

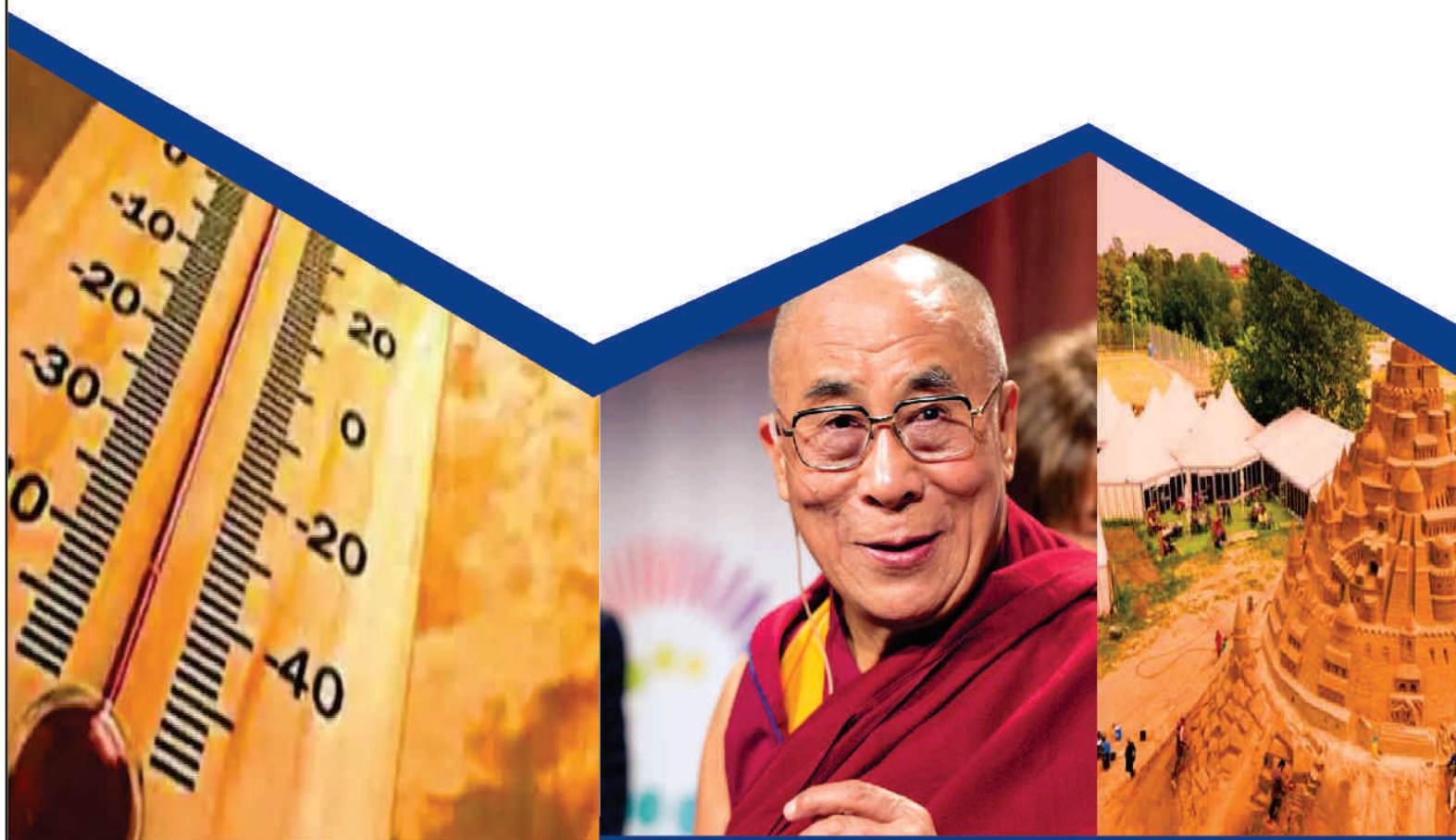
The Best Weekly Current Affairs Magazine for Civil Services Exam

PERFECT

7

Weekly Current Affairs

July ☉ 2021 | ISSUE ☉ 02



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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

OUR TEAM

Founder & CEO	➤ Vinay Kumar Singh
Managing Director	➤ Q. H.Khan
Chief Editor	➤ Qurban Ali
Managing Editor	➤ Ashutosh Singh
Editors	➤ Omveer Singh Chaudhary ➤ Jeet Singh ➤ Avaneesh Pandey
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Weekly Current Affairs

July 2021 | ISSUE 02

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(Ex. Editor Rajya Sabha, TV) & by Team Dhyeya IAS
(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

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GS Paper-1

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

1. Severe Heat Waves in Canada and United States

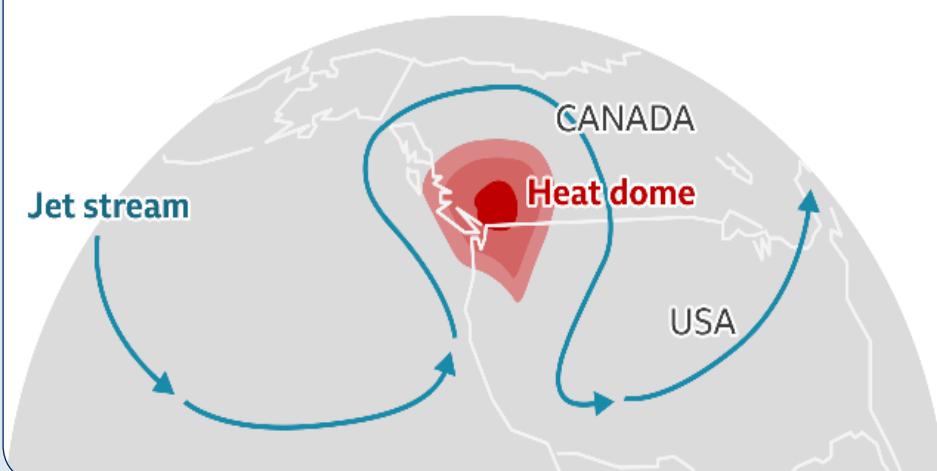
Why in News?

- ◆ Millions of people in Canada and the United States are reeling under severe heat waves. The weather is due to heat dome, a climate phenomenon behind sudden rise in temperatures.

What is Heat Dome?

- ◆ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US Department of Commerce describes a heat dome as a weather phenomenon that occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap.
- ◆ The phenomenon begins when there is a strong change (or gradient) in ocean temperatures. In the process known as convection, the gradient causes more warm air, heated by the ocean surface, to rise over the ocean surface.
- ◆ As prevailing winds move the hot air east, the northern shifts of the jet stream trap the air and move it toward land, where it sinks, resulting in heat waves.
- ◆ The condition also prevents clouds from forming, allowing for more radiation from the sun to hit the ground.
- ◆ A heat dome lasts for a week typically. The standing air dome falls over after it becomes too big and releases the trapped air.

Heat dome diverts the jet stream - which in turn holds it in place



What is Heat Wave?

- ◆ A heat wave is a period of unusually hot weather that lasts for more than two days.
- ◆ Heat waves can occur with or without high humidity and have the potential to cover a large area, “exposing a high number of people to hazardous heat.”

Climate Change and Heat Domes

- ◆ The weather scientists have been highlighting the effects of rising temperature (climate change) on more extreme heat waves. In decades to come, the climate scientists expect more days of severe heat wave.

- ◆ However, it cannot be said for sure if the heat wave is a direct result of global warming.
- ◆ According to the updated review of scientific articles, human-induced climate change promotes the conditions on which wildfires depend, enhancing their likelihood and challenging suppression efforts.
- ◆ Similarly, scientists who have been studying the climate tend to agree that the heat waves occurring today are more likely to be a result of climate change for which humans are responsible.

GS Paper-2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

1. Creation of a Legislative Council in West Bengal

Why in News?

- ◆ The West Bengal Assembly has passed a resolution supporting an Ad-hoc committee report that favoured the creation of a legislative council.

What are the Legislative Councils?

- ◆ India has a bicameral system i.e., two Houses of Parliament.
- ◆ At the state level, the equivalent of the Lok Sabha is the Vidhan Sabha or Legislative Assembly; that of the Rajya Sabha is the Vidhan Parishad or Legislative Council.
- ◆ Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.

States with Legislative Councils

- ◆ As of today, six states have Legislative Councils.
- ◆ These are Bihar (58), Uttar Pradesh (100), Maharashtra (78), Karnataka (75), Andhra Pradesh (58) and Telangana (40).

How are Members of the Council Elected?

- ◆ Although its membership may vary in each state, the Legislative Council

must not have more than a third of the total membership of the Assembly of that state, and in no case fewer than 40 members.

- ◆ About 1/3rd of members are elected by members of the Assembly (MLAs), another 1/3rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state, 1/12th by an electorate consisting of teachers, and 1/12th by registered graduates.
- ◆ The remaining members are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement, and social service.
- ◆ The Legislative Councils are permanent Houses, and like Rajya Sabha, one-third of their members retire every two years.

Arguments in-favour

- ◆ A second House of legislature is considered important for two reasons:
 - one, to act as a check on hasty actions by the popularly elected House, and
 - two, to ensure that individuals who might not be cut out for the rough-and-tumble of direct elections too are able to contribute to the legislative process.

Argument against

- ◆ Opposition to the idea of Legislative Councils is centred on three broad arguments.
 - One, they can be used to park leaders who have not been able to win an election.
 - Two, they can be used to delay progressive legislation.
 - Three, they would strain state finances.

Legislative Councils vis-à-vis Rajya Sabha

- ◆ The legislative power of the Councils is limited.
- ◆ Unlike Rajya Sabha which has substantial powers to shape non-financial legislation, Legislative Councils lack a constitutional mandate to do so; Legislative Assemblies can override suggestions/amendments made to a legislation by the Council.
- ◆ Also, while Rajya Sabha MPs can vote in the election of the President and Vice-President, members of Legislative Councils can't. MLCs also can't vote in the elections of Rajya Sabha members.
- ◆ The Vice President is the Rajya Sabha Chairperson; an MLC is the Council Chairperson.

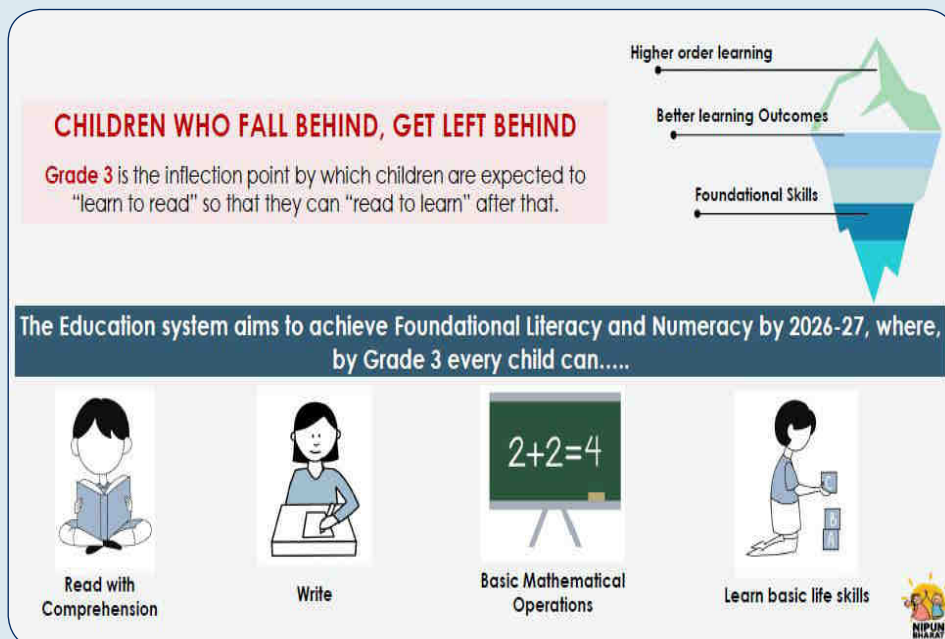
2. NIPUN Bharat Programme

Why in News?

- ◆ The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched a National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat).

Key Highlights

- ◆ The vision of NIPUN Bharat Mission is to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
 - NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- ◆ The National Education Policy 2020 has laid down that attaining foundational literacy and numeracy for all children must become an immediate national mission.
 - In keeping with this, the Department has developed a comprehensive guideline under NIPUN Bharat, through a series of intensive consultations with implementing partners, experts to make it flexible and collaborative.
- ◆ NIPUN Bharat will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy and a five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the National- State- District-Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
- ◆ This Mission will focus on providing access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling; teacher capacity building; development



- ◆ of high quality and diversified Student and Teacher Resources/Learning Materials; and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes.
- ◆ The success of NIPUN Bharat will primarily depend on teachers, so, there will be a special emphasis on capacity building of teachers.
 - A special package for foundational literacy and Numeracy under NISHTHA is being developed by NCERT and around 25 lakh teachers teaching at pre-primary to primary grade will be trained this year on FLN.
- ◆ used in classroom transaction thereby making learning a joyful and engaging activity.
- ◆ Intensive capacity building of teachers will make them empowered and provide greater autonomy for choosing the pedagogy.
- ◆ Holistic development of the child by focusing on different domains of development like physical and motor development, socio-emotional development, literacy and numeracy development, cognitive development, life skills etc. which are interrelated and interdependent, which will be reflected in a Holistic Progress Card.
- ◆ Children to achieve steeper learning trajectory which may have positive impacts on later life outcomes and employment.
- ◆ Since almost every child attends early grades, therefore, focus at that stage will also benefit the socio-economic disadvantaged group thus ensuring access to equitable and inclusive quality education.

Expected Outcomes

- ◆ Foundational skills enable to keep children in class thereby reducing the dropouts and improve transition rate from primary to upper primary and secondary stages.
- ◆ Activity based learning and conducive learning environment will improve quality of education.
- ◆ Innovative pedagogies such as toy-based and experiential learning will be

3. 'India Out' Campaign in Maldives

Why in News?

- ◆ Recently, India has reacted to the 'India Out' campaign in the Maldives.
- ◆ The Indian High Commission in the Maldives has sought government action and greater security following what it calls "recurring articles and social media posts attacking the dignity of the High Commission" and diplomats posted in the country.

Anti-Indian Sentiments

- ◆ Since the Solih administration came to power in November 2018, reports are being published in Maldives media alleging that the incumbent government is allowing India to establish a military base in the island by signing secret agreements, in exchange for financial assistance or other material benefits.
- ◆ This allegation is made against the government because the coalition partners in the current government reached out to the government of India as united opposition during the Presidency of Abdulla Yameen, under whose tenure India-Maldives relations declined significantly.
- ◆ Leader of the current ruling party Mohamed Nasheed urged India to intervene militarily to restore peace and democracy in 2018.
- ◆ As the relations between India and the Maldives were restored and strengthened under President Solih, the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) of former President Abdulla Yameen and its coalition partner People's National Congress (PNC) are trying to mobilise people against the current government by spreading misleading propaganda against India.

'India Out' Campaign

- ◆ 'India Out' campaign was launched by the opposition coalition PPM and

PNC both on the street as well as on social media demanding the expulsion of Indian military personnel present in the country.

- ◆ The most active person in the #India Out campaign in social media Ahmed Azaan is the co-founder of Dhiyares and its sister newspaper The Maldives Journal (TMJ), which carry news and reports since December 2020.
- ◆ The two online media mostly carry anti-India and anti-government news and reports.

Arguments behind the Campaign

- ◆ According to supporters of the anti-India protests, the Indian military presence on the island has increased since the Solih administration came into power.
- ◆ It is alleged that the Indian military operates two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft under a secret deal established between the two countries. Military interests were perceived by 'India Out' campaigners behind India's intention of opening up an Indian consulate in the Addu City and setting up a police academy with Indian assistance.
- ◆ It is also claimed that India will have exclusive rights over the coastguard dockyard at UTF. The agreement between India and the Maldives on the hydrographic survey was criticised arguing that the agreement allows India to access underwater information and sell the information to others.
- ◆ However, both India and the Maldivian government have responded against these allegations.

Impact

- ◆ As long as the Solih Government is in power, it is unlikely that there will



be any significant impact on bilateral relations due to the ongoing anti-India protests.

- But if the current regime fails to come back to power in 2024, and the PPM-PNC coalition, which is backing the 'IndiaOut' campaign, comes into power, India-Maldives relations are likely to decline as was the case during 2013-18.
- ◆ As India has made heavy investments in the Maldives, an unfriendly party in power in case of defeat of the MDP in the future elections would go against India's interests.
- It is, therefore, important for India to sensitise the people of Maldives about the hateful campaigns going against it on baseless assumptions, so that common people are aware of the fact.
- Maintaining silence on such campaigns for long, even though not supported and encouraged by the incumbent government, might facilitate the anti-India constituency an opportunity to validate their assumptions.

4. Draft Anti-trafficking Bill

Why in News?

- ◆ The Ministry of Women and Child Welfare has released the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021.

Key Points of the Bill

- ◆ The law will apply to all citizens of India, within and outside the country, persons on any ship or aircraft registered in India wherever it may be or carrying Indian citizens wherever they may be, and a foreign national or a stateless person who has residence in India, and the law will apply to every offence of trafficking in persons with cross-border implications.
- ◆ Once the bill becomes an Act, the central government will notify and set up a National Anti Trafficking Committee, while state governments will set up these committees at state and district levels to ensure effective implementation.
- ◆ The scope of the Bill vis a vis offenders will also include defence personnel and government servants, doctors and paramedical staff or anyone in a position of authority.

- ◆ Exploitation has been defined to include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation including pornography, any act of physical exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or forced removal of organs, illegal clinical drug trials or illegal biomedical research.

- ◆ The Bill also extends beyond the protection of women and children as victims to now include transgenders as well as any person who may be a victim of trafficking and also does away with the provision that a victim necessarily needs to be transported from one place to another to be defined as a victim.

- ◆ A minimum of seven years which can go up to an imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of Rs 5 lakh in most cases of child trafficking.

- In case of the trafficking of more than one child, the penalty is now life imprisonment.

- ◆ In case of the death of the victim, the bill proposes life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 30 lakh.

- The Bill also proposed imprisonment

upto 20 years and death penalty for the offenders found guilty.

- ◆ The Bill also said that the investigation needs to be completed within 90 days from the date of the arrest of the accused.

Criticism

- ◆ There are laws already in place on 'forced labour' and 'sexual exploitation'.

- There is now a lot of overlapping. The law does not clarify which law is to apply. There should have been one comprehensive code, repealing all previous laws.

- ◆ Another expert said while Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with trafficking already, the present bill has made some improvements.

- The draft Bill provides for rehabilitation and prevention which was not there in 370, economic sanctions and treating them under PMLA are also improvements. However putting the burden on the NIA is not ideal as it is already thinly manned.

5. Turkey Quits Istanbul Convention

Why in News?

- ◆ Turkey's exit from Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women on July 1 has received severe criticism from various quarters and has led to protests across the country.

What is the Istanbul Convention?

- ◆ The Council of Europe established the Istanbul Convention, a human rights treaty, with the aim to prevent and prosecute all forms of violence against

women, promote gender equality and ensure protection and rehabilitation of women who are victims of violence.

- ◆ The treaty was opened for ratification in May 2011. From the European Union, 34 countries signed this treaty.

- ◆ On November 24, 2011, Turkey became the first country to ratify the Istanbul convention and, on March 8, 2012, it incorporated the Istanbul Convention into domestic law.

- ◆ This treaty is a unique legal instrument to tackle violence against women. It covers not only domestic violence but other forms of violence against women including psychological and physical abuse, sexual harassment, rape, crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour", stalking, and forced marriage.

- ◆ The Convention requires states to implement a comprehensive array of practical measures to prevent violence

against women, to protect the victims and to prosecute the perpetrators.

Reasons behind Withdrawal

- ◆ Even though the official gazette did not include the reason for Turkey's withdrawal, some officials of Erdogan's nationalist party claimed that the convention demeans traditional family structure, promotes divorces and encourages acceptance of LGBTQ in the society.

Problem of Violence against Women in Turkey

- ◆ Violence against women and honour killings are persistent in Turkey. The country ranks 133 out of 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap report 2021.
- ◆ According to the World Health Organization data, 38% of women in Turkey are subject to violence from a

partner in their lifetime, compared to about 25% in Europe.

- ◆ A report by KAGIDER (Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey) states that violence against women and femicides were concerning high even before Turkey ditched the convention.
- ◆ The issue of violence against women, and especially femicide, in Turkey rose to prominence last year as well, when Turkish women's rights activists claimed the black and white challenge on Instagram as a way of calling attention to Turkey's alarming femicide rates.

Reactions from International Community

- ◆ United Nations - "Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention would undermine the significant efforts

invested so far to prevent and combat violence against women and may hinder progress towards further strengthening of national legislative, policy and institutional frameworks."

- ◆ Amnesty International - "The withdrawal sends a reckless and dangerous message to perpetrators who abuse, maim and kill: that they can carry on doing so with impunity."
- ◆ United States - US President Biden has described the move as "disappointing" and a "disheartening" step backward in the fight to end violence against women.
- ◆ Germany - German foreign ministry said, "Neither cultural nor religious nor other national traditions can serve as an excuse for ignoring violence against women."

6. Child Soldier Recruiter List of the United States

Why in News?

- ◆ The United States of America has added Pakistan and 14 other countries to a Child Soldier Recruiter List.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The US Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA) requires the publication in the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report a list of foreign governments that have recruited or used child soldiers during the previous year (April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021).
- ◆ The countries which have been added to the annual TIP list of the US State Department this year are: Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen.

- ◆ The United Nations, too, has identified the recruitment and use of child soldiers as among six "grave violations" affecting children in war and has established numerous monitoring and reporting mechanisms and initiatives to combat this practice. The UN verified that over 7,000 children had been recruited and used as soldiers in 2019 alone.

Who is a Child Soldier?

- ◆ The recruitment or use of children below the age of 15 as soldiers is prohibited by both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions, and is considered a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- ◆ In 2000, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention

on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. While the CRC requires states to refrain from using children under 15 in direct hostilities, the Optional Protocol raises this age to 18.

- ◆ It also includes any such person who is serving in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard or sex slave.
- ◆ Currently, 193 countries have ratified the CRC. The CRC requires state parties to "take all feasible measures" to ensure that children under 18 are not engaged in direct hostilities. It further prohibits the state parties from recruiting children under 15 into the armed forces.

Impact on Countries in the List

- ◆ The following types of security assistance are prohibited for countries that are in the list:

- ❑ Licenses for direct commercial sales of military equipment;
- ❑ Foreign military financing for the purchase of defense articles and services, as well as design and construction services;
- ❑ International military education and training;
- ❑ Excess defense articles; and
- ❑ Peacekeeping operations;
- ◆ The countries will also not be eligible for the US Department of Defence's "train and equip" authority for building the capacity of foreign defense forces.

Criticism

- ◆ International treaties and instruments, such as the CRC and its Optional Protocol regarding children in armed conflict, are valuable and necessary tools to establish international norms as they raise awareness regarding human rights abuses.
- ❑ However, these treaties are limited in scope and nature, and they tend to be idealistic rather than practicable. The UN's mechanisms only bind state parties that ratify the treaties. It therefore has no authority over countries that are not parties to the convention or are non-state entities, such as rebel militias recruiting

child soldiers.

- ◆ It also relies on the signatories themselves to implement its doctrines and prevent human rights abuses around the world. Therefore, most of the responsibility in preventing such abuses lies with the individual countries themselves.
- ◆ While the UN views its treaties and conventions as binding on state parties, it has no police power mechanism to enforce its decisions. Therefore, the CRC and its Optional Protocol are limited by the signatories' willingness to comply. Somalia, for example, is a signatory but it hasn't ratified the convention.

7. White Flag Campaign in Malaysia

Why in News?

- ◆ In Malaysia, some residents of low-income families have started waving white flags as part of the so-called "White Flag Campaign", or the #benderaputi (white flag) movement.
- ◆ They are doing this to convey distress about the financial crunch they have had to deal with amid the lockdowns due to Covid-19.

Key Points

- ◆ As part of the movement, families that are facing hunger or need any other kind of assistance are encouraged to wave a white flag or put a piece of white cloth outside their homes to signal that they need help. The idea is that by spotting the white flag, neighbours and good samaritans can reach them.
- ◆ Alongside the white flag movement, there is the black flag movement as well, in order to express dissatisfaction with the Malaysian government. Specifically, this movement is demanding that Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin resign.

- ◆ There is yet another movement called the red flag campaign or #benderamerah that works in the same way as the white flag movement, but the difference is that the former is targeted at Malaysian citizens only and was started by the Malaysian Animal Association as many families were abandoning pets they couldn't afford to feed.



Other Movements with White Flags

- ◆ Malaysians are not alone in signalling their distress and food insecurity amid the pandemic through this symbol.
- ◆ In 2020, some Central American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have used white flags all over the social terrain as indictments of a failed political and economic system whose primary effect for common people has been enduring a life of dehumanization, precarity, and marginalization.

Corona Situation in Malaysia

- ◆ Malaysia, a country of about 32 million people, has had a little under 8 lakh total cases till July 6.
- ◆ The country has recorded more than 5,600 Covid deaths and, while still comparatively low, daily fatalities have risen steadily from less than 20 in the first wave to a little less than 100 during the second wave.
- ◆ The country has also been under a state of emergency since January in view of the pandemic.

GS Paper-3

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

1. Cities on River Banks to Incorporate River Conservation Plans

Why in News?

- ◆ A policy document from the National Mission for Clean Ganga has urged cities situated on river banks to incorporate river conservation plans when they prepare their Master Plans.

Key Recommendations

- ◆ The document said that these “river-sensitive” plans must be practical and consider questions of encroachment and land ownership.
- ◆ According to the document, there is a need for a systematic rehabilitation plan for such encroaching entities that emphasizes on alternative livelihood options in addition to a relocation strategy.
- ◆ Planners should make every attempt to engage with such entities during the preparation of the Master Plan in order to develop empathetic and humane solutions.
- ◆ The recommendations are currently for towns that are on the main stem of the river Ganga. There are, as per the estimate of the policy document, 97 of them encompassing 5 States — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.
- ◆ The Master Plan shouldn't mandate specific technologies, but it can “create an environment” for facilitating the use of state-of-the-art technologies (without naming the providers) for river management. These include satellite-based monitoring of water quality; artificial intelligence for riverine biodiversity mapping; big data and citizen science for river-health monitoring; unmanned aerial vehicles for floodplain mapping, etc. are being used across the world successfully.
- ◆ The plan must also clarify on landownership. A key aspect of conserving and protecting river and riverine resources involves increasing green cover in the vicinity of the river by creating green buffers, removing concrete structures and employing “green infrastructure.”
 - However, implementing such solutions will require restrictions on the Floor Area Ratio, ground coverage and setting limits on the maximum permissible heights of buildings.
- ◆ Cities with an ongoing Master Plan tenure, ought to be conducting an “immediate analysis” of the extent to which these the river guidelines could have been adopted and this “will help” in incorporating the appropriate revisions when the current Plan is reviewed.



- ◆ About National Mission for Clean Ganga
- ◆ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- ◆ It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.
- ◆ NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).

2. Revenge Travel

Why in News?

- ◆ Amid massive footfall of tourists thronging hill stations, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has warned that the phenomenon of “revenge travel” can jeopardise the gains and create fresh COVID-19 cases even as the country is struggling with the waning second wave to restart economic activities.

What is Revenge Travel?

- ◆ Revenge travel or revenge tourism, stems from a feeling of wanting to break free from the monotonous life of lockdowns. It is a product of another phenomenon called ‘lockdown-fatigue’, coined last year by AIIMS Delhi director Dr Randeep Guleria.
- ◆ The phenomenon of people around

the world traveling straight after COVID-19 restrictions are eased is not unique to India.

Dangers of Revenge Travel

- ◆ A recent online survey, quoted the Ministry of Health, reveals that a majority of Indians have failed to comply with COVID-appropriate behaviour. It says that around 83 percent have failed to fully comply while 63 percent do not maintain appropriate social distancing.
- ◆ In such a scenario, revenge travel has the potential to undo months of lockdown that broke the chain of COVID-19 spread.
- ◆ While there has been a 13 percent dip in India’s weekly average of 3 lakh new COVID-19 cases, at least 91 districts



are still reporting over 100 new cases every day.

- ◆ With new highly virulent variants like the Delta plus emerging, such behaviour could end up in catastrophic consequences as India recovers from the brutal second wave of the pandemic.

3. China declared Malaria-free by WHO

Why in News?

- ◆ China has been officially certified ‘malaria-free’ by the World Health Organization (WHO) recently.

Introduction

- ◆ As per the Global Malaria Report 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2019 an estimated 229 million malaria cases and 409,000 deaths in 87 malaria-endemic countries are recorded, with a large concentration of the total malaria burden (94%) in Africa. India shared 2% of the total global malaria cases in 2019.
- ◆ Since 1900, 127 countries have registered malaria elimination. In 2021, two countries El Salvador on February 25 and China on June 29 were declared malaria-free by the WHO.

- ◆ China has become the second country in the Asia Pacific region to get the tag, after Sri Lanka in 2016.
- ◆ China is also the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades. Other countries in the region that have achieved this status include Australia (1981), Singapore (1982) and Brunei Darussalam (1987).

China’s Efforts

- ◆ China has now maintained zero indigenous malaria cases for four consecutive years, down from an estimated 30 million cases and 300,000 deaths per year in the 1940s.
- ◆ China followed some specific strategies, namely strong surveillance following the ‘1-3-7’ system: malaria

diagnosis within 1 day, 3 days for case investigation and by day 7 for public health responses.

- ◆ Molecular Malaria Surveillance for drug resistance and genome-based approaches to distinguish between indigenous and imported cases was conducted.
- ◆ All borders to the neighbouring countries were thoroughly screened to prevent the entry of unwanted malaria into the country.

Current Scenario of Malaria in India

- ◆ India accounted for 88% of malaria cases and 86% of all malaria deaths in the WHO South-East Asia Region in 2019 and is the only country outside Africa among the world’s 11 ‘high burden to high impact’ countries.

- ◆ India is a signatory to National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030 aiming for malaria elimination by 2030.
- ◆ This framework has been outlined with a vision to eliminate the disease from the country which would contribute to improved health with quality of life and poverty alleviation.

Road Ahead for India

- ◆ The current approach for mass screening with Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) would not fulfil the basic purpose because these tests fail to detect <100 parasites/μL blood and

also the problem of deletion of certain diagnostic genes in the Plasmodium falciparum dominated areas.

- ◆ To overcome this, a microPCR-based point-of-care device that detects <5 parasites/μL blood can be used. The same technology is being used in Tuberculosis and COVID-19 diagnosis.
- ◆ Molecular Malaria Surveillance must be used to find out the drug-resistant variants and genetic-relatedness studies to find out the imported or indigenous cases.
- ◆ China collaborated with Harvard

University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA for Molecular Malaria Surveillance. In India, there are very dedicated expert scientists who can take up such assignments.

- ◆ The entire world is now facing the once in a century pandemic of COVID-19. This has resulted in an over 32% decline in total blood smear collection for malaria surveillance in 2020 in India compared to 2019. India has to quickly overcome this and make the elimination process back on track and put all efforts to make India malaria-free by 2030.

4. Anti-methanogenic Feed Supplement: Harit Dhara

Why in News?

- ◆ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute has developed an anti-methanogenic feed supplement 'Harit Dhara'.

Need

- ◆ Belching cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats in India emit an estimated 9.25 million tonnes (mt) to 14.2 mt of methane annually, out of a global total of 90 mt-plus from livestock.
- ◆ And given methane's global warming potential – 25 times of carbon dioxide (CO₂) over 100 years, making it a more potent greenhouse gas – that's cause for concern.

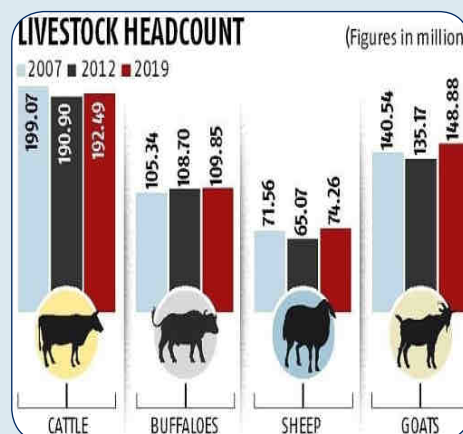
Proposed Benefits

- ◆ Harit Dhara not only cuts down their methane emissions by 17-20%, but also results in higher milk production and body weight gain.
- ◆ An average lactating cow or buffalo in India emits around 200 litres of methane per day, while it is 85-95 litres for young growing heifers and 20-25

litres for adult sheep. Feeding Harit Dhara can reduce these by a fifth.

Methane Produced by Animals

- ◆ Methane is produced by animals having rumen, the first of their four stomachs where the plant material they eat – cellulose, fibre, starch and sugars – gets fermented or broken down by microorganisms prior to further digestion and nutrient absorption.
- ◆ Carbohydrate fermentation leads to production of CO₂ and hydrogen. These are used as substrate by archaea – microbes in the rumen with structure similar to bacteria – to produce methane, which the animals then expel through burping.
- ◆ Harit Dhara acts by decreasing the population of protozoa microbes in the rumen, responsible for hydrogen production and making it available to the archaea for reduction of CO₂ to methane.
- ◆ Tropical plants containing tannins – bitter and astringent chemical compounds – are known to suppress or remove protozoa from the rumen.



India's Livestock

- ◆ The 2019 Livestock Census showed India's cattle population at 193.49 million, along with 109.85 million buffaloes, 148.88 million goats and 74.26 million sheep.
- ◆ Being largely fed on agricultural residues – wheat/paddy straw and maize, sorghum or bajra stover – ruminants in India tend to produce 50-100% higher methane than their industrialised country counterparts that are given more easily fermentable/digestible concentrates, silages and green fodder.

5. Virgin Galactic's Unity 22

Why in News?

- ◆ The Virgin Galactic rocket plane carrying company founder/billionaire Richard Branson and his crew returned back to Earth after a brief trip to the “edge of space”.
- ◆ For the first time, the rocket plan, called the Unity 22 mission, (marking the 22nd test flight for the VSS Unity spaceplane) carried a full crew of two pilots and four mission specialists, including Branson.
- ◆ Such a trip is called a “suborbital flight”.

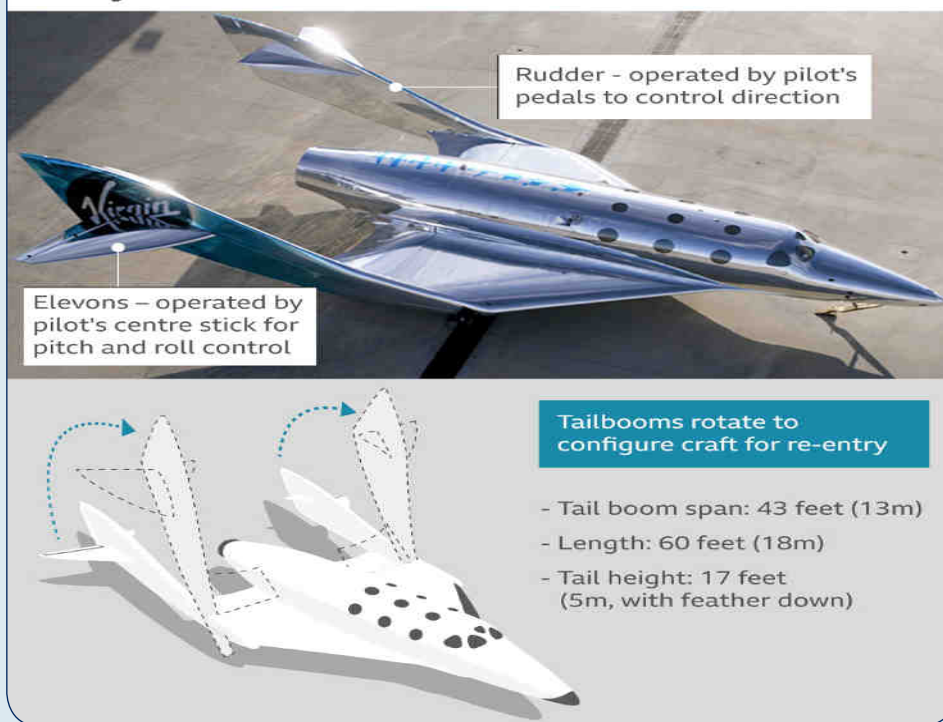
What is Suborbital?

- ◆ When an object travels at a horizontal speed of about 28,000 km/hr or more, it goes into orbit once it is above the atmosphere.
- ◆ Satellites need to reach that threshold speed in order to do orbit Earth. Such a satellite would be accelerating toward the Earth due to gravity. However, it moves fast enough that the Earth curves out from under it as fast as it falls, giving it a circular path.
- ◆ Any object travelling slower than 28,000 km/hr must eventually return to Earth.
- ◆ However, Branson's spacecraft travelled fast enough to reach a point far enough to be considered outer space. These are suborbital flights, because they will not be travelling fast enough to orbit Earth once they reach the “edge of space”.
- ◆ Such a trip allows space travellers to experience a few minutes of “weightlessness”.

Space Tourism Industry

- ◆ Space Tourism, currently in a nascent stage with just three private companies

Unity 'feather' mechanism



—Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic and SpaceX— in the fray, is about humans travelling to space for recreational activities.

- ◆ Among the three companies, Branson has become the first billionaire space entrepreneur to be part of the first fully-crewed spaceflight recently.
- ◆ Branson's Virgin Galactic Holdings, Inc. said it already has more than 600 reservations, priced between \$250,000 per ticket, and will begin commercial space trips in 2022.
- ◆ According to an earlier Reuters report, Blue Origin, the private spaceflight company founded by the richest person on planet Jeff Bezos is likely to charge at least \$200,000 for the ride, however, the company hasn't revealed its long-term pricing structure yet.
- ◆ Space Exploration Technologies Corp or SpaceX, founded by the second richest person on the planet Elon Musk, has already sent astronauts

and payloads to the ISS and the company has plans to launch an all-civilian in space in September. It also has plans to fly Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa around the moon on SpaceX's Big Falcon rocket in 2023 with seven other passengers.

Significance for India

- ◆ Sirisha Bandla, vice president of government affairs and research operations at Branson's Virgin Galactic, became the third woman of Indian origin — after NASA astronauts Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams — to fly to space.
- ◆ Branson, Sirisha, and four others — pilots David Mackay and Michael Masucci, Virgin Galactic's chief astronaut instructor Beth Moses, and lead operations engineer Colin Bennett — travelled to the edge of space before returning to earth aboard the Galactic Unity 22 spacecraft.

6. Project BOLD

Why in News?

- ◆ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a unique project named “Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought” (BOLD) from the tribal village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Under the project, 5000 saplings of special bamboospecies—BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- ◆ KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- ◆ Project BOLD is the first of its kind exercise in India which seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- ◆ The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC’s “Khadi Bamboo Festival” to celebrate 75 years of independence “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”.
- ◆ KVIC is set to replicate the Project at Village Dholera in Ahmedabad district in Gujarat and Leh-Ladakh region by August this year. Total 15,000 bamboo saplings will be planted before August 21.

Significance

- ◆ The green patches of bamboo on these 3 places will help in reducing the land degradation percentage of the country, while on the other hand, they will be havens of sustainable development and food security.
- ◆ The bamboo plantation program in Udaipur will boost self-employment in the region.



- ◆ Further, such projects will benefit a large number of women and unemployed youths in the region by connecting them to skill development programs.

Why Bamboo?

- ◆ KVIC has judiciously chosen bamboo for developing green patches.
- ◆ Bamboos grow very fast and in about three years' time, they could be harvested.
- ◆ Bamboos are also known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface, which is an important feature in arid and drought-prone regions.

Government Initiatives to Fight Desertification

- ◆ Various schemes have been launched by the Government of India to reduce land degradation such as:
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);
 - Soil Health Card Scheme;

- Soil Health Management Scheme;
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PKSY);
- Per Drop More Crop.

Global Initiatives to Fight Desertification

- ◆ The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- ◆ Goal 15 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 2030
- ◆ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda.
- ◆ In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared 17 June the "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" to promote public awareness and the implementation of the UNCCD in the desertification affected countries.

7. Memorandum on Cooperation between Competition Commission of India and Japan Fair Trade Commission

Why in News?

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum on Cooperation (MoC) between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) to promote and strengthen cooperation in the matter of Competition Law and Policy.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The approved MoC, through exchange of information, will enable CCI to emulate and learn from the experiences and lessons of its counterpart competition agency in Japan which would enhance efficiency.
- ◆ It will help improve enforcement of the Competition Act, 2002 by CCI. The resultant outcomes will benefit consumers at large and will promote equity and inclusiveness.
- ◆ It will also envisage to promote and strengthen cooperation in the matter of

Competition Law and policy through exchange of information as well as through various capacity building initiatives in the areas of technical cooperation, experience sharing and enforcement cooperation.

About CCI

- ◆ Competition Commission of India (CCI), statutory body, was established in March 2009 by Government of India under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of the Act.
- ◆ Objectives
 - Eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition
 - Promote and sustain competition
 - Protect the interests of consumers
 - Ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India
 - Establish a robust competitive environment through:

- Proactive engagement with all stakeholders, including consumers, industry, government and international jurisdictions.
- Being a knowledge intensive organization with high competence level.
- Professionalism, transparency, resolve and wisdom in enforcement.

About Competition Act, 2002

- ◆ The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws.
- ◆ The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

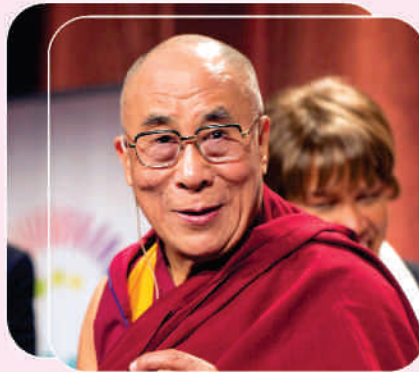


Persons of the Week

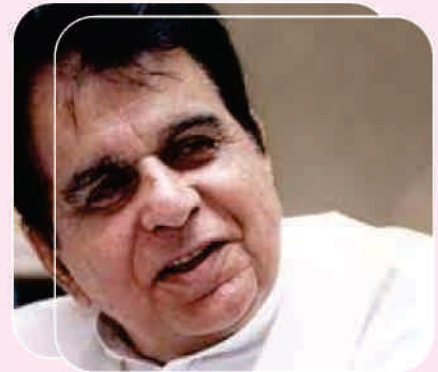
Swami Vivekananda



Dalai Lama



Dilip Kumar



Gulzarilal Nanda



Pingali Venkayya



Abhimanyu Mishra



Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh



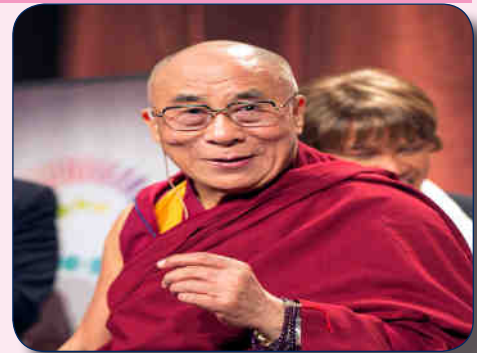
1. Swami Vivekananda

- ◆ July 4 marks the death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, India's respected spirituals leader.
- ◆ Born in Kolkata on January 12, 1863, Swami Vivekananda was known as Narendra Nath Datta in his pre-monastic life.
- ◆ He played an important role in introducing the philosophies of yoga and Vedanta to the West.
- ◆ He is best known for his speech at the World Parliament of Religion in Chicago in 1893 which started with the opening remarks, "My brothers and sisters of America."
- ◆ Vivekananda has been credited with raising interfaith awareness and bringing Hinduism to a global platform in the 19th century.



2. Dalai Lama

- ◆ The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, turns 86 on July 6.
- ◆ The Dalai Lama's birthday is celebrated as one of the grandest events of Tibetan community.
- ◆ The Dalai Lama is one of the important spiritual leaders within Buddhism. Buddhists believe that the Dalai Lama is a reincarnation of a kind of spiritual being called a bodhisattva, who chooses to be reborn over and over to share wisdom and help people.
- ◆ The 14th Dalai Lama has made the hillside town of Dharmasala in Himachal Pradesh his headquarters after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.



3. Dilip Kumar

- ◆ Dilip Kumar, who was popularly known as the tragedy king of Bollywood, passed away recently at the age of 98.
- ◆ Dilip Kumar was born in the Qissa Khawani Bazaar area of Peshawar (present day Pakistan) to Ayesha Begum and Lala Ghulam Sarwar Khan.
- ◆ Dilip Kumar is listed in the Guinness World Records for winning the maximum number of awards by an Indian actor. He is also credited as the first method actor in India. He was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
- ◆ Dilip Kumar was last seen in the 1998 film Qila.



4. Gulzarilal Nanda

- ◆ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has remembered former Prime Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda on his 128th birth anniversary. Gulzarilal Nanda was born on July 4, 1898 into a Punjabi Hindu family in Sialkot in the Punjab Province of British India.

- ◆ Gulzarilal Nanda was an Indian politician and economist who served as India's Prime Minister twice for thirteen days each, and was a member of the Indian National Congress.
- ◆ For his contribution, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1997.
- ◆ Gulzarilal Nanda was appointed as Prime Minister of India for the first time in 1964 following the death of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and the second time in 1966 after the death of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.



5. Pingali Venkayya

- ◆ India marked the 55th death anniversary of legendary freedom fighter and the man who designed the national flag, Pingali Venkayya on July 4.
- ◆ Born on August 2, 1876, in Andhra Pradesh, Pingali Venkayya is also known as 'Jhanda Venkaiah'.
- ◆ He had studied the flags of 30 countries before making the Indian tricolor flag.
- ◆ He did his research from the year 1916 to 1921 after which he designed the tricolor which got approval in the presence of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi in the Congress Committee meeting held in Vijayawada on March 31st and April 1st 1921.
- ◆ He joined the British Indian Army at the age of 19 and participated in the Anglo-Boer war in Africa.



6. Abhimanyu Mishra

- ◆ Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest chess grandmaster in chess history at 12 years, four months and 25 days beating the earlier record of Russian GM Sergey Karjakin of 12 years and seven months.
- ◆ Abhimanyu is in an elite group. Of the five previous youngest Grandmasters — from Tigran Petrosian (23) to Boris Spassky (18), then Bobby Fischer (15), Judit Polgar (15) and Karjakin—all but Karjakin went on to become world champions, which indicates that the 12-year-old's journey has just begun, and the youngest GM record is just another milestone in his path.



7. Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh

- ◆ MC Mary Kom, the six-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, the men's hockey team skipper, will be India's flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics.
- ◆ Bajrang Punia, a silver medallist at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships, will be the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8.
- ◆ In a first, India is having two flag-bearers — one male and one female — at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure "gender parity".
- ◆ The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8.



Places of the Week

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Ethiopia



Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar



Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan



Arctic's 'Last Ice Area'



Haiti



Denmark



1. Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Ethiopia

- ◆ The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), formerly known as the Millennium Dam, is under construction in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia, on the Blue Nile River, which is located about 40km east of Sudan.
- ◆ After completion, it'll be Africa's largest hydroelectric project.
- ◆ The longest river in the world, the Nile stretches across 11 countries in its journey of 4,000 miles from the equatorial rivers that feed Lake Victoria to its final destination in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ◆ Ethiopia, an East African country of 112 million, contributes the lion's share of the Nile waters, with its three tributaries—the Blue Nile, Sobat, and



- ◆ Atbara—carrying about 84 percent of the total runoff in the Nile.
- ◆ Ethiopia is a landlocked country in the Horn of Africa.
- ◆ It shares borders with Eritrea to the north, Djibouti and Somalia (Somaliland) to the northeast, Somalia to the east, Kenya to the south, South Sudan to the west and Sudan to the northwest.

2. Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar

- ◆ Authorities in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) have started planning for conservation of vultures after 150 of the birds were sighted recently in the protected area.
- ◆ Different species of vultures including Egyptian vulture (Neophron percnopterus), Griffon vulture (Gyps fulvus), White-rumped vulture (Gyps bengalensis) and Himalayan griffon (Gyps himalayensis) were among the 150 individuals spotted in VTR.
- ◆ VTR forms the eastern most limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India, and is the only tiger reserve of Bihar.
- ◆ VTR lies in the north-westernmost West Champaran district of Bihar.



- ◆ Bihar is a state in eastern India. It is the third-largest state by population and twelfth-largest by territory.

3. Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan

- Recently, the US military left Bagram Airfield without notifying the Afghans.
- Bagram Airfield also known as Bagram Air Base is the largest US military base in Afghanistan.
- It is located next to the ancient city of Bagram, 11 kilometres southeast of Charikar in the Parwan Province of Afghanistan.
- The airfield was built by the Soviet Union in the 1950s, becoming its main base in the 1980s as it defended its occupation of Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan is a mountainous landlocked country at the crossroads of Central and South Asia.



- Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast.

4. Arctic's 'Last Ice Area'

- A part of the Arctic's ice called 'Last Ice Area', located north of Canada and Greenland, has melted before expected.
- It is a key area that scientists were banking upon to support ice-dependent species when the nearby ice was melting away.
- The total disappearance of summer ice in the Arctic was estimated by the year 2040, however the 'Last Ice Area' was the exception.
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Canada was believed to be the first to call this area the 'Last Ice Area.'
- The Arctic is a polar region located at the northernmost part of Earth.



- The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Alaska (United States), Canada, Finland, Greenland (Denmark), Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.

5. Haiti

- ◆ A group of 28 foreign mercenaries, including retired Colombian soldiers, assassinated Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse.
- ◆ Following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on 7 July 2021 by unidentified gunmen, early reports indicate that interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph is in charge.
- ◆ Haiti became the world's first black-led republic and the first independent Caribbean state when it threw off French colonial control and slavery in the early 19th century.
- ◆ It is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles archipelago



of the Caribbean Sea, to the east of Cuba and Jamaica and south of The

Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

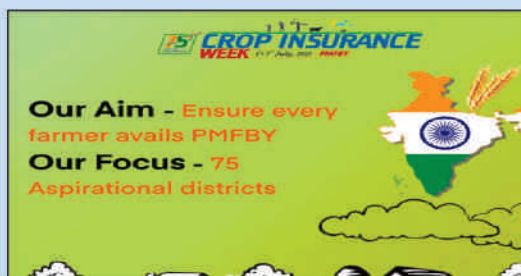
6. Denmark

- ◆ The world's tallest sandcastle has been completed in the town of Blokhus in Denmark, towering more than 20 metres high and comprising nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand.
- ◆ It is nearly 3 metres higher than the last Guinness world record, achieved in Germany in 2019 with 17.66 metres.
- ◆ The sandcastle built in Blokhus is pyramid-shaped and a wooden structure was made around it.
- ◆ Denmark is a Nordic country in Northern Europe.
- ◆ Denmark lies southwest of Sweden and south of Norway and is bordered to the south by Germany.



International/National Days of the Week

Crop Insurance Week



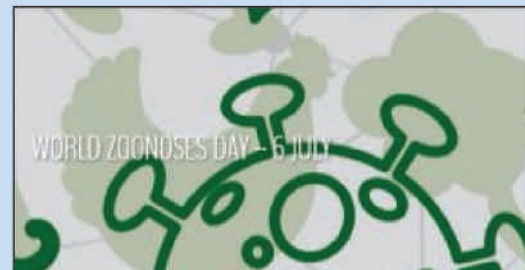
World Population Day 2021



US Independence Day 2021



World Zoonoses Day 2021



International Day of Cooperatives 2021



1. Crop Insurance Week

- ◆ The government has launched the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign for Fasal Bima Yojana during the Crop Insurance Week (July 1 to 7) as a part of Government's India@75 campaign 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', commemorating 75 years of India's Independence.
- ◆ PMFBY was launched in 2016 to provide financial security to the farmers of India from vagaries of nature and secure their hard work.
- ◆ Till date, the scheme has insured over 29.16 crore farmer applications (5.5 crore farmer applications on year-on-year basis).



- ◆ Over the period of 5 years, more than 8.3 crore farmer applications have benefited from the scheme. Moreover,

Rs.95,000 crores claims have been paid as against Rs. 20,000 crore farmers share.

2. World Population Day 2021

- ◆ World Population Day is observed every year on July 11.
- ◆ The main purpose of this day is to draw attention towards the issues arising out of rising population across the globe.
- ◆ The World Population Day was established by the United Nations in 1989, buoyed by the interest the Five

Billion Day celebrated in 1987.

- ◆ This year, the theme of World Population Day 2021 is 'the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility'.
- ◆ It will be observed to shed more light on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive behaviour globally.



3. US Independence Day 2021

- ◆ American Independence Day is observed on July 4 and is also called the Fourth of July. The date marks the annual celebration of nationhood in the United States.
- ◆ This year marks the 245th anniversary of the freedom of the thirteen American colonies from British colonial rule.
- ◆ The day commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the

Continental Congress in 1776.

- ◆ During the later 20th century, the day remained a national holiday with parades, concerts of patriotic music, fireworks display and the day declined in significance as a venue for politics.
- ◆ The day now marks the strong symbol of national power for the US and of specifically American qualities.



4. World Zoonoses Day 2021

- ◆ World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on July 6 to commemorate the first vaccination administered against a zoonotic disease like Ebola, Avian influenza, and West Nile virus.
- ◆ The first vaccination against a zoonotic disease was successfully administered on July 6, 1885, by a French biologist, Louis Pasteur.
- ◆ The day is also celebrated to raise awareness about the risk of zoonotic diseases and their prevention.
- ◆ Zoonosis is an infectious disease that spread from non-human animals to humans.
- ◆ Zoonoses comprise a large percentage of all newly identified infectious diseases like HIV, Ebola virus disease and salmonellosis. They started as a zoonosis but later mutate into human-only strains.



5. International Day of Cooperatives 2021

- ◆ International Day of Cooperatives is observed every year on the first Saturday of July.
- ◆ This year, the International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated on July 3, 2021.
- ◆ The theme for this year is "Rebuild Better Together."
- ◆ The International Day of Cooperatives has been observed by cooperatives globally since 1923 and was formally declared by the United Nations General Assembly on the centennial of the ICA in 1995.
- ◆ The goal of #CoopsDay is to raise awareness of cooperatives and to advance the cooperative movement's principles of worldwide solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and global peace.



Brain Boosters

01

Five Important Portals on Ayush Sector

1. Why in News?

- ◆ Ministry of Ayush has launched five portals of importance for the Ayush sector.
- ◆ Ministry also released four publications related to the Traditional Indian Medicine System of India and lauded the collaborative efforts of ICMR and Archaeological Survey of India for these initiatives.



2. Ayurveda Dataset on Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI)

- ◆ CTRI is a primary Register of Clinical Trials under the World Health Organization's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform.
- ◆ Creation of Ayurveda Data Set in CTRI facilitates the usage of Ayurveda Terminologies to record clinical study based on Ayurveda interventions. This is a great step towards a worldwide visibility for Ayurveda based Clinical Trials.

3. CCRAS-Research Management Information System

- ◆ A collaborative effort of ICMR and CCRAS, this portal will be a one stop solution for Research and Development in Ayurveda based studies.
- ◆ Free of cost research guidance by experienced Scientists, Clinicians of Ayurveda can be availed through this portal. Research tools, reference material are also in place in this portal.

4. E-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession) Portal

- ◆ Online public access catalog for more than 12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's e-granthalaya platform.

7. Significance

- ◆ After the inclusion of dataset pertinent to Ayurveda in CTRI portal, the Ayurveda Clinical Trials would have worldwide visibility and will further the cause of strengthening Ayurvedic Research.
- ◆ Similarly, SAHI portal incorporates authentic resources and will be of immense help in showcasing historical veracity of Ayurveda.
- ◆ In addition, Ayush is going to play a big role in the National Digital Health Mission to provide health security to Indian people.

5. AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository) Portal

- ◆ This Portal is of immense value and it has digitized information on rare and hard to find Manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa in libraries or in individual collections across India or in other parts of the world.

6. SAHI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints) Portals

- ◆ This portal showcases inscriptions, Archeo-botanical Information, Sculptures, Philological sources and advanced Archeo Genetic studies.
- ◆ This portal will be of tremendous use in understanding of Indian Knowledge system with a focus on indigenous health care practices.

02

Mishri Variety of Cherries from Kashmir

1. Why in News?

- ◆ In a step towards boosting horticultural crops exports, a first commercial shipment of Mishri variety of luscious cherries from Kashmir valley has been exported to Dubai from Srinagar.



2. Mishri Variety of Cherry

- ◆ Mishri variety of Cherries are not only taste delicious but also contain vitamins, minerals and plant compound with health benefits.
- ◆ The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir produces more than 95% of the total country's production of commercial varieties of cherries in the country.
- ◆ It produces four varieties of cherry — Double, Makhmali, Mishri and Italy.

3. Significance

- ◆ The commencement of commercial shipment of cherries would provide huge opportunities for exports of several temperate fruits like plums, pears, apricot and apples from Kashmir to especially to middle east countries in the forthcoming seasons.

4. Role of APEDA

- ◆ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.
- ◆ Prior to the shipment, the cherries were harvested, cleaned and packed by APEDA registered exporter while the technical inputs were provided by the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Kashmir.
- ◆ APEDA-National Referral Laboratory at National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune provided support for ensuring food safety and quality in the shipment, which would help create brand for cherries especially in the middle east countries.
- ◆ APEDA has been conducting interactions with farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), government officials and other stakeholders for boosting exports potential of agricultural produce from Kashmir such as apples, almonds, walnuts, saffron, rice, fresh fruits and vegetables and certified organic products.
- ◆ For ensuring exports of quality agricultural produce which adhere to global standards, APEDA has also initiated awareness programme on National Programme on Organic Production and ISO-17065 requirements for the officials of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ◆ The purpose of such programme was to acquaint officials of the UTs with the third-party certification system for organic products as well as international trade of organic products.

03

Bhalia Wheat from Gujarat

1. Why in News?

- ◆ In a major boost to wheat exports, the first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported today to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.

2. About Bhalia Wheat

- ◆ The Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in July, 2011. The registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat.
- ◆ The GI certified wheat has high protein content and is sweet in taste.
- ◆ The crop is grown mostly across Bhal region of Gujarat which includes Ahmadabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavanagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts.
- ◆ The unique characteristic of the wheat variety is that grown in the rainfed condition without irrigation and cultivated in around two lakh hectares of agricultural land in Gujarat.



3. Significance

- ◆ This initiative is expected to give boost wheat exports from India.
- ◆ In 2020-21, the wheat exports from India witnessed a significant growth of 808 % to Rs 4034 crore from Rs 444 crore reported in the previous fiscal. In US dollar terms, the wheat exports rose by 778% to \$ 549 million in 2020-21.
- ◆ India exported substantial quantity of grain to seven new countries - Yemen, Indonesia, Bhutan, Philippines, Iran, Cambodia and Myanmar during 2020-21.

5. Other GI Products from Gujarat

- ◆ Wooden printing blocks of Pethapur, furniture made in Sankheda, agates from Khambhat, Kutch embroidery, zari craft from Surat, patola from Patan, bandhani from Jamnagar, and Kesar mangoes from Gir are other GI products from Gujarat.

4. About GI Tag

- ◆ A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- ◆ GIs are part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- ◆ In India, GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.
- ◆ GIs are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- ◆ The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each.
- ◆ It is also a part of the World Trade Organisation's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- ◆ In India, APEDA has a focus on promotion of exports of GI products.

04

New Cooperation Ministry

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The government has announced the formation of a separate Union Ministry of Cooperation, a subject that till date was looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- ◆ Ministry of Cooperation will be headed by current Union Home Minister Amit Shah.



2. Objectives of Ministry

- ◆ The Ministry of Cooperation will provide a separate administrative legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- ◆ It will help deepen Co-operatives as a true people based movement reaching upto the grassroots.
- ◆ In our country, a Co-operative based economic development model is very relevant where each member works with a spirit of responsibility.
- ◆ The Ministry will work to streamline processes for 'Ease of doing business' for co-operatives and enable development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).

3. About Cooperative Movement

- ◆ By definition, cooperatives are organisations formed at the grassroots level by people to harness the power of collective bargaining towards a common goal.
- ◆ Cooperative Movement in Agriculture
 - Cooperative dairies, sugar mills, spinning mills etc. are formed with the pooled resources of farmers who wish to process their produce.
 - The country has 1,94,195 cooperative dairy societies and 330 cooperative sugar mill operations.
 - Cooperative sugar mills account for 35% of the sugar produced in the country.
- ◆ Cooperative Movement in Banking and Finance
 - In banking and finance, cooperative institutions are spread across rural and urban areas.
 - Village-level primary agricultural credit societies (PACSS) formed by farmer associations are the best example of grassroots-level credit flow.
 - These societies anticipate the credit demand of a village and make the demand to the district central cooperative banks (DCCBs).
 - State cooperative banks sit at the apex of the rural cooperative lending structure.
- ◆ There are also cooperative marketing societies in rural areas and cooperative housing societies in urban areas.

4. Related Laws

- ◆ Agriculture and cooperation are in the state list, which means state governments can govern them.
- ◆ A majority of the cooperative societies are governed by laws in their respective states, with a Cooperation Commissioner and the Registrar of Societies as their governing office.
- ◆ In 2002, the Centre passed a MultiState Cooperative Societies Act that allowed for registration of societies with operations in more than one state.
- ◆ These are mostly banks, dairies and sugar mills whose area of operation spreads across states.
- ◆ The Central Registrar of Societies is their controlling authority, but on the ground the State Registrar takes actions on his behalf.

05

Freight Smart Cities

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The Logistics Division under the Ministry of Commerce has unveiled plans for freight smart cities to improve urban freight efficiency, and create an opportunity for reduction in the logistics costs.



2. Key Points

- ◆ The roadmap envisions the concept of 'Freight Smart Cities' to improve the efficiency of urban freight and create an opportunity for reduction in the logistics costs.
- ◆ Under the freight smart cities initiative, city-level logistics committees would be formed.
- ◆ These committees would have related government departments and agencies at the local level, state and from the related central ministries and agencies.
- ◆ These would also include private sector from the logistics services and also users of logistics services. These committees would co-create City Logistics Plans to implement performance improvement measures locally.
- ◆ These would also include the private sector from the logistics services and also users of logistics services.
- ◆ From the ten cities to be identified on immediate basis, it is planned to expand the list to 75 cities in the next phase before scaling up throughout the country including all state capitals and cities that have more than one million population.
- ◆ Facilities like developing peri-urban freight centres, night-time deliveries, developing truck routes, using Intelligent Transportation Systems & modern technologies, Promoting electrification of urban freight, Parcel delivery terminals etc. will be developed.

3. Need

- ◆ With growing urbanisation, requirements of rapid economic growth including e-commerce and associated first and last mile freight movements; increasing congestion, noise and sound pollution in the Indian cities is a menace affecting both public health and local economies.
- ◆ The demand for urban freight is expected to grow by 140 per cent over the next 10 years.
- ◆ Final-mile freight movement in Indian cities is currently responsible for 50 per cent of total logistics costs in India's growing e-commerce supply chains.
- ◆ The need for focus on city logistics was first discussed with States/UTs during the first National Conference of States on Logistics on 19th January, 2021.
- ◆ Taking this forward, the Logistics Division is working closely with GIZ (Germany) under Indo-German Development Cooperation, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India.
- ◆ Improving city logistics would also enable efficient freight movement and bring down the logistics costs boosting all sectors of the economy.

06

Discrete Auroras on Mars

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The UAE's Hope spacecraft has captured images of glowing atmospheric lights in the Red Planet's night sky, known as discrete auroras.



2. Aurora on Earth

- ◆ Auroras are caused when charged particles ejected from the Sun's surface — called the solar wind — enter the Earth's atmosphere. These particles are harmful, and our planet is protected by the geomagnetic field, which preserves life by shielding us from the solar wind.
- ◆ However, at the north and south poles, some of these solar wind particles are able to continuously stream down, and interact with different gases in the atmosphere to cause a display of light in the night sky.
- ◆ This display, known as an aurora, is seen from the Earth's high latitude regions (called the auroral oval), and is active all year round.
- ◆ In the northern part of our globe, the polar lights are called aurora borealis or Northern Lights, and are seen from the US (Alaska), Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.
- ◆ In the south, they are called aurora australis or southern lights, and are visible from high latitudes in Antarctica, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia.

3. Martian Auroras vs Earth Auroras

- ◆ Unlike auroras on Earth, which are seen only near the north and south poles, discrete auroras on Mars are seen all around the planet at night time.
- ◆ Unlike Earth, which has a strong magnetic field, the Martian magnetic field has largely died out. This is because the molten iron at the interior of the planet— which produces magnetism— has cooled.
- ◆ However, the Martian crust, which hardened billions of years ago when the magnetic field still existed, retains some magnetism. So, in contrast with Earth, which acts like one single bar magnet, magnetism on Mars is unevenly distributed, with fields strewn across the planet and differing in direction and strength.
- ◆ These disjointed fields channel the solar wind to different parts of the Martian atmosphere, creating “discrete” auroras over the entire surface of the planet as charged particles interact with atoms and molecules in the sky— as they do on Earth.
- ◆ Studying Martian auroras is important for scientists, for it can offer clues as to why the Red Planet lost its magnetic field and thick atmosphere— among the essential requirements for sustaining life.

4. About Hope Mission

- ◆ The primary objective of the mission is to study Martian weather dynamics. By correlating the lower atmosphere and upper atmosphere conditions, the probe will look into how weather changes the escape of hydrogen and oxygen into space.
- ◆ By measuring how much hydrogen and oxygen is spilling into space, scientists will be able to look into why Mars lost so much of its early atmosphere and liquid water.
- ◆ It is expected to create the first complete portrait of the planet's atmosphere. With the information gathered during the mission, scientists will have a better understanding of the climate dynamics of different layers of Mars' atmosphere.

07

Black Leopard sighted in Navegaon Nagzira Reserve

1. Why in News?

- ◆ A Rare melanistic leopard, popularly called black leopard, was spotted in the Navegaon block of the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in the Gondia district of Maharashtra.



2. About Black Panther

- ◆ The melanistic leopard is a colour variant of the Indian leopard, which is rich in melanism that is the development of the dark-coloured pigment melanin in the skin.
- ◆ Black coat coloration is attributed to the expression of recessive alleles in leopards and dominant alleles in jaguars.
- ◆ In each species, a certain combination of alleles stimulates the production of large amounts of the dark pigment melanin (Melanism) in the animal's fur and skin.
 - The high amount of pigmentation – melanin, causes the animal to appear black.
- ◆ Black Panther mainly found in China, Burma, Nepal, Southern India, Indonesia, and the southern part of Malaysia.
- ◆ In India, they are spotted in protected forests around several Southern states of India.

3. Protection Status

- ◆ They are listed as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List.
- ◆ They are also listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and included in Appendix I of CITES.

5. About CITES

- ◆ CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments.
- ◆ Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
- ◆ CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union).
- ◆ CITES entered into force in July 1975. Currently there are 183 Parties (include countries or regional economic integration organizations).
- ◆ The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.
 - Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.
 - Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.
 - Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.

4. About NNTR

- ◆ NNTR is situated in Gondia and Bhandara districts of Maharashtra.
- ◆ It was notified as 46th tiger reserve of India on December, 2013. It is also 5th Tiger reserve of Maharashtra.
- ◆ NNTR comprised of the notified area of Nawegaon National Park, Nawegaon Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, New Nagzira wildlife Sanctuary and Koka wildlife Sanctuary.
- ◆ NNTR has connectivity with the major tiger reserves in Central India like Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, Pench & Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and indirectly with the Kawal & Nagarjunsagar Tiger Reserve in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh and Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh.

Self Assessment (Objective Questions)



1. Severe Heat Waves in Canada and United States

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘Heat Dome’:

1. A heat dome as a weather phenomenon that occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap.
2. The phenomenon begins when there is a strong change (or gradient) in ocean temperatures.

3. The condition also prevents clouds from forming, allowing for more radiation from the Sun to hit the ground.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

2. Creation of a Legislative Council in West Bengal

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the creation of a Legislative Council in any state:

1. Under Article 179 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a simple majority.

2. As of today, seven states have Legislative Councils in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

3. NIPUN Bharat Programme

Q. With reference to the ‘NIPUN Bharat Programme’, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Education has launched a National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) Programme.
2. NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children

in the age group of 3 to 9 years.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

4. ‘India Out’ Campaign in Maldives

Q. The term ‘India Out’ is seen in news recently. ‘India Out’ is:

- a. An anti-India campaign in Maldives
- b. An anti-India campaign in Malaysia

- c. An anti-India campaign in Sri Lanka

- d. An anti-India campaign in Nepal

Ans: (a)

5. Draft Anti-trafficking Bill

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021’:

1. The law will apply to all citizens of India, within and outside the country.
2. The scope of the Bill vis a vis offenders will include defence personnel and government servants, doctors and

paramedical staff or anyone in a position of authority.

3. The Bill also widens the definition of the “victim” by including transgenders, besides women and children.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

6. Turkey Quits Istanbul Convention

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

1. Turkey was the first country to sign it and now it is the first to withdraw from it.
2. The Convention requires states to implement a comprehensive array of practical measures to prevent violence against women, to protect the victims and to prosecute the perpetrators.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

7. Child Soldier Recruiter List of the United States

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The United States of America has added Pakistan and 14 other countries to a Child Soldier Recruiter List.
2. Child soldier also includes any such person who is serving in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard or sex slave.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

8. White Flag Campaign in Malaysia

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. In Maldives, some residents of low-income families have started waving white flags as part of the so-called “White Flag Campaign”.
2. Alongside the white flag movement, there is the red flag movement as well, in order to express dissatisfaction with the Malaysian government.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

9. Cities on River Banks to Incorporate River Conservation Plans

Q. Consider the following statement:

1. Namami Gange Programme was registered as a society in 2015 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

10. Revenge Travel

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Revenge Travel':

1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has coined the term 'Revenge Travel' in India.
2. Revenge travel or revenge tourism, stems from a feeling of wanting to break free from the monotonous life of lockdowns.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

11. China declared Malaria-free by WHO

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. China has been officially certified 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) recently.
2. China has become the first country in the Asia Pacific region to get the tag.
3. China is also the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

12. Anti-methanogenic Feed Supplement: Harit Dhara

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute has developed an anti-methanogenic feed supplement 'Harit Dhara'.
2. Harit Dhara not only cuts down their methane emissions by 17-20%, but also results in higher milk production and body weight gain.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

13. Virgin Galactic's Unity 22

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. NASA has launched first commercial space flight or a brief trip to the "edge of space" recently.
2. Such a trip is called a "suborbital flight".

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

14. Project BOLD

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

1. Ministry of Rural Development has launched a unique project named "Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought" (BOLD) in Rajasthan.
2. Under the project, 5000 saplings of special bamboo species have been planted over 25 bigha (of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

15. Memorandum on Cooperation between Competition Commission of India and Japan Fair Trade Commission

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Competition Commission of India (CCI), statutory body, was established in 2005.
2. Union Minister of Finance is ex-officio chairman of the CCI.

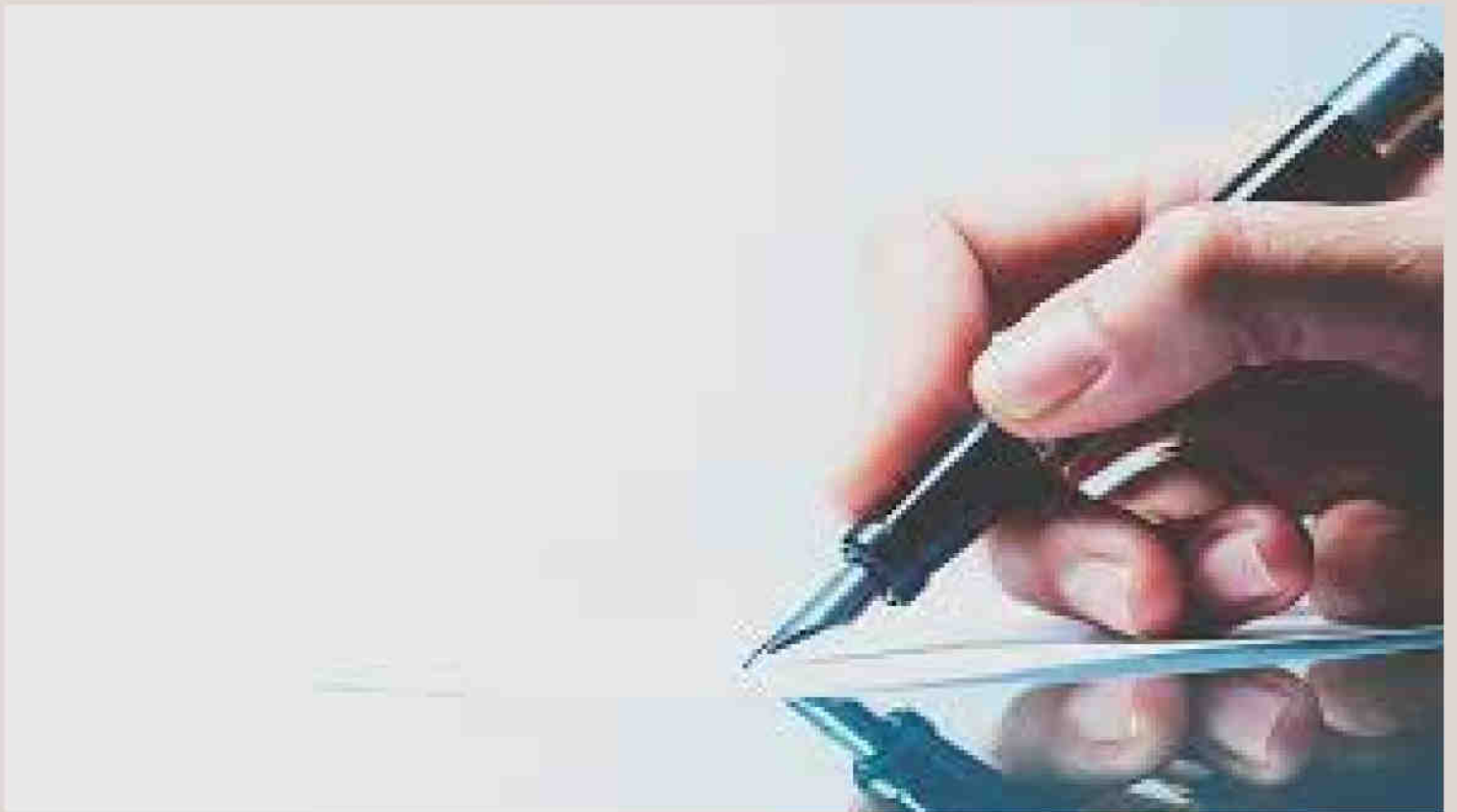
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)



Self Assessment (Subjective Questions)





- 01 What is a heat dome? Also discuss the effects of heat dome.
- 02 What are the Legislative Councils? How are Members of the Council Elected?
- 03 Write a short note on 'NIPUN Bharat Mission'.
- 04 What is the 'India Out' campaign? What is fuelling 'India Out' campaign in Maldives?
- 05 Discuss the key points of draft Anti-trafficking Bill.
- 06 What is the Istanbul Convention? Discuss the reasons behind the withdrawal of Turkey from the convention.
- 07 Who is a Child Soldier? How do international laws protect child soldiers in war? Discuss.
- 08 Write a short note on 'White Flag Campaign' of Malaysia.
- 09 How does river conservation plan useful for cities situated on river banks? Discuss.
- 10 Write a short note on 'Revenge Travel'?
- 11 Discuss the current scenario of Malaria in India.
- 12 Discuss the role of an anti-methanogenic feed supplement 'Harit Dhara' in curbing cattle methane emissions.
- 13 Write a short note on 'suborbital flight'.
- 14 Write a short note on 'Project BOLD'.
- 15 Write a short note on 'Competition Commission of India (CCI)'.

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

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

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