrolling', and yet affords the necessary posturing to potentially 'choke' the interest of China, should it threaten the peace and sovereign interests of the 'QUAD' partners.

- ◆ Currently, the Chinese Navy still does not have 'Blue Water' capabilities to match the reach of the regional, United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM). Recently, the USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Groups conducted a dual carrier operation, and it was enough to give the Chinese an adequate warning — whereas, allowing the USINDOPACOM to have a dedicated 'QUAD-Port on call' will have untold consequences, without firing a single shot.

QUAD Integrating Indo-China

- ◆ The QUAD needs to refine its approach towards Association of

South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). None of ASEAN's ten members are inclined to join the group but several may be open to forging 'side relationships'. Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines may be interested in deepening their strategic cooperation, individually or collectively, with India, Japan and Australia. Plurilateral dialogues involving these six countries should begin now, or should be built up further where they already exist — such as the trilaterals comprising India, Australia and Indonesia, and India, Japan, and Indonesia. Senior officials from Vietnam, South Korea and New Zealand became the QUAD's weekly interlocutors through videoconference on COVID-19 related issues under the umbrella of 'Indo-Pacific Dialogue' during March-May 2020. The ambit of these discussions should be expanded.

- ◆ The QUAD can no longer ignore the interest of several European powers — France, UK Germany and the European Union (EU) itself —

to contribute towards balancing power in the Indo-Pacific. They have assets such as political strength, diplomatic acumen, existing naval and maritime connections, and a reservoir of know-how, technology and capital, which can be leveraged.

India for QUAD

- ♦ India's importance to QUAD 2.0 appears unquestioned and it has been termed the "strategic fulcrum" of the Indo-Pacific. Australia sees India as a "significant strategic partner" in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Japan views India as a key strategic partner in Shinzo Abe's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy. The US acknowledges India as a "leading global power" in the making in the region. It recently renamed the US Pacific Command as the US Indo-Pacific Command, factoring India's centrality in its Indian Ocean strategy. The intent is unequivocal: all the three countries want India to play a constructive and crucial role in shaping the QUAD.

Chinese Malacca Vulnerability

- ♦ Unfortunately for China, the Malacca Straits opens at the lower tip of the undisputed Indian waters, afforded by the outpost of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 1,200 kilometres away from the Indian mainland. This is a jugular that has only been partially tapped

by India, as it has a limited Tri-Services Command, further up the island chain. While the straits meander the Malaysian and Indonesian waters, the mouth opens up just below the sovereign Indian waters and the landmass of the southern tip of Nicobar Islands.

- ♦ This historically led to an acute sense of vulnerability in China, owing to its own restive and unpredictable relations with Malaysia and Indonesia, let alone India. This vulnerability is said to borne alternative supply chain hyper-projects like the Belt and Road (or its arterial arm, China Pakistan Economic Corridor), Pearl Ports, 'debt-trapping' Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, eyeing Coco Islands, Maldives, Bangladesh, etc.
- ♦ New Delhi has tried to revitalize its maritime strategy in recent years. Initiatives such as Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), the Cotton Routes, the Spice Routes, Project Mausam and an inter-continental consultative framework like the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) are intended to protect India's commercial and maritime interests in the IOR. These initiatives aim at empowering India's coastal provinces through the upgrading of infrastructure

and by linking them strategically with the IOR countries.

Way Forward

- ♦ China's relationship with the IOR countries – including the South Asian countries – has been given the utmost importance. This however, brings Indian maritime interests into direct conflict with Chinese interests. For instance, China's relationships with the Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka are all on the ascendancy, challenging not only India's influence and investment interests in its immediate neighbourhood but the other QUAD countries interests in the IOR. QUAD is a practical solution at hand for many nations in Indo-China. <<<>>>

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- India and its Neighborhood-Relations.

Topic:

- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Q. QUAD emerged from a policy discussion platform to a protective umbrella that can protect and rescue not just QUAD-members but also whole Indo-China region from Chinese mis-adventures. Discuss.

06

Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post Covid Opportunity for India

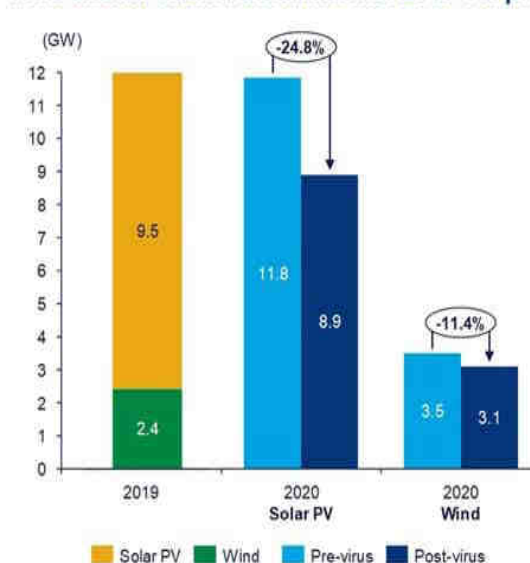
Why in News?

- A new report by NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) identified how COVID-19 is beginning to influence the clean energy transition in India, specifically for the transport and power sectors. The report recommended principles and strategic opportunities for the country's leaders to drive economic recovery and maintain momentum towards a clean energy economy.

Introduction

- Over the past five years, India has launched new efforts to advance its transition to clean energy and mobility, including its nationally determined contribution to install 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2028 and the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) II scheme to support the adoption of 7,000 electric buses, 5 lakh electric three-wheelers, 55,000 electric passenger cars, and 10 lakh electric two-wheelers. Considering this momentum, how can India continue to advance its clean energy agenda in the aftermath of COVID-19, when priorities of economic recovery and health will take the front seat?
- COVID-19's impact on the clean energy transition is complex and will continue to be so in the near term. On one hand, the decrease in fossil fuel consumption due

New annual-added installations: 2019 vs. pre- and post-virus 2020



to reduced demand in the power, transport, and industrial sectors has contributed to India's greenhouse gas emissions falling for the first time in four decades. Also, environmental consciousness may grow in a post-COVID India, as pollution has subsided in many areas.

- On the other hand, the economic slowdown that is positively impacting the environment is also creating new challenges for India's clean energy transition, including liquidity and financing constraints, supply-chain shortages, shifting priorities in the public and private sectors, reduced workforce, and job losses.
- COVID-19 will present significant demand and supply-side challenges to India's transport and power sectors in the short and medium terms.

- India's transport sector can save 1.7 giga tonnes of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions and avoid about 600million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) in fuel demand by 2030 through shared, electric, and connected passenger mobility and cost-effective, clean, and optimized freight transport. Significant savings are also achievable in the power sector through the adoption of renewable energy, energy storage, efficiency, and flexibility.
- Short-term relief in the forms of providing adequate liquidity infusion to restore jobs and small industries, formulating guidelines and standard operating procedures for safe passenger mobility and freight transport, and supporting electricity distribution companies' (discom) health can help India's transport and power sectors with recovery.

- ♦ Strategic opportunities for economic recovery and green growth exist in India's clean transport and power policies and programs.
- ♦ In the transport sector, major opportunities include making public transport safe, enhancing and expanding non-motorized transport infrastructure, reducing vehicle kilometres travelled through work-from-home where possible, supporting national strategies to adopt electric vehicles in the freight and passenger segments, and making India an automotive export hub.
- ♦ In the power sector, major opportunities include improving electricity distribution business and operations, enabling renewables and distributed energy resources, and promoting energy resilience and local manufacturing of renewable energy and energy storage technologies.
- ♦ Now more than ever, India's clean energy transition must prioritize multiple benefits, especially clean air, resilience, and economic and social equity, while putting the economy on a recovery path.

Four Principles for India's Clean Energy and Economic Recovery Programs

1. **Invest in least-cost energy solutions:** The steeply falling costs of clean energy technologies present an opportunity to pursue an economically viable clean energy transition. For example, the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs

for All (UJALA) program decreased the unit cost of LED bulbs by over 75 percent in 18 months. Other examples include solar and wind emerging as India's lowest-cost electricity sources, even without subsidy, and electric buses beginning to present lower total cost of ownership than that of diesel buses for city bus services. Savings from avoided fossil-fuel costs and stranded assets should be considered in current investment decisions.

2. **Support resilient and secure energy systems:** As climate change accelerates, the likelihood of pandemics and extreme weather shocks will likely increase, making the need to build a resilient future critical. Resilience could involve selecting industries, technologies, or systems that help adapt to unexpected shocks or crises. In India, future growth will demand resilience on multiple fronts, such as energy system design, urban development and transport design, industrial growth and supply-chain management, and the livelihoods of the underprivileged.
3. **Prioritize efficiency and competitiveness:** Given India's scale and stage of development, efficient and thoughtful use of resources is essential. India's manufacturing prowess and technology leadership present an opportunity to leverage Make in India to turn India into a more self-sufficient economy and globally competitive export hub over time. Circular economy solutions should

become a core feature of India's future economy.

4. **Promote social and environmental equity:** Given India's position as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, albeit with large social inequalities, additional weight on social and economic equity must be considered when applying these principles in the Indian context.

Emerging Challenges

Transport Sector

- ♦ Demand rebound versus sustained behaviour change: As passenger demand rebounds, how can India ensure that a share of the passenger mobility demand reduction that it experienced during the lockdown can be sustained for portions of the population that can work from home?
- ♦ Private vehicle ownership versus non-motorized, shared, and public transport: As demand patterns for private and public transport shift, with a likely short- to medium-term decrease in passenger mobility demand and an increase in demand for private vehicles at affordable price points due to reduced incomes, how can India ensure that non-motorized, shared, and public transports continue to be the backbone of India's mobility system?
- ♦ Internal combustion engines versus electric vehicles: As government priorities shift in the short term and auto manufacturers face financial challenges, how can India ensure

that the auto industry continues to invest in electric vehicle (EV) research and development, manufacturing, and sales?

- ◆ Inefficient supply chains versus clean, optimized logistics: As e-commerce experiences short-term disruptions in demand patterns, how can India ensure that it makes its freight transport system more cost-effective, energy efficient, and optimized?
- ◆ Short-term supply disruptions versus long-term resilient supply chains: As supply chains experience disruption, especially for EVs, how can the ecosystem address short term challenges with EV manufacturing and convert them into long-term opportunities for local, resilient EV supply chains?

Power Sector

- ◆ Fossil fuels versus renewables and distributed energy resources: As distribution companies (DISCOMS) have experienced demand reductions of almost 25 percent versus 2019 levels since the start of the lockdown, they face potential revenue losses of 8–10 percent. With the central government additionally looking into reforms related to the privatization of coal mining, how can India ensure that it continues to build momentum towards a renewable energy future?

- ◆ Regulated electricity markets versus competitive wholesale electricity markets: As DISCOMS' current liquidity crunch exacerbates underlying structural issues—such as high technical and commercial losses, distorted tariff structures, and overreliance on subsidies—how can regulators and DISCOMS work together to create and ensure participation in competitive wholesale electricity markets that support a higher penetration of renewable energy while helping DISCOMS manage their immediate financial situation and protect jobs across the power sector?

Opportunities

- ◆ Opportunities in the transport sector include making public transport safe, enhancing and expanding non-motorized transport infrastructure, reducing vehicle kilometres travelled through work-from-home where possible, supporting national strategies to adopt electric vehicles in the freight and passenger segments, and making India an automotive export hub.
- ◆ In the power sector, opportunities include improving the electricity distribution business and its operations, enabling renewables and distributed energy resources, and promoting energy resilience and local manufacturing of

renewable energy and energy storage technologies.

- ◆ Doing so will require a commitment to implement existing plans and initiatives, including flagship efforts like Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to achieve 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2028, the Department of Heavy Industry's Rs 10,000 crore outlay to electrify over 15 lakh EVs under the FAME II scheme, and the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage to develop a domestic battery manufacturing industry. The private sector and civil society can help deliver against these ambitious national goals and further the ambitions of the ecosystem with new technologies, business models, and ideas.

Way Forward

- ◆ Clean energy will be a major driver of India's economic recovery and international competitiveness. We must look at how to leverage our domestic innovation ecosystem to bring value to the country and industry in this new normal. COVID-19 has badly hurt the economy, but the transition to new normal can reset the entire economic paradigm.



General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Investment Models.

Q. Clean energy can reshape India's economy in Post-Covid to a recovery path that will not just be environment friendly but also pocket-friendly. Discuss.

07

The Custom of Rule of Law in India

Context

- India is a nation in making and is a vibrant democracy. Governing such complex and diverse nation is challenging. Rule of law which is one of the basic of modern democracies often comes into question when its application to Indian landscape is analysed. India's 69th rank in Rule of Law Index highlights the challenges to India's judicial system in particular and democratic structure in general.

Bedrock of Modern Governance

- The term "Rule of Law" is derived from the French phrase 'La Principe de Legalite' (the principle of legality) which refers to a government based on principles of law and justice as opposed to the arbitrariness of a ruler.
- The concept of Rule of Law in its most fundamental sense is the foundation upon which modern democratic society is founded and seeks to establish. The principle of Rule of Law vests in a state that is governed by laws and not by the arbitrary actions of men. The Rule of Law is a crucial component in a list of items that make up contemporary political ideals; other items in this list include democracy, human rights, and the principles of the free-market economy.
- An essential principle of rule of law is that every executive action, if it is to operate to the prejudice of any person, must have legislative

authority to support it. When John Adams used the historic phrase, "a government of laws and not of men", what was emphasised was that law and not whimsicality or caprice should govern the conduct and affairs of people.

- Rule of law symbolises the quest of civilised democratic societies to combine that degree of liberty without which law is tyranny with that degree of law without which liberty becomes licence.

Dicey's Theory of Rule of Law consists of Three Basic Principles

- The Supremacy of Law**— No person, irrespective of his position whether he is a common man or government authority is bound to obey the law. No one should be punished except for the breach of law and that the alleged offence is proved before the ordinary court following the due procedure.
- Equality Before Law**— It means the equal subjection of all class of people to the law of the land administered by the ordinary courts. No man is above the law and would be treated equally in the eyes of law irrespective of their pedestal in life.
- The Predominance of Legal Spirit**— The phrase legal spirit refers to the spirit of justice. This concept advocates the principle that law should be according to justice and not vice-versa. He was against providing rights such as the right to personal liberty, freedom, etc. in the written constitution of the country. The constitution is not the source but the consequence of the rights of the individuals thus these rights should be a result of the judicial decisions.

Modern Concept of Rule of Law

- The Rule of Law is a dynamic concept. It cannot be taken to mean that it is a fixed principle of law from which there cannot be any departure. The concept Rule of Law has been discussed by the International Commission of Jurists met in 1959 at New Delhi. The major findings are:
- Rule of Law is to safeguard and advance the political and civil rights of the individual in a free society.
- To establish social, economic, educational and cultural conditions under which the individual may realise his legitimate aspirations and dignity.
- It should not interfere with the religious belief and should not restrict freedom of speech or freedom of person.
- No discrimination on minority groups.
- Adequate safe guards against abuse of power by the executives.
- There should be an independent judiciary with security of tenure free from legislative and executive interference.
- The rule of law necessitates an independent legal profession.

Judiciary and Rule of Law

- The judicial decisions have played an indispensable role to counter any arbitrariness on part of the state.

- ♦ In A.K. Kraipak V. Union of India the Apex Court held that ours being a welfare State, it is regulated and controlled by the Rule of Law.
- ♦ In Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India, the court ensured that the exercise of power in an arbitrary manner by the government would not infringe the rights of the people.
- ♦ In the E.P. Royappa v State of Tamil Nadu, Article 14 of the Constitution of India was interpreted by the Supreme Court and its ambit was broadened. A new dimension was given to this article and it was considered as a guarantee against arbitrariness. The Apex Court in a subsequent judgment held that Rule of Law embodied in Article 14 of the Constitution is the “basic feature” of the Indian Constitution and hence it cannot be destroyed even by an amendment of the Constitution under Article 368 of the Constitution.
- ♦ In line with the third principle of Rule of Law, India has an independent judiciary that keeps a check on the other organs of governance while independently performing its functions.
- ♦ In L Chandra Kumar v Union of India, the constitutional validity of Article 323A and 323B was challenged on the ground that it is contrary to the spirit of constitution as it excludes the jurisdiction of Supreme Court under Article 32 and High court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India in matters that were tried by the Central



Administrative Tribunal under the said provisions. The court declared the independence of the judiciary to be a part of the basic structure and further the court struck down the amendment to article 323A of the constitution. The Supreme Court in a subsequent case held that disputes as to legality of acts of the Government will be decided by Judges who are independent of the Executive. And thus, keeping a check on the ultra vires or arbitrary acts of the Government.

- ♦ In A D M Jabalpur v. Shivkanth Shukla case, the question before the court was ‘whether there was any rule of law in India apart from Article 21’. This was in the context of suspension of enforcement of Articles 14, 21 and 22 during the proclamation of an emergency. The answer to the majority of the bench was in negative for the question of law. However, Justice H.R. Khanna dissented from the majority opinion and observed that:

- ♦ “Even in absence of Article 21 in the Constitution, the state has got no power to deprive a person of his life and liberty without the authority of law. Without such sanctity of life and liberty, the distinction between a lawless society and one governed by laws would cease to have any meaning...Rule of Law is now the accepted norm of all civilized societies”

- ♦ In the case of Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala the Supreme Court held that the Rule of Law is an essential part of the basic structure of the constitution and as such cannot be amended by any Act of Parliament, thereby showing how the law is superior to all other authority of men.

Challenges to Culture of Rule of Law

- ♦ The Supreme Court on 18th June 2020 has refused to entertain a plea seeking a direction to the Centre, states and UTs to set up

expert committees to improve India's "pathetic" 69th global ranking (out of 128 countries) on the Rule of Law Index (RLI).

- ◆ India is categorised in the group called, "South Asia Group" which is further classified as "Lower Middle Income" group. India's index score is 0.51 with a global ranking of 69 out of 128. India's South-Asia Regional ranking is 3 out of 6 and Income Ranking in Lower Middle Income group is 6 out of 30.
- ◆ The Supreme Court has asked the government to treat a writ petition filed in the court seeking setting up of expert panels to find ways of enhancing India's rank in the Rule of Law Index as a "representation" and respond within six months. For, it is not a judicial issue, but a matter for government consideration. The decision was taken by the bench headed by Chief Justice

S A Bobde, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and A S Bopanna.

- ◆ Voicing their concern at the assault on the Rule of Law in India and on its citizens' rights to free speech and dissent, the Constitution Protection Group, a forum of former civil servants, has called upon the judiciary to safeguard constitutional propriety.

Way Forward

- ◆ In addition to the problem faced in India due to corruption in the lawmaking and justice delivery systems, there also exists the problem of old laws still being in place. India does not adopt a 'sunset' clause in its laws and post-independence the Indian Independence Act provided that all laws existing under the colonial rulers would continue to exist under the new system unless explicitly revoked by the parliament.

- ◆ Since its inception, the principle of Rule of Law owing to the dynamism inherent in the very concept itself has evolved at a brisk pace. This development can be accredited to the several laws laid down by the parliament and also through the numerous judicial pronouncements.
- ◆ However, despite all the development that the concept has undergone, Rule of Law when analysed in the context of India does exist but it cannot be said to be followed in stricto sensu. ⬅️➡️➡️

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; Pressure Groups and Formal/ Informal Associations and their Role in the Polity.

Q. 'Rule of Law' is one of the basic tenants of modern democratic setup. It is often said that India has theoretical Rule of Law but not in its culture. Discuss.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

75th Anniversary of Signing of the UN Charter

1. Why in News?

- In 2020, the 26 June marked the 75th anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations (UN).
- At present, there are 193 members of the United Nations.



2. Background

- The UN was originally founded by 51 countries at the San Francisco Conference and officially came into existence on 24th October 1945.
- The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 and came into force on 24 October 1945. The Charter called for the UN to maintain international peace and security; promote social progress and better standards of life; strengthen international law; and promote human rights.

3. Changing World

- The UN marked the 75th anniversary of its birth with a scaled-down event because of the coronavirus pandemic, one of many challenges a deeply divided world faces along with poverty, inequality, discrimination and unending wars.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the virtual commemoration of the signing of the UN Charter that "global pressures are spiralling up" and "today's realities are as forbidding as ever."
 - Other fundamental fragilities have only grown: the climate crisis, environmental degradation, cyber-attacks, nuclear proliferation, a push-back on human rights and the risk of another pandemic."
 - Today's marches against racism were preceded by widespread protests against inequality, discrimination, corruption and lack of opportunities all over the world - grievances that still need to be addressed, including with a renewed social contract.
- The secretary-general said multilateralism must be given "teeth" to ensure "that effective global governance is a reality when it is needed."

5. India for Permanent Seat in UN

- India has been pushing for reforms of the UNSC—stating that its composition doesn't reflect the current realities and is not representative enough.
- India has made the largest troop contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission (UNPKO).
- The UNSC consists of 15 members (5 permanent, 10 non-permanent) and India has been elected eight times as a non-permanent member in the UNSC.
 - India is hoping that its performance at the UNSC in the next two years would reaffirm its credentials to be a permanent member of the council.

4. Need for Reforms

- The current composition of the Security Council reflects the geopolitical situation of 1945. The Security Council's enlargement in 1963/65 did not significantly change this. The Council's present composition is no longer representative of a world that has seen 142 new countries join the United Nations since 1945.
 - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean in particular do not have the representation on the Council that their current standing demands, and are therefore calling for the Council's composition to be adapted to the new realities.
- Alongside the call for a geographically balanced distribution of seats, the Charter of the UN also expressly states that countries that make considerable contributions to the UN should be members of the Security Council. This is why India, Germany and Japan are regarded as candidates for new permanent seats.
- Another frequent demand is that the UN become "more democratic", and a key institution of a world democracy. This raises fundamental questions about the nature and role of the UN. The UN is not a world government, rather a forum for the world's sovereign states to debate issues and determine collective courses of action.

02 Sec 309 of IPC

1. Why in News?

- Soon after the suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, the national debate has moved from the issues surrounding mental health to one of the most archaic laws that punishes attempts to commit suicide – Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)— contrary to popular perception that it has been repealed, continues to exist in the statute book and, as reports suggest, is often misused.



5. Situation Where Sec 309 is Useful

- Section 309 of IPC also puts a burden on the police for whom the only time this law comes to use is “when politicians go on a hunger strike”, even as there are a plenty of other laws for such cases.
- Sometimes the threat of suicide is given to blackmail. In these cases, police find this section handy.
- Thus, the nature of section 309 should also be addressed and a balanced approach should be found. A suggestion that cases where the threat of suicide is given to pressurise someone, then legal action could be taken, if evidence is available.

2. Section 309 of IPC

- The section reads: “Whoever attempts to commit suicide and does any act towards the commission of such offence, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year (or with fine, or with both)”.
- Suicide as such is no crime under the code. It is only attempt to commit suicide that is punishable under this section, i.e., code is attracted only when a person is unsuccessful in committing the suicide.

3. Recommendations Related to Sec 309

- The IPC (Amendment) Bill, 1978, was even passed by Rajya Sabha, but before it could be passed by Lok Sabha, Parliament was dissolved, and the Bill lapsed.
- Delhi High Court in the case of State v. Sanjay Kumar Bhatia (1985) held Section 309 to be “unworthy of human society”
- Bombay High Court in the case of State of Maharashtra v. Maruti Satpati Dubal (1987) held Section 309 to be ultra vires the Constitution as it violated Article 14 and Article 21.
- 156th Law Commission report (1997) favoured retention of Section 309 of IPC.
- 210th Law Commission report (2008) favoured scrapping of Section 309 of IPC.
- Supreme Court in the case of Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug vs Union of India & Ors (2011) recommended Parliament to consider the decriminalization of Section 309 of IPC while laying guidelines of passive euthanasia.
- Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017 was passed which led to the decriminalization of attempt to commit suicide.

4. Repealed but Existing

- The Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017, which came into force in July 2018, has significantly reduced the scope for the use of Section 309 IPC — and made the attempt to commit suicide punishable only as an exception.
- Section 115(1) of The MHCA says: “Notwithstanding anything contained in section 309 of the IPC any person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished under the said Code.”
- Section 115(2) says that “The appropriate Government shall have a duty to provide care, treatment and rehabilitation to a person, having severe stress and who attempted to commit suicide, to reduce the risk of recurrence of attempt to commit suicide.”
- While the rate of conviction in usual crimes in which the police file charge sheets is around 10 %, in cases dealing with Section 309 of IPC, the conviction is as high as 30 % because of the “clinching evidence” available in these cases.
- This Section can potentially deprive a victim of treatment in the golden hour, as hospitals wait for a go-ahead from police in what would be seen as a “medico-legal case”.

03

Decarbonising Transport in Energy Economies Project

1. Why in News?

- NITI Aayog and the International Transport Forum (ITF) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) jointly launched the 'Decarbonizing Transport in Emerging Economies' (DTEE) project in India on 24 June.
- The ambitious five-year project will help India develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system through the development of modelling tools and policy scenarios.



2. Decarbonising Transport Sector

- Decarbonisation means reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced as a result of transport, including emissions released directly during transport and emissions due to the production of transport - for example emissions from the production of electricity used to power a given mode.
- Climate change cannot be stopped without decarbonising transport. Globally, transport emits around 23 per cent of the energy-related CO₂ that feeds global warming.
- Total vehicle sales (including motorcycles) increased from about 10 million in 2007 to over 30 million in 2019, and the total number of vehicles on the road is expected to nearly double to about 200 million by 2030.
- India's transport sector, with the fourth-largest rail network in the world and the third-largest global aviation market, presents a huge opportunity, but also challenges in terms of emissions.

3. India's Increasing Emissions

- In India, CO₂ emitted per inhabitant was just about a twentieth of that of an average OECD country, yet, India's transport CO₂ emissions are likely to increase by almost 6% annually to 2030.
- The transport sector of India is the third most greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting sector, where the major contribution comes from the road transport sector. Out of the total carbon dioxide emissions in India, 13% come from the transport sector. These emissions have more than tripled since 1990.
- India is actively taking a number of measures to tackle its emissions, including newer fuel emission norms as well as the promotion of electric vehicles in the country.
- NITI Aayog has been at the helm for the promotion of electric vehicles and sustainable mobility through its 'National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage'.

5. Institutional Background

- The India project is carried out in the wider context of the International Transport Forum's Decarbonizing Transport initiative.
- It is part of the Decarbonizing Transport in Emerging Economies family of projects, which supports transport decarbonization across different world regions.
- India, Argentina, Azerbaijan and Morocco are current participants.
- DTEE is a collaboration between the ITF and the Wuppertal Institute, supported by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

4. India's Promise

- India's national climate action plans, known in UN parlance as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), under the Paris Agreement set three major goals—
 - increase the share of non-fossil fuels to 40% of the total electricity generation capacity;
 - to reduce the emission intensity of the economy by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level; and
 - to create additional carbon sink of 2.5 -3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover.
- The Paris Agreement sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
- The Paris Agreement is the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate change agreement, adopted at the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015.

04

Japan has Renamed Islands Disputed with China

1. Why in News?

- The Ishigaki Municipal Assembly (Southern Japan) has renamed an administrative area that includes a group of disputed islands in the East China Sea.
- The assembly changed the name of the area containing the Senkaku Islands from "Tonoshiro" to "Tonoshiro Senkaku." It was able to make the change, set to take effect on Oct. 1, as the area falls under Ishigaki's administrative authority.



2. Aftermath of Renaming

- Japanese broadcaster NHK said the name had been changed to avoid administrative mistakes as another location in Ishigaki City was also called Tonoshiro.
- Taiwan slammed the move after it was reported, saying it would "not be conducive to regional peace and stability."
- Renaming the town has been denounced by China as illegal and a "serious provocation".
- Taiwan's northeastern county of Yilan has adopted a proposal to rename the islands from "Tiaoyutai" to "Toucheng Tiaoyutai," to include the name of a local township.
- China, which also claims sovereignty over the islands, calls them Diaoyu.

3. Senkaku Islands – Significance

- At the heart of the dispute are eight uninhabited islands and rocks in the East China Sea.
- They have a total area of about 7 sq km and lie north-east of Taiwan, east of the Chinese mainland and south-west of Japan's southern-most prefecture, Okinawa.
- The islands are controlled by Japan.
- They matter because they are close to important shipping lanes, offer rich fishing grounds and lie near potential oil and gas reserves.
- They are also in a strategically significant position, amid rising competition between the US and China for military primacy in the Asia-Pacific region.

5. Other Disputes in South China Sea

- The nine-dash line area claimed by the Republic of China, later the People's Republic of China (PRC), which covers most of the South China Sea and overlaps with the exclusive economic zone claims of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.
- Islands, reefs, banks and shoals in the South China Sea, including the Paracel Islands, the Pratas Islands, Macclesfield Bank, Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands between the PRC, Taiwan, and Vietnam, and parts of the area also contested by Malaysia and the Philippines.
- Maritime boundary in the waters north of the Natuna Islands between the PRC, Indonesia and Taiwan.
- Maritime boundary off the coast of Palawan and Luzon between the PRC, the Philippines, and Taiwan.
- Maritime boundary, land territory, and the islands of Sabah, including Ambalat, between Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.
- Maritime boundary and islands in the Luzon Strait between the PRC, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

4. Cause for Dispute

- Japan says it surveyed the islands for 10 years in the 19th Century and determined that they were uninhabited. On 14 January 1895 Japan erected a sovereignty marker and formally incorporated the islands into Japanese territory.
- After World War Two, Japan renounced claims to a number of territories and islands including Taiwan in the 1951 Treaty of San Francisco.
- These islands, however, came under US trusteeship and were returned to Japan in 1971 under the Okinawa reversion deal.
- Japan says China raised no objections to the San Francisco deal. And it says that it is only since the 1970s, when the issue of oil resources in the area emerged, that Chinese and Taiwanese authorities began pressing their claims.
- China says that the islands have been part of its territory since ancient times, serving as important fishing grounds administered by the province of Taiwan.
- Taiwan was ceded to Japan in the Treaty of Shimonoseki in 1895, after the Sino-Japanese war.
- When Taiwan was returned in the Treaty of San Francisco, China says the islands should have been returned too.

05

Zealandia

1. Why in News?

- Earth's mysterious eighth continent doesn't appear on most conventional maps; that's because almost 95% of its land mass is submerged thousands of feet beneath the Pacific Ocean.
- Researchers from GNS Science in New Zealand announced that they'd mapped the shape and size of the continent in unprecedented detail. They put their maps on an interactive website so that users could virtually explore the continent.
- GNS Science is a New Zealand Crown Research Institute. It focuses on geology, geophysics, and nuclear science.



2. Eighth Continent

- Scientists confirmed the existence of an eighth continent, called Zealandia, under New Zealand and the surrounding ocean in 2017.
 - But they hadn't been able to map its full breadth until now.
- The submerged continent of Zealandia broke away from the supercontinent Gondwanaland about 80 million years ago.
- For the past 23 million years the massive continent has been nearly completely submerged. In total, the continent is 1.9 million square miles and is about half the size of Australia.
- About 94 percent of Zealandia is underwater with the only above water landmasses making up a few Pacific islands including New Zealand.
- Nick Mortimer and his team, who led the work, mapped the bathymetry surrounding Zealandia — the shape and depth of the ocean floor — as well as its tectonic profile showing where Zealandia falls across tectonic-plate boundaries.

3. What is Bathymetry?

- Bathymetry is the measurement of the depth of water in oceans, rivers, or lakes.
- Bathymetric maps look a lot like topographic maps, which use lines to show the shape and elevation of land features.
- On topographic maps, the lines connect points of equal elevation. On bathymetric maps, they connect points of equal depth.
- Today, echo sounders are used to make bathymetric measurements. An echo sounder sends out a sound pulse from a ship's hull, or bottom, to the ocean floor. The sound wave bounces back to the ship. The time it takes for the pulse to leave and return to the ship determines the topography of the seafloor. The longer it takes, the deeper the water.
- Multibeam echo sounders can also provide information about the physical characteristics of a seafloor feature.

4. Significance

- Zealandia once made up approximately 5% of the area of Gondwana. It contains the principal geological record of the Mesozoic convergent margin of southeast and, until the Late Cretaceous, lay Pacificward of half of West Antarctica and all of eastern Australia.
- Thus, depictions of the Paleozoic-Mesozoic geology of Gondwana, eastern Australia, and West Antarctica are both incomplete and misleading if they omit Zealandia.
- The importance of Zealandia is not so much that there is now a case for a formerly little-known continent, but that, by virtue of its being thinned and submerged, but not shredded into microcontinents, it is a new and useful continental end member.
- Zealandia illustrates that the large and the obvious in natural science can be overlooked.
- Currently used conventions and definitions of continental crust, continents, and microcontinents require no modification to accommodate Zealandia.

06

SATAT Scheme

1. Why in News?

- A MoU was signed on Waste to Energy plant at Okhla, Delhi, between Indian Oil, NTPC Ltd and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), using Gasification technology.
- This Plant shall process 17500 tons per annum of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) produced from combustible components of Municipal Waste to generate syngas which shall in turn be used to generate electricity.
- As per the experts, the venture would succeed as there are an existing models of providing offtake guarantee, under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme for compressed biogas (CBG) production plants.



6. Significance

- SATAT initiative is a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.
- This initiative holds great promise for efficient municipal solid waste management and in tackling the problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions.
- Use of CBG will also help bring down dependency on crude oil imports and in realising the Prime Minister's vision of enhancing farmers' income, rural employment and entrepreneurship.

2. About SATAT Scheme

- Government of India has launched SATAT initiative in 2018 to promote CBG as an alternative, green transport fuel for efficient management of biomass and organic waste.
- SATAT aims to produce 15 million tonnes of CBG from 5,000 plants by 2023, along with generating 50 million tonnes of bio-manure.
- As per scheme, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi) from potential entrepreneurs to set up CBG production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.

3. About CBG

- Bio-gas is produced naturally (through a process of anaerobic decomposition) from waste / bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc.
- After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has high methane content.
- Further, CBG is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential.
- With similar calorific value and other properties similar to CNG, CBG can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel in the coming years.

4. Empowering with SATAT

- Central Financial Assistance or Subsidy for setting up CBG plants has been extended to 2020-21 to promote new projects.
- Bio-manure, an important by-product of CBG Plants, is also in the process of being included in Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. This will make it easier to market and provide an opportunity for organic farming across the country as the 5000 CBG Plants are expected to produce 50 MMT Biomanure.
- India is also planning to include CBG under Priority Sector Lending to provide expedited financial assistance to new projects.
- The Indian Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel has also announced financial packages for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to develop CBG plants across India.

5. Other Government Support Schemes

- The National Policy on Biofuels 2018 emphasises active promotion of advanced bio-fuels, including CBG.
- The Government of India had launched the GOBAR-DHAN (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources) scheme earlier this year to convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to CBG and compost.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has notified Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of Rs. 4 crore per 4,800 kg of CBG per day generated from 12,000 cubic metres of biogas per day, with a maximum of Rs.10 crore per project.

07

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises

1. Why in News?

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), in partnership with the States, has launched an all India centrally sponsored "PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme)" for providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro-food processing enterprises with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.



2. About PM FME

- The scheme aims to bring in new technology, apart from affordable credit to help small entrepreneurs penetrate new markets.
- The scheme will offer 50% subsidy for storage and transportation to prevent distress sale by farmers.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Expenditure to be shared by Government of India and States at 60:40.
- Scheme will be implemented over a 5 year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- The objectives of the scheme are:
 - Support for capital investment for upgradation and formalization with registration for Goods and Services Tax (GST), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) hygiene standards and Udyog Aadhar;
 - Capacity building through skill training, imparting technical knowledge on food safety, standards & hygiene and quality improvement;
 - Hand holding support for preparation of detailed project report (DPR), availing bank loan and upgradation;
 - Support to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), producers cooperatives for capital investment, common infrastructure and support branding and marketing.

3. One District One Product (ODOP)

- The Scheme adopts One District One Product (ODOP) approach to reap benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products. The States would identify food product for a district keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material.
- The ODOP could be a perishable agri-produce, cereal based product or a food product widely produced in a district and their allied sectors.
- Preference would be given to those producing under ODOP approach. However, units producing other products would also be supported.
- Support for common infrastructure and branding & marketing would only be given for products under ODOP approach.

6. Background

- There are about 25 lakh unregistered food processing enterprises which constitute 98% of the sector and are unorganized and informal.
 - Nearly 66 % of these units are located in rural areas and about 80% of them are family-based enterprises.
- This sector faces a number of challenges including the inability to access credit, high cost of institutional credit, lack of access to modern technology, inability to integrate with the food supply chain and compliance with the health & safety standards.
- Strengthening this segment will lead to reduction in wastage, creation of off-farm job opportunities and aid in achieving the overarching Government objective of doubling farmers' income.

4. Other Details

- Back ended credit linked subsidy will be provided to 2,00,000 units.
- Seed capital will be given to SHGs (@Rs. 4 lakh per SHG) for loan to members for working capital and small tools.
- Grant will be provided to FPOs/SHGs for backward/ forward linkages, common infrastructure, packaging, marketing & branding.
- Micro enterprises will get credit linked subsidy @ 35% of the eligible project cost with ceiling of Rs.10 lakh.
 - Beneficiary contribution will be minimum 10% and balance from loan.

5. Impact

- Nearly eight lakh micro- enterprises will benefit through access to information, better exposure and formalization.
- Credit linked subsidy support and hand-holding to covered micro enterprises will enable them to formalize, grow and become competitive.
- The project is likely to generate nine lakh skilled and semi-skilled jobs.
- Scheme envisages increased access to credit by existing micro food processing entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs in the Aspirational Districts.
- Increased access to common services like sorting, grading, processing, packaging, storage etc.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 75th Anniversary of Signing of the UN Charter

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 and came into force on 24 October 1945.
2. India has been elected eight times as a permanent member in the UNSC for the 2 years.

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 Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 and came into force on 24 October 1945. The Charter called for the UN to maintain international peace and security; promote social progress and better standards of life; strengthen international law; and promote human rights.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The UNSC consists of 15 members (5 permanent, 10 non-permanent) and India has been elected eight times as a non-permanent member in the UNSC for a two-year term starting January 1, 2021.



02 Sec 309 of IPC

Q. With reference to the 'Sec 309 of IPC', consider the following statements:

1. The Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017, which came into force in July 2018, has repealed the Section 309 IPC.
2. Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017 has led to the decriminalization of attempt to commit suicide.

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 Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017, which came into force in July 2018, has significantly reduced the scope for the use of Section 309 IPC — and made the attempt to commit suicide punishable only as an exception. But, the section continues to remain in the IPC.

Statement 2 is correct. Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017 was passed which led to the decriminalization of attempt to commit suicide.



03 Decarbonising Transport

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Decarbonising Transport in Energy Economies Project (DTEE):

1. It has been launched jointly by NITI Aayog and World Economic Forum.
2. It is a ten years project.
3. The main objective of this project is to reduce India's transport CO2 emissions by almost 6% annually to 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

All statements are incorrect. NITI Aayog and the International Transport Forum (ITF) of the Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) jointly launched the 'Decarbonizing Transport in Emerging Economies' (DTEE) project in India on 24 June.

The ambitious five-year project will help India develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system through the development of modelling tools and policy scenarios.

The India project is part of the Decarbonizing Transport in Emerging Economies family of projects, which supports transport decarbonization across different world regions. India, Argentina, Azerbaijan and Morocco are current participants.



04 Japan has Renamed Islands Disputed with China

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Japan has changed the name of the area containing the Senkaku Islands from "Tonoshiro" to "TonoshiroSenkaku."
2. The Senkaku Islands are located in the East China Sea between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

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. The Ishigaki Municipal Assembly (Southern Japan) has renamed an administrative area that includes a group of disputed islands in the East China Sea.

The assembly changed the name of the area containing the Senkaku Islands from "Tonoshiro" to "TonoshiroSenkaku" from October 1.

The Senkaku Islands are located in the East China Sea between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China (Taiwan). It contains five uninhabited islands and three barren rocks.



05 Zealandia

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

1. The researchers from GNS Science in New Zealand has confirmed the presence of Earth's mysterious eighth continent, Zealandia.
2. Zealandia is believed to have broken away from the super-continent known as Gondwanaland.

3. About 94 percent of Zealandia is underwater with the only above water landmasses making up a few Pacific islands including New Zealand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Researchers from GNS Science in New Zealand announced that they'd mapped the shape and size of the continent in unprecedented detail. They put their maps on an interactive website so that users could virtually explore the continent. But, Earth's mysterious eighth continent doesn't appear on most conventional maps; that's because almost 95% of its land mass is submerged thousands of feet beneath the Pacific Ocean.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The submerged continent of Zealandia broke away from the supercontinent Gondwanaland about 80 million years ago.

About 94 percent of Zealandia is underwater with the only above water landmasses making up a few Pacific islands including New Zealand.



06 SATAT Scheme

Q. With reference to the SATAT initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to produce 15 million tonnes of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) from 5,000 plants by 2023.
2. With similar calorific value and other properties similar to CNG, CBG can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel in the coming years.
3. CBG can be produced from biomass and organic waste sources including paddy stubble.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All statements are correct. Government of India has launched SATAT initiative in 2018 to promote Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) as an alternative, green transport fuel for efficient management of biomass and organic waste.

SATAT aims to produce 15 million tonnes of CBG from 5,000 plants by 2023, along with generating 50 million tonnes of bio-manure.

CBG can be produced from biomass and organic waste sources including paddy stubble. Compressed Bio-Gas has properties similar to the commercially available natural gas and can be used as an alternative renewable fuel. 

07 PM Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises':

1. It is 100% centrally sponsored scheme.
2. The main objective of the scheme is to provide financial, technical and business support for new micro-food processing enterprises.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), in partnership with the States, has launched an all India centrally sponsored "PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme)". Expenditure to be shared by Government of India and States at 60:40.

The main objective of the scheme is to provide financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro-food processing enterprises with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore. 

7

IMPORTANT NEWS

01

The Language of the Tangams

- ◆ The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu has released a book titled "Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh." The book will help the future generations of the Tangam community, which has reportedly 253 speakers concentrated in one small hamlet of Arunachal Pradesh.

Who are the Tangams?

- ◆ The Tangams are a little-known community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and reside in the hamlet of Kugging in Upper Siang district's Paindem circle. For long, the only account of the Tangams could be found in bureaucrat Tarun Kumar Bhattacharjee's book, Tangams (1975) where the community's population was pegged at 2,000 spread across 25 villages. From 2016 to 2020, a team from the Centre for Endangered Languages (CFEL) of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), carried out extensive field research and documented the community. The survey revealed that Tangams were now concentrated in only one village (Kugging), with 253 reported speakers.
- ◆ Moreover, the Tangams are relatively unknown — even within

Arunachal Pradesh. The village lacks proper infrastructure in all basic sectors of education, health, drinking water facilities, road and electricity. Roads have reached Kugging only in 2018. Not a single person from the community has gone to university.

Why are there only 253 Speakers?

- ◆ As per the UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages (2009), Tangam — an oral language that belongs to the Tani group, under the greater Tibeto-Burman language family — is marked 'critically endangered'.
- ◆ Kugging is surrounded by a number of villages inhabited by Adi subgroups such as Shimong, Minyongs, as well as the Buddhist tribal community of Khambas, among others. To communicate with their neighbours over the years, the Tangams have become multilingual, speaking not just Tangam, but other tongues such as Shimong, Khamba and Hindi. They rarely speak their own language now since their population is restricted to a single village. Their neighbours are various Adi subgroups, so they have picked up other Adi languages and their own is slowly disappearing — even if a few still continue to speak Tangam.

Other Languages in Arunachal Pradesh

- ◆ The languages of Arunachal Pradesh have been classified under the Sino-Tibetan language family, and more specifically under the Tibeto-Burman and Tai group of languages, such as Lolo-Burmish, Bodhic, Sal, Tani, Mishmi, Hruishh and Tai.
- ◆ While the education system has introduced Devanagari, Assamese and Roman scripts for most tribal languages, new scripts such as Tani Lipi and Wancho Script have been developed by native scholars.
- ◆ An official linguistic survey by the state government began only in 2018, which is currently underway. Before that, People's Linguistic Survey of India was published in 2017.
- ◆ Still, experts peg the number of languages at 32-34, with a disclaimer that it is not a conclusive figure.
- ◆ According to the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger (2009) more than 26 languages of Arunachal Pradesh have been identified as endangered. The degrees range from 'unsafe', 'definitely endangered' to 'critically endangered'.



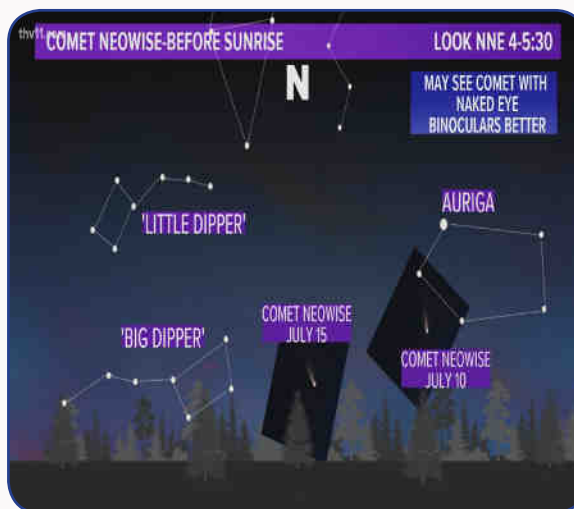
02

NEOWISE Comet

- ◆ The recently discovered comet called C/2020 F3, also known as NEOWISE, will make its closest approach to the Earth on July 22. On the day, the comet, which takes 6,800 years to complete one lap around its orbit, will be at a distance of 64 million miles or 103 million kilometers while crossing Earth's outside orbit. On July 3, the comet was closest to the Sun at 43 million km. On this day, the comet cruised inside Mercury's orbit and, due to its proximity to the Sun, its outer layer was released creating an atmosphere – referred to as coma – of gas and dust from its icy surface. This atmosphere sometimes leads to formation of a bright tail of debris that can extend for thousands or millions of kilometres.

What are Comets?

- ◆ Comets or "dirty snowballs" are mostly made of dust, rocks and ice, the remnants from time the solar system was formed over 4.6 billion years ago. In the distant
- ◆ The word comet comes from the Latin word "Cometa" which means "long-haired" and the earliest known record of a comet sighting was made by an astrologer in 1059 BC.
- ◆ Comets can range in their width from a few miles to tens of miles wide. As they orbit closer to the sun, like in the case of C/2020 F3, they heat up and release debris



past, people thought of comets as "long-haired" stars that would appear unpredictably in the sky.

of dust and gases that forms into a "glowing head" that can often be larger than a planet.

- ◆ Astronomers study comets since they believe that they hold important clues about the formation of the solar system and it is possible that comets brought water and other organic compounds, which are the building blocks of life to Earth.

- ◆ Comets do not have light of their own and what humans are able to see from Earth is the reflection of the sun's light off the comet as well as the energy released by the gas molecules after it is absorbed from the sun. The visibility of a comet cannot be precisely predicted since a lot depends on the way the "outbursts" of gas and dust play out determining how much of a "good show" the comet will put out for observers.

03

Rewa Solar Power Plant

- ◆ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has dedicated the 750- megawatt Rewa solar Power Plant in Madhya Pradesh to the nation on July 10. The solar plant was set up by the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited, a joint venture between Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited and the Centre's Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The project has also received Rs 138 crore financial assistance from the central government.

About the Plant

- ◆ The project has three solar power generating units of 250 MW that



are located on a 500-hectare plot of land inside a 1,500-hectare solar park. Mahindra Renewables Pvt, Arinsun Clean Energy Pvt, and ACME Jaipur Solar Power Pvt are the three companies that bagged the mandate to build the three generating units, with a bulk of the equipment for it coming from China.

- ◆ International Finance Corporation, a World Bank group company, has invested close to \$440 million or

Rs 2,800 crore in the project and Power Grid Corporation of India has developed the 220/400 KV inter-state transmission system under green corridor to facilitate evacuation of power from the project site to consumers.

- ◆ This is the first solar project in India where different categories of customers have contracted to buy power — Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Limited (which will get 76 per cent of the

power from the plant) and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC being an open access consumer). It is also the first project to get funding from The World Bank and Clean Technology Fund in India.

Significance

- ◆ The 750-MW solar plant is quite large in terms of scale, and is expected to reduce the country's emission drastically, by an amount equivalent to 15 lakh tonne of carbon dioxide annually.

Status

- ◆ While it is one of the largest single-site solar power plants in India, it is not the largest in Asia. The distinction of the world's second largest photovoltaic power station goes to the Bhadla Solar Park, with a capacity of 2,245 MW, in Jodhpur district in Rajasthan, and the Pavagada Solar Park in Tumkur district, Karnataka, which has a capacity of 2,050 MW. According to data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance, there are nine solar plants that are bigger than the one at Rewa. 

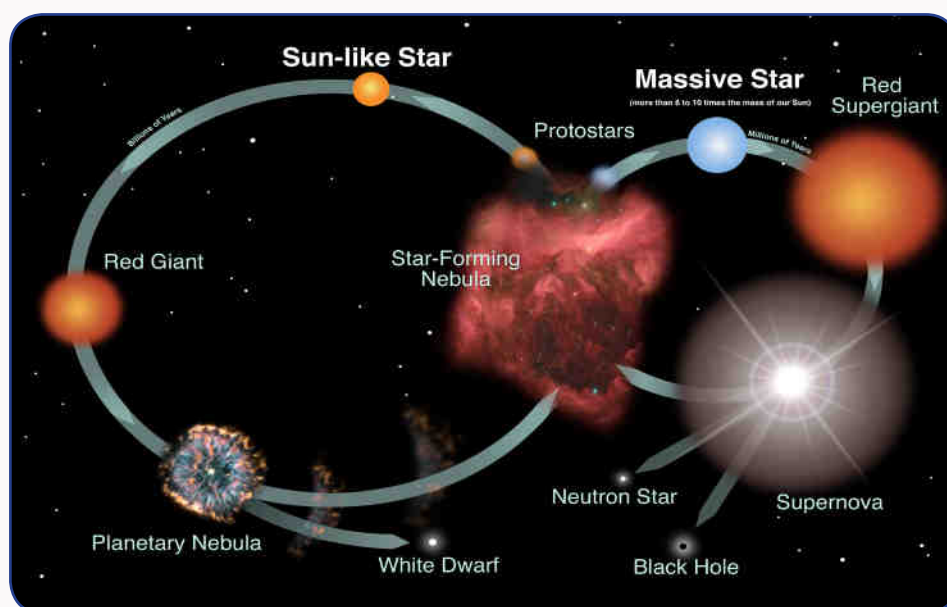
04

Carbon from Stars

- ◆ A new study has provided new insights on the origins of the carbon in our galaxy. Published in 'Nature Astronomy' by an international team of researchers, the study is an analysis of white dwarfs — the dense remnants of a star after its death. Carbon is essential for life: It is the simple building block of all the complex organic molecules that organisms need. It is known that all the carbon in the Milky Way came from dying stars that ejected the element into their surroundings. What has remained debated, however, is what kind of stars made the major contribution.

Key Findings

- ◆ The researchers analysed a few white dwarfs belonging to open star clusters of the Milky Way. They measured the masses of the white dwarfs, derived their masses at birth, and from there calculated the "initial-final mass relation" — a key astrophysical measure that integrates information of the entire life cycles of stars.



- ◆ So far, stars born roughly 1.5 billion of years ago in our galaxy were thought to have produced white dwarfs about 60-65% the mass of our Sun. Instead, they were found to have died leaving behind more massive compact remnants, about 70-75% solar masses.
- ◆ The researchers drew their conclusions about the size range for the stars that contributed carbon to the Milky Way. Stars more massive than 2 solar masses,

too, contributed to the galactic enrichment of carbon. Stars less massive than 1.65 solar masses did not. In other words 1.65-Msun (1.65 times the mass of the Sun) represents the minimum mass for a star to spread its carbon-rich ashes upon death.

- ◆ Both sources (low-mass and massive stars) likely contributed, in different proportions (still uncertain).

How does Carbon Come from Stars?

- Most stars — except the most massive ones — are doomed to turn into white dwarfs. When the massive ones die, they go with a spectacular bang known as the supernova. Both low-mass and massive stars eject their ashes into the surroundings before they end their lives. And these ashes contain many different chemical elements, including carbon.

- Both in low-mass stars and in massive stars carbon is synthesised in their deep and hot interiors through the triple-alpha reaction, that is the fusion of three helium nuclei.
- In low-mass stars the newly synthesised carbon is transported to the surface (from the interiors) via gigantic bubbles of gas and from there injected into the cosmos through stellar winds. Massive stars enrich the interstellar

medium with carbon mostly before the supernova explosion, when they also experience powerful stellar winds.

Debate

- What astrophysicists debate is whether the carbon in the Milky Way originated from low-mass stars before they became white dwarfs, or from the winds of massive stars before they exploded as supernovae. The new research suggested that white dwarfs may shed more light on carbon's origin in the Milky Way.



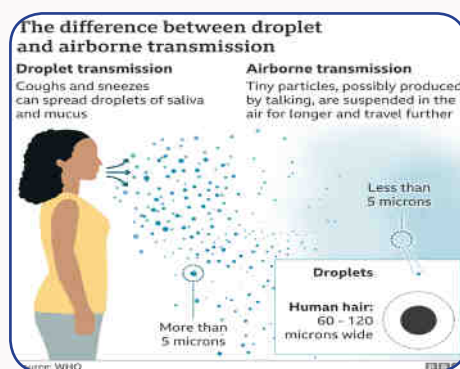
05

Coronavirus can be Airborne Indoors : WHO

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published an updated version of its March 29 scientific brief, 'Modes of transmission of virus causing COVID-19: implications for infection prevention and control (IPC) precaution recommendation. In the brief, the WHO has formally acknowledged the possibility that the novel coronavirus can remain in the air in crowded indoor spaces, where "short-range aerosol transmission... cannot be ruled out".

Background

- The updated brief has come three days after a group of 239 scientists from 32 countries has published a commentary titled 'It is Time to Address Airborne Transmission of COVID-19', in which they issued an "appeal to the medical community and to the relevant national and international bodies to recognize the potential for airborne spread of COVID-19".



Key Highlights

- Referring to several recent studies, the WHO has said that some outbreaks that have occurred in crowded indoor spaces suggest "the possibility of aerosol transmission", although "combined with droplet transmission". Such situations have arisen "during choir practice, in restaurants or in fitness classes". According to the WHO, "in these events, short-range aerosol transmission, particularly in specific indoor locations, such as crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces over a prolonged period of time with infected persons cannot be ruled out".
- The WHO brief still says that "the detailed investigations of these clusters suggest that droplet

and fomite transmission could also explain human-to-human transmission within these clusters". Fomite transmission on the other hand, refers to transmission through infected surfaces — such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, phones, switches, pens, keyboards and, if not disinfected, even a doctor's stethoscope.

- Transmission through respiratory droplets — when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or sings — is still understood to be the primary mode of transmission of the virus.

About Aerosols

- In common understanding, aerosol is a term used to broadly refer to particles suspended in the air; they could include fine dust, mist, or smoke. In the context of transmission of viruses, as in this case, aerosols are read as micro droplets, much smaller (5 microns or less) than respiratory droplets, and take a longer time to drop to the floor. They will be expelled by people breathing, laughing or singing, as against respiratory droplets that are expelled with forceful acts such as sneezing or coughing.



06

Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary

- ◆ The Assam government has decided to upgrade Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary into a national park. The announcement comes just months after the National Board of Wildlife's (NBWL) conditional clearance to a coal mining project by Coal India Limited (CIL) in the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve sparked a spate of virtual protests in the state. Subsequently, North Eastern Coalfields (NEC), the CIL subsidiary, temporarily suspended all mining operations in the region.



Benefits

- ◆ The national park status will guarantee better management and protection of the flora and fauna of Dehing Patkai which forms the largest stretch of lowland rainforest in the country. The flow of more funds is expected to boost its infrastructure.
- ◆ While wildlife sanctuaries are protected areas which permit some activities such as grazing, experts say national parks call for a complete protection status under The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Some human activities can be allowed inside a wildlife sanctuary,

but no human activity is allowed in a national park.

What is a National Park?

- ◆ An area, whether within a sanctuary or not, can be notified by the state government to be constituted as a National Park, by reason of its ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, or zoological association or importance, needed to for the purpose of protecting & propagating or developing wildlife therein or its environment. No human activity is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state under the conditions given in CHAPTER IV, WPA 1972.
- ◆ There are 104 existing national parks in India covering an area of 40501.13 km², which is 1.23% of the geographical area of the country (National Wildlife Database, May, 2019).



About Sanctuary

- ◆ The 111.942 sq km Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is located within the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, which spreads across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar) and is believed to be the last remaining contiguous patch of lowland rainforest area in Assam. It is home to 47 mammal, 47 reptile, and 310 butterfly species.

07

Mongolian Kanjur Manuscripts

- ◆ The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur

under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). The first set of five volumes of Mongolian

Kanjur published under the NMM. It is expected that all the 108 volumes of the Mongolian Kanjur will be published by March, 2022.



About Mongolian Kanjur

- ◆ Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular. It is held

in high esteem by the Mongolian Buddhists and they worship the Kanjur at temples and recite the lines of Kanjur in daily life as a sacred ritual. The Kanjur are kept almost in every monastery in Mongolia. Mongolian Kanjur has been translated from Tibetan. The language of the Kanjur is Classical Mongolian. The Mongolian Kanjur is a source of providing a cultural identity to Mongolia.

India and Mongolia Cultural Relation

- ◆ Historical interaction between India and Mongolia goes back centuries. Buddhism was carried to

Mongolia by Indian cultural and religious ambassadors during the early Christian era. As a result, today, Buddhists form the single largest religious denomination in Mongolia. India established formal diplomatic relations with Mongolia in 1955. Since then, the overwhelming relationship between both the countries has now reached a new height. Now, the publication of Mongolian Kanjur by the Government of India for the Government of Mongolia will act as a symbol of cultural symphony between India and Mongolia and will contribute to

furtherance of bilateral relations during the coming years.

About NMM

- ◆ The National Mission for Manuscripts was launched in February 2003 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, with the mandate of documenting, conserving and disseminating the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts. One of the objectives of the mission is to publish rare and unpublished manuscripts so that the knowledge enshrined in them is spread to researchers, scholars and general public at large. 

7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



01

What is non-personal data? Discuss the privacy concerns related to non-personal data in India.

02

A progressive and democratic society and an aspiring economic superpower cannot be policed by a regressive system. Therefore, a national curriculum framework for police education and training is needed. Do you agree? Give examples.

03

COVID-19 has highlighted the vulnerable welfare net for poor in India. Discuss why India needs to expand existing welfare net for poor.

04

"A democracy is not a proper democracy unless it safeguards minorities. And if the minorities are also poor, the protection becomes even more necessary." Discuss it in the context of both India and USA, as they are facing similar internal challenges.

05

In countering China, India should go back to its strength of reaching out to people of other civilisations, emphasising cultural affinities with them. Discuss.

06

What do you understand by 'bad bank'? Discuss the importance of bad bank in Indian scenario.

07

Skill development and reinventing Indian workforce in times of COVID-19 holds the key to deal with structural issues in the economy. Elaborate.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)

01

RANK SCORE	
1 Australia	92.4
2 Korea	83.4
3 Japan	80.3
4 Spain	78.1
5 France	69.7
6 Thailand	65.2
7 Indonesia	57.4
8 India	51.6
9 Vietnam	44.5
10 Philippines	42.6

Average 65.5

* Normalised scores 0-100 where 100 is most prepared
** Low (50.1-70)

03



05



01

What is the rank of India on the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) index on "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control"?

8th

02

Which ministry has launched artificial intelligence (AI) -based 'ASEEM' (Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping) portal to help skilled workforce find suitable jobs?

Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

03

What is the theme of India Global Week 220?

"Be The Revival: India and a Better New World."

04

Which ministry has launched "India Cycles4Change Challenge" initiative to inspire Indian cities to implement quick cycling-friendly interventions in the wake of COVID-19?

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

05

When is the 'World Population Day' observed across the world?

11th July

06

Which state government has constituted a five-member commission to decide rightful beneficiaries of Rabari, Bharwad and Charan castes residing in the Ness areas of Gir, Barda, and Aalech forests?

Gujarat

07

Which country has dropped India from Chahbahar Rail Project?

Iran

7

IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



01



03



05

01

"Children must be taught how to think, what to think."

Margaret Mead

02

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learnt in school."

Albert Einstein

03

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet."

Abraham Lincoln

04

"To live fully, we must use things and love people, not love things and use people."

Powel John

05

"There is higher courts than courts of justice and that is conscience."

Mahatma Gandhi

06

"Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world."

Hillary Clinton

07

"Poverty is like a punishment for a crime you didn't commit."

Eli Khamarov

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.

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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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