

PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

June: 2019 / Issue-02

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE CAMPAIGN

Empowering Women and Girls

- Beyond the South Asia-Centric Notion of Neighbourhood
- Dynastic Politics : A Rising Phenomenon in India
- The Labour Force Survey Report : An Analysis
- Chagos Archipelago : Last Traces of British Colonialism
- Pink Revolution in India : Challenges and Prospects
- Rural Tourism : A New Wing to Rural Growth



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MUKHERJEE NAGAR
(DELHI)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains

10 June | 5:30 PM

OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR
(DELHI)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains

10 June | 6:00 PM

PRAYAGRAJ
(ALLAHABAD)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains

10 June
7:30 AM & 6:00 PM

LUCKNOW
(ALIGANJ)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains

24 June | 6:00 PM

LUCKNOW
(GOMTI NAGAR)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains

11 June | 6:00 PM

GREATER NOIDA

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains

10 June | 3:30 PM

BHUBANESWAR

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains

10 June
7:30 AM & 6:00 PM

LAXMI NAGAR (DELHI)

GENERAL STUDIES

PCS
Regular Batch
3 June | 7:30 AM

IAS Regular Batch
Pre-cum-Mains
12 June | 10:30 AM
Weekend Batch
8 June | 11:00 AM

SCHOLARSHIP TEST
9 JUNE | 12 PM

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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



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.

Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder
Dhyeya IAS



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.

Q H Khan
Managing Director
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



With immense pleasure and gratitude I want 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.

I extend best wishes for the success of this endeavor.

Qurban Ali

Chief Editor

Dhyeya IAS

(Ex Editor- Rajya Sabha TV)



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 challenging as well as most important thing. 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 'overdose of information'. Focusing on civil services exams 'Perfect 7' embodies in itself rightful 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.

The new 'avatar' of 'Perfect 7' is a result of your love and affection. We feel inspired to continue our efforts to deliver effective and valuable content in interesting manner. Our promise of quality has reached you in around 100 issues and more are yet to come.

Ashutosh Singh

Managing Editor

Dhyeya IAS



PREFACE

Dhyeya family feels honoured to present you a pandora box 'Perfect 7'. 'Perfect7' is an outstanding compilation of current affairs topics as per the new pattern of Civil Service 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 civil service examination. 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

Perfect 7

The Weekly Issue

Perfect 7

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- Dynastic Politics : A Rising Phenomenon in India
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Our other initiative



Hindi & English
Current Affairs
Monthly
News Paper



DHYEYA TV
Current Affairs Programmes hosted
by Mr. Qurban Ali
(Ex. Editor Rajya Sabha, TV) & by Team Dhyeya IAS
(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

1. MENSTRUAL HYGIENE CAMPAIGN : EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Why in News?

Several menstrual hygiene campaigns were launched across the country in connection with the recent observance of World Menstrual Hygiene Day to promote the concept of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) among school going adolescent girls and women in rural and urban segments.

Introduction

Globally, more than half of women are currently of reproductive age—and menstruation is a monthly reality for them. Yet all around the world, many women lack access to menstrual hygiene products or sanitation facilities, either due to limited availability or excessive cost. Myths and stigmas surrounding menstruation cause some women and girls to miss school or work or go into isolation. Women and men of all ages must be made aware of the importance of menstrual hygiene through an open dialogue and education at home and in school to foster engagement with this often unspoken issue.

In India, 355 million is the number of menstruating women, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of the country's population. Menstruation continues to be a subject of gender disparity in India. Myths about menstruation are largely prevalent, forcing many girls to drop out of school early or be ostracised for the duration of their menstrual cycle every month. A 2014 report by the NGO Dasra titled 'Spot On!' found that nearly 23 million girls drop out of

school annually due to lack of proper menstrual hygiene management facilities, which include availability of sanitary napkins and logical awareness of menstruation. The report also came up with some startling numbers. 70 per cent of mothers with menstruating daughters considered menstruation as dirty and 71 per cent adolescent girls remained unaware of menstruation till menarche. A 2014 UNICEF report pointed out that in Tamil Nadu, 79 per cent girls and women were unaware of menstrual hygiene practices. The percentage was 66% in Uttar Pradesh, 56% in Rajasthan and 51% in West Bengal.

What's the Menstruation?

Menstruation marks the beginning of a woman's reproductive years. From the time when she has her first period, or a few days before, she can become pregnant. Menstruation will end with menopause, usually between the ages of 45 and 55 years.

The menstrual cycle is the monthly series of changes a woman's body goes through in preparation for the possibility of pregnancy. A woman has two ovaries, each of which contains a number of eggs. Every month during the reproductive years an egg will be released, a process called 'ovulation'. Also, every month, the womb prepares a lining in case the egg should become fertilized. If the egg does not become fertilized, the lining is not needed and, together with the egg, it will be shed.

We see this shedding as blood. This is what we call a 'period'.

If the egg is fertilized, the womb will need the lining, and it will not be shed. This is why periods stop when pregnancy begins.

Menstrual Hygiene Day

Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) is a global platform that brings together non-profits, governments, the private sector, media and individuals to catalyse progress towards a world in which all women and girls manage their menstruation hygienically, with confidence, with dignity and without stigma. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) United is the initiator of MH Day and acts as its international secretariat. In this role, WASH United coordinates MH Day and it has more than 410 partner organisations.

More specifically, MH Day aims to:

- Breaks the silence, raises awareness and changes negative social norms around MHM, and
- Engages decision-makers to increase the political priority and catalyse action for MHM, at global, national and local levels.

Impact of Poor Menstrual Hygiene

On Health of Women

Improper menstrual hygiene has resulted in development of some serious ailments for adolescent girls. Roughly 120 million menstruating adolescents in India experience menstrual dysfunctions, affecting their normal daily chores. Nearly 60,000 cases of cervical cancer deaths are reported every year from India,

two-third of which are due to poor menstrual hygiene.

Other health problems associated with menstrual hygiene like anaemia, prolonged or short periods, infections of reproductive tracts, as well as psychological problems such as anxiety, embarrassment and shame. Using unclean pads can actually lead to fungal infections, reproductive tract infection, urinary infection and even make women vulnerable to infertility.

Socio-Cultural

The onset of menstruation is a natural process and heralds the onset of physiological maturity among adolescent girls. However, in India, menstruation is still considered a closed-door topic which constitutes of innumerable myths across the country. The impact of this malediction on our culture is such that, women are restricted to participate in normal life while menstruating. She is labelled "impure" for her family and day to day chores. These stories manifest in both urban and rural villages. Shockingly, women on their monthly cycle are believed to have an association with evil spirits, shame, and embarrassment. Menstruating women are unclean and the food they prepare can be contaminated, unfortunately, is the regressive mindset we face even today.

Economical

Around 42 per cent of women in India lack access to hygienic means to manage their menstrual cycles, according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16. Apart from their physiological health, their mental health also gets affected due to poor hygienic practices during menstruation and the related social taboo. Almost 23 per cent of girls drop out of school on reaching puberty, which critically undermines their potential as individuals and future workers.

Challenges for Menstrual Hygiene

Poor menstrual hygiene caused by a lack of education on the issue, persisting taboos and stigma, limited access to hygienic menstrual products and poor sanitation infrastructure undermines the educational opportunities, health and overall social status of women and girls around the world. As a result, millions of women and girls are kept from reaching their full potential.

Lack of Awareness

Lack of awareness makes for a major problem in India's menstrual hygiene scenario. Indian Council for Medical Research's 2011-12 report stated that only 38 per cent menstruating girls in India spoke to their mothers about menstruation. Many mothers were themselves unaware what menstruation was, how

it was to be explained to a teenager and what practices could be considered as menstrual hygiene management. Schools were not very helpful either as schools in rural areas refrained from discussing menstrual hygiene. A 2015 survey by the Ministry of Education found that in 63% schools in villages, teachers never discussed menstruation and how to deal with it in a hygienic manner.

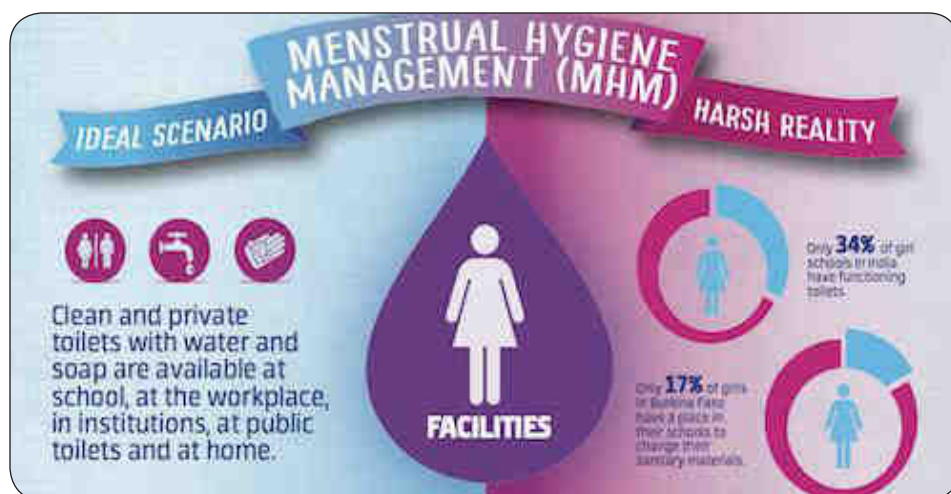
Lack of Sanitary Napkins

In a city, availing a sanitary napkin for a woman aware of menstrual hygiene is a normalised process. Not only are sanitary napkins available in pharmacies and grocery stores in cities, they are commercialised via advertisements so that they are treated as any other product. In rural areas, sanitary napkins are found with difficulty. Most girls rely on home-grown or other readily available material, the latter often being unhygienic and unsanitary. Only 2 to 3 per cent women in rural India are estimated to use sanitary napkins. The lack of demand results in storekeepers not stocking up on sanitary pads. This results in women resorting to unhygienic practices during their menstrual cycle, such as filling up old socks with sand and tying them around waists to absorb menstrual blood, or taking up old pieces of cloth and using them to absorb blood. Such methods increase chances of infection and hinder the day-to-day task of a woman on her period.

Disposal and Recycling

Widespread sanitary pad promotion has overlooked disposal. This issue is concerning for two inter-related reasons. These are:

- ◆ First, when girls lack access to disposal facilities, they tend to use a hygienic product in an unhygienic manner they often extend its use beyond the recommended time (sometimes using a single pad for



a whole day). When this happens, it places the girl at increased risk for infection, and has critical health implications.

- ◆ Second, discarding sanitary pads is concerning as we do not have feasible and scalable solutions for managing this waste safely, having implications for girls and women, as well as for the environment.

Research indicates that pads are typically thrown in the open and in water bodies and sometimes discarded in toilets and in incinerators. The use of incinerators is particularly concerning. While they offer an immediate and convenient way of dealing with waste, most incinerators in India do not adhere to emission norms set by the Central Pollution Control Board.

For sanitary pads that enter the solid waste stream, environmentalists are concerned with the volume of pads in the environment (though it is less compared to other types of plastic and non-organic waste). This waste takes years to breakdown posing a concern for long-term management.

Government Initiatives

From a ban on advertisements on sanitary napkins in 1990, to a full-fledged feature film, PadMan, on a low-cost sanitary napkin entrepreneur in 2018, India has indeed come a long way.

- ◆ In 2010, when the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the 'Freeday Pad Scheme', a pilot project to provide sanitary napkins at subsidised rates for rural girls. The scheme was launched in 152 districts across 20 states and sanitary napkins were sold to adolescent girls at the rate of Rs. 6 per pack of six napkins by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).
- ◆ A year later, the Union government launched the 'SABLA scheme'

across every districts in the country. The scheme aimed at improving health conditions for adolescent girls with menstrual hygiene as an important component.

- ◆ Two years later, under the then ongoing 'Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan', focus on menstrual hygiene was added as a key component of the sanitation mission.
- ◆ In 2014, the Union government launched the 'Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram', aimed at improving the health and hygiene of an estimated 243 million adolescents. Menstrual hygiene was also included as an integral part of the programme.
- ◆ Under the ongoing 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', menstrual hygiene has been given high importance. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Pur) guidelines explicitly state that funds allocated for information, education and communication (IEC) may be spent on bettering awareness on menstrual hygiene in villages. Adequate knowledge of menstrual hygiene and development of local sanitary napkin manufacturing units is encouraged by Swachh Bharat Mission (rural) and self-help groups are to help in propagating such efforts.
- ◆ In 2018, government has scrapped its 12% tax under GST to Nil, on all sanitary products.
- ◆ While not commonly known, in India, the government of Bihar has been offering two days of period leave to women employees since 1992. Women can decide which two days of the month they would like to take off without having to provide any justification for doing so. In the recent past, a handful of private companies have also started offering menstrual leave.



Way Forward

The myths and taboos surrounding menstruation need to be broken down effectively before schemes and incentives make their way to make life better for menstruating women. Conditions for menstruating women in India can only improve when awareness on menstrual hygiene is spread. IEC on menstrual hygiene, under 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' or any other state scheme must educate women across all ages on what menstruation is and why the taboos surrounding it do tremendous harm.

Simultaneously, sanitary napkins must be provided to menstruating women to ensure that they do not fall prey to age old unhygienic traditions of using cloth, soil or sand. It must be remembered that 88% of India's menstruating women do not use sanitary napkins. Making sanitary napkins available to over 300 million women and ensuring that they do use these will be a herculean task, and can only be achieved with due cooperation all stakeholders and proper coordination between them to improve the status menstrual hygiene in India.

General Studies Paper- II

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



2. BEYOND THE SOUTH ASIA-CENTRIC NOTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD

Why in News?

Leaders of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) member-states attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term on 30th May, at the invitation of the Indian government.

Along with leaders of BIMSTEC member states, the President of Kyrgyzstan and Prime Minister of Mauritius were also invited.

Introduction

BIMSTEC, initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation), was formed after representatives from the aforesaid four countries met at Bangkok in June 1997. It now comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and brings together 1.6 billion people or 22% of the world population and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of over \$2.8 trillion.

There is a tendency to view the diplomatic move (inviting in swearing-in ceremony) through the narrow prism of Delhi's strategy to 'isolate Pakistan' and India's supposed preference for BIMSTEC over South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

To keep Pakistan out could have been a factor in Delhi's calculus. However, to view the decision to invite the BIMSTEC leaders only through this lens overlooks Delhi's wider regional strategic interests. For India, the strategic value of BIMSTEC is driven not by the Pakistan factor alone, rather the BIMSTEC as a neighbourhood forum presents its own strengths and weaknesses for India, independent of Pakistan and the SAARC.

Moreover, framing the diplomatic move by hyphenating SAARC and

BIMSTEC to mean one's gain is another's loss does more harm to both the groupings. The single-factor view also fails to capture Delhi's multi-dimensional regional interests and limits the scope of analysis in terms of assessing BIMSTEC on its own merit and how Delhi sees the grouping in advancing its interests in the Bay of Bengal subregion.

Re-imagining the Neighbourhood

As India's interests move beyond its borders, the fixation with South Asia-centric notion of neighbourhood can no longer serve as a useful analytical framework in understanding and explaining India's regional diplomacy.

Scholars have advanced concepts such as 'immediate neighbourhood' and 'extended neighbourhood' to explain Delhi's emerging neighbourhood approach. Furthermore, the concept of 'subregion' has been employed to explore the emerging regional dynamics.

The re-imagining of neighbourhood allows Delhi to engage with different nations, subregions and regions. For instance, a neighbourhood community has been envisioned around the Bay of Bengal comprising key littorals (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka) and two Himalayan nations (Bhutan and Nepal). India's key strategic interests are interconnected with the nations in the subregion and BIMSTEC is a critical platform in securing its interests in the subregion and beyond.

Key Drivers of Growing Engagement

India's engagement with the Bay of Bengal sub-regional forum is driven by both internal and external

strategic imperatives. Internally, the development and security issues of India's entire eastern seaboard, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Northeast region are interlinked with nations in the Bay of Bengal subregion. Externally, three major policy initiatives guiding Delhi's current regional approach involves the BIMSTEC subregion - the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the 'Act East' policy and the 'Indo-Pacific' construct. India's current neighbourhood approach is informed by a greater appreciation of the logic of geography.

A domestic factor that drives India's external engagement with its neighbours is in leveraging geography for domestic development. India's frontier regions such as the Northeast region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are far off from the main economic centres of the country. The idea of transnational cooperation for the development of frontier regions has become an integral part of the government approach.

India shares both land and maritime boundaries with BIMSTEC members (land borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal) and (maritime boundaries with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand). The re-imagining of the Bay of Bengal subregion through the BIMSTEC forum has allowed a greater role for the 'Neighbourhood First' policy. This also means that the sub-regional grouping holds an important place in the success of the policy.

The BIMSTEC subregion is where India's 'Act East' policy begins. Maintaining close and cordial ties with the BIMSTEC nations ensures a smooth eastward drive for India. The subregion forms the first chain of nations serving as a launching pad for Delhi to engage with Southeast Asia and beyond.

The Indo-Pacific Buzz

Within the Indo-Pacific construct, the Bay of Bengal subregion finds itself at the centre of the emerging power play among major powers. Increasingly, the interests of major powers overlap and intersect in the Bay of Bengal subregion. This presents both challenges and opportunities for India. Geographical proximity to the Bay of Bengal subregion provides India a natural advantage, but it also means growing interests of major powers in the backyard.

Delhi's approach has been to provide alternative options to the smaller neighbours and minimise their dependence on China's infrastructure investment. However, questions have been raised on whether Delhi's policy rhetoric is backed by developments on the ground as issues such as delivery-deficit often affect Indian infrastructure projects.

Inviting the BIMSTEC leaders is in line with Delhi's emerging regional approach. This will hopefully inject new dynamism in the sub regional grouping and demonstrate Delhi's greater commitment to the sub regional forum.

SAARC Vis-a-vis BIMSTEC

SAARC has come under serious scrutiny in the last few years. Even after three decades of its existence, SAARC's performance has been less than satisfactory, and its role in strengthening regional cooperation is being questioned. At the 18th SAARC summit in Kathmandu in 2014, initiatives such as the SAARC–Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA)—crucial for harnessing regional connectivity across South Asia—could be not signed due to Pakistan's dithering. SAARC faced another setback after the 19th summit scheduled to be held in Pakistan in 2016 was suspended for an indefinite period.

SAARC is aimed at promoting the welfare of the people; accelerating

economic growth, social progress and culture development; and strengthening collective self-reliance. The organisation also seeks to contribute to mutual trust and understanding among the member countries. Other objectives include strengthening cooperation with other developing countries, and cooperating with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.

While SAARC has established itself as a regional forum, it has failed to attain its objectives. Numerous agreements have been signed and institutional mechanisms established under SAARC, but they have not been adequately implemented. The South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) is often highlighted as a prominent outcome of SAARC, but that, too, is yet to be implemented. Despite SAFTA coming into effect as early as 2006, the intra-regional trade continues to be at a meagre five percent.

In the many failures of SAARC, lack of trust among the member countries has been the most significant factor between India and Pakistan. In recent times, Pakistan's non-cooperation has stalled some major initiatives under SAARC. SAARC–MVA or the SAARC satellite project that India proposed was abandoned following objection from Pakistan in 2016 are the few notable one.

SAARC has also faced obstacles in the area of security cooperation. A major hindrance in this regard has been the lack of consensus on threat perceptions, since member countries disagree on the idea of threats. For instance, while cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan is a major concern for India, Pakistan has failed to address these concerns.

This dysfunctionality of SAARC has led to the member countries to search for an alternative venue to ensure cooperation and BIMSTEC has provided

this. It includes the countries of the Bay of Bengal region: five countries from South Asia and two from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The organisation is a bridge between South Asia and South East Asia. It includes all the major countries of South Asia, except Maldives, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Given this composition, BIMSTEC has emerged as a natural platform to test regional cooperation in the South Asian region.

BIMSTEC's primary focus is on economic and technical cooperation among the countries of South Asia and South East Asia. So far, 14 sectors have been identified for enhancing regional cooperation among the member countries. Each sector has a lead country responsible for it.

BIMSTEC's major strength comes from the fact that it includes two influential regional powers: Thailand and India. This adds to the comfort of smaller neighbours by reducing the fear of dominance by one big power.

BIMSTEC emerged out of the necessities of the member countries. India was motivated to join BIMSTEC as it wanted to enhance its connectivity with ASEAN countries: a major component of its 'Look East' Policy, now rechristened 'Act East' policy. For Thailand, BIMSTEC helps achieve the country's 'Look West' Policy. BIMSTEC also helps smaller countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan to develop connectivity with ASEAN countries, the hub of major economic activities globally.

As a trade bloc, BIMSTEC provides many opportunities. The region has countries with the fastest-growing economies in the world. The combined GDP in the region is around US\$2 trillion and will likely grow further. Trade among the BIMSTEC member countries reached six percent in just a decade, while in SAARC, it has remained around five percent since its inception. Compared to SAARC, BIMSTEC has greater trade potential as well.

Despite the many successes of BIMSTEC, however, some concerns remain. One is the infrequency of the BIMSTEC summits, the highest decision-making body of the organisation. In its 20 years of existence, the BIMSTEC summit has taken place only thrice. This calls into question the seriousness of the member countries. Moreover, the delay in the adoption of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a framework that was agreed upon in 2004, fuels doubts about BIMSTEC's efficacy.

A landmark achievement for BIMSTEC was the establishment of a permanent secretariat in Dhaka. However, the secretariat faces a severe resource crunch, both in terms of money and manpower, which has adversely affected its performance. Observers of BIMSTEC consider the lack of leadership as the major drawback. In the past few years, this concern has been addressed as India has shown increased interest in the grouping. India's initiatives have resulted in some important developments, including the setting up of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru and the BIMSTEC Business Council, a forum for business

organisations to promote regional trade.

BIMSTEC provides the Bay of Bengal nations an opportunity to work together to create a common space for peace and development. Given the fairly amicable relationship among member states of BIMSTEC, ensuring regular summits; improving the capacity of the secretariat; ensuring tangible results/benefits, which will add to the motivation of the countries and empowering BIMSTEC to be a platform for dispute resolution among member countries are some of the steps that could help in realizing BIMSTEC's goal.

Conclusion

The two organisations—SAARC and BIMSTEC—focus on geographically overlapping regions. However, this does not make them equal alternatives. SAARC is a purely regional organisation, whereas BIMSTEC is interregional and connects both South Asia and ASEAN. Insofar as their regions of interest overlap, SAARC and BIMSTEC complement each other in terms of functions and goals. BIMSTEC provides SAARC countries a unique opportunity

to connect with ASEAN. As Nepalese Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli told his parliament, while BIMSTEC holds great possibilities, there is nevertheless urgent need to revive SAARC. These two regional organisations can surely thrive together and even prove complementary.

Since the SAARC summit has only been postponed, not cancelled, the possibility of revival remains and being the biggest in stature and size, India surely holds the key to reviving SAARC summits while strengthening BIMSTEC at the same time. In tandem with its national interest, India must keep all its avenues open and must have a comprehensive approach to promote cooperation amongst its neighbours. The success of BIMSTEC does not render SAARC pointless; it only adds a new chapter in regional cooperation in South Asia.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood-relations.



3. DYNASTIC POLITICS : A RISING PHENOMENON IN INDIA

Why in News?

In recently concluded 17th Lok Sabha election many Member of Parliament (MP) comes from political dynasties or background. Since 1999, the India National Congress has had 36 dynastic Member of Parliament elected to the Lok Sabha, with the BJP not far behind with 31 Member of Parliament.

Background

A succession of rulers or group from the same family or line who maintains power for several generations can be defined as basic definition of dynastic politics. Dynastic politics, usually

presumed to be the antithesis of democracy, which is a routine aspect of politics in many modern democracies.

The political dynasties that exist in India are a product of democracy in India. Although many people will just think of the Nehru/Gandhi family when dynasty in India is mentioned, it is worth noting that in 2014 twenty percent of Indian parliamentarians were dynastic the first of these "democratic dynasties" emerged sometime around 1960s. In comparison, earlier dynasties, royal dynasts—the aristocratic Maharajas of the pre-democratic India, made up only two percent of Indian parliamentarians

in 2014. The competition between the old aristocracy and new democrats is traced back to the 1952 Rajasthan election. A crucial insight is how rivals learnt from each other's marketing tactics: the aristocracy learned how to make democratic appeals, while the Democrats learned how to draw on tradition and history to garner votes. These royal dynasties have continued to feed on low income, unschooled rural communities ever since but they face complete extinction with urbanization. However, the democratic dynasts are going strong, seemingly proving immune to modernization. In

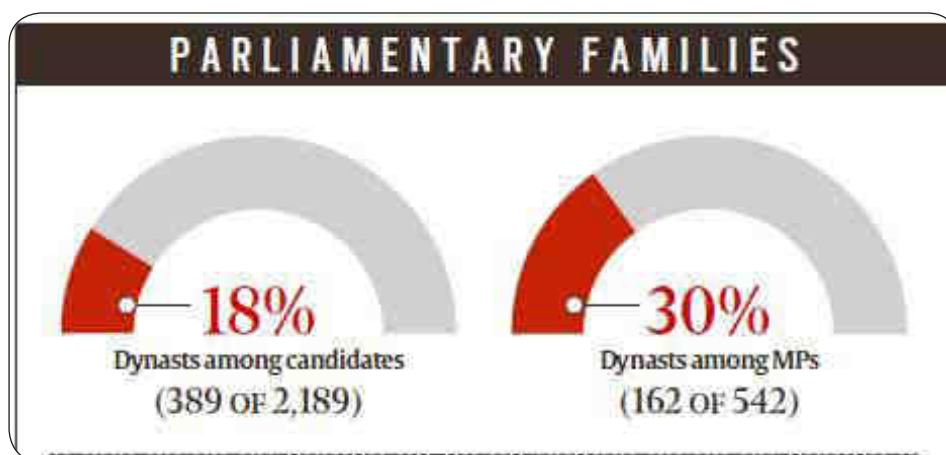
India, data shows that people continue to prefer dynasts over non-dynasts.

Present Scenario

After the conclusion of 17th Lok Sabha election, political scientists examine the trends and reasons behind the increasing phenomenon of dynastic politics. They defined 'dynast' as any candidate or MP having a relative who in the past or in the present has served or serves an elective mandate, at any level of representation. It also includes candidates with relatives who serve or have served prominent positions in party organisations. According to them, dynasts are over-represented in Indian politics as they have electoral advantages, but "dynastic descendants underperform in office". This is because while dynasts inherit voters easily from their predecessors, the very fact of a loyal vote base could "mute performance incentives", thereby lowering their performance levels.

The data suggest that in 2019, 30% of all Lok Sabha MPs belong to political families, a record percentage. Among the large states, those where the proportion of dynasts stands above the national average are, in the increasing direction, Rajasthan (32%), Orissa (33%), Telangana (35%), Andhra Pradesh (36%), Tamil Nadu (37%), Karnataka (39%), Maharashtra (42%), Bihar (43%) and Punjab (62%). Clearly, the phenomenon is all pervasive geographically.

More surprisingly, it affects all parties too — and not necessarily the usual suspects. One would assume that state-based parties, which tend to function as private family-holdings, would be more dynastic. That is not actually the case. National parties are at the forefront of the phenomenon, across all states. The only parties which do not indulge in dynasticism are the CPI and the CPI(M), where less than 5% of the candidates belonged to a political families.



They cited the main reasons behind this phenomenon that parties try to maximise their chances at winning seats by fielding candidates that tick most of the winnability boxes. The fact remains that locally, being a dynast remains by and large more an asset than a liability. Second, women candidates are more "dynastic" than male candidates. Parties tend to select their women candidates from within existing political families, as they still perceive that fielding women candidates constitutes a risk.

Is Dynastic Politics Good or Bad for the Country?

With national elections over, every political party is busy making its strategy against the other. And now-a-days every party is attacking the other about dynastic politics; son taking over the reins after his father and so on.

Though there are such leaders in almost every political establishment who have followed the footsteps of their family members to enter into politics. But whether it is good or bad for the country. Below are some points which needs attention and dialogues-

Good for the Nation

1. In dynastic politics, the person entering into politics already holds a lot of experience about the work he/she is ought to do and is not a novice as he has already seen his family working in the same direction.

2. If a person who comes after his father or any other family member, commits any mistake there is a lot of help and advice which he can receive from his elders and review the mistakes committed.
3. Dynastic politics isn't a sign of lack of capability. We can't conclude that the person doesn't have ability to enter politics and is there only because of his family strongholds.
4. In dynastic politics there is no fight for the successor of power; this helps in escaping the fight and grudges among the contenders for the top position. Thus resulting into stability in governance.
5. There is a personal aspect to dynastic politics. When a family continues ruling, there is this sort of bond created between the nation and the rulers and they work into symbiotic relation.
6. All over the world, dynastic politics has given some brilliant politicians; even in India.
7. Dynastic politics may lower the entry barrier but ultimately it is the performance of the individual which gets him to the top and the responsibility passes on to the successor.
8. Even dynastic candidates must pass through the rigorous election process. Ideally, once a candidate is elected by people, it is immaterial whether s/he is a dynast or not. However, it is for political parties

to decide whether they want to give opportunities to the same families and thereby restrict the expansion of the party or give opportunities to newer members of the party and thereby keep on expanding the base.

Bad for the Nation

1. Dynastic politics enables only those leaders who have strong connections to come forward and take the charge irrespective of the ability of that person, thus ignoring the right potential.
2. Dynastic politics discourages young and new talents to come forward and join politics which keeps deserving crowd away from politics.
3. There is very less public participation in dynastic politics and people have very less or no option to choose as a leader and get influenced by the big family.
4. In many nations where there is dynastic rule, absence of democracy has been observed like in gulf nations.
5. At times, less capable or even incapable leaders are imposed upon the nation in the name of dynasty which hampers the country progress.
6. Dynastic politics in a country like India will mar the basic spirit of democracy and our constitution.

Way Forward

2019 General Elections can be seen as reforming stage in Indian politics. For political parties, the concern and, sometimes, the opportunity lie in the fact that the number of first-time voters in India is humungous. According to Election Commission of India (ECI) data, about 2.6 crore young people in the age bracket of 18 to 20 years have already been registered in the electoral

WOMEN CANDIDATES ARE MORE DYNASTIC

Woman dynasts	41.8% (102 of 244 candidates)
Men dynasts	14.70% (287 of 1947 candidates)

PARTY BY PARTY

Party	Women dynast candidates	Men dynast candidates	Total dynast candidates
BJP	29 of 55 (52.73%)	67 of 381 (17.59%)	96 of 436 (22.02%)
Cong	28 of 52 (53.85%)	103 of 368 (27.99%)	131 of 420 (31.19%)
AITC	6 of 22 (27.27%)	4 of 40 (10.00%)	10 of 62 (16.13%)
SP	6 of 6 (100.00%)	9 of 43 (20.93%)	15 of 49 (30.61%)
BJD	4 of 7 (57.14%)	4 of 14 (28.57%)	8 of 21 (38.10%)
BSP	3 of 23 (13.04%)	13 of 360 (3.61%)	16 of 383 (4.18%)
RJD	3 of 3 (100.00%)	5 of 18 (27.78%)	8 of 21 (38.10%)
YSRC	2 of 4 (50.00%)	5 of 21 (23.81%)	7 of 25 (28.00%)
TDP	2 of 3 (66.67%)	11 of 22 (50.00%)	13 of 25 (52.00%)
DMK	2 of 2 (100.00%)	8 of 21 (38.10%)	10 of 23 (43.48%)
TRS	2 of 2 (100.00%)	4 of 15 (26.67%)	6 of 17 (35.29%)
Sena	1 of 10 (10.00%)	7 of 88 (7.95%)	8 of 98 (8.16%)
JD(U)	1 of 2 (50.00%)	3 of 23 (13.04%)	4 of 25 (16.00%)
SAD	1 of 2 (50.00%)	5 of 8 (62.50%)	6 of 10 (60.00%)
NCP	1 of 1 (100.00%)	10 of 33 (30.30%)	11 of 34 (32.35%)
ADMK	1 of 1 (100.00%)	4 of 20 (20.00%)	5 of 21 (23.81%)
CPI	0 of 4 (0.00%)	2 of 45 (4.44%)	2 of 49 (4.08%)
CPI(M)	0 of 10 (0.00%)	3 of 59 (5.08%)	3 of 69 (4.35%)

rolls. The number is 1.38 crore for the 18-19 age bracket, according to ECI data. The youth are new driving force in curbing dynastic politics.

The relationship between political leaders and the electorate was still very much akin to that between a monarch and his or her subjects. This often translated to a certain deification of the ruling class. The ground has fundamentally shifted in today's India, where an aspirational electorate maintains a more transactional relationship with political leaders. This can be opined by the historical result of elections where Rahul Gandhi's defeat in his family borough of Amethi tells us anything, it is that leaders can no longer treat their constituencies like feudal pockets. The state of Bihar also saw its local dynastic family been handed a humiliating defeat. Jyotiraditya Scindia, who comes from the erstwhile royal family of Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh state, also lost his seat. His father was one of the top leaders of the Congress party, and the family considered Guna constituency its political fortress. Similarly Dimple Yadav (who also

belong to the big political dynasty of Uttar Pradesh) also faced humiliating defeat. It's premature to announce the end of political dynasties in India. Even now, political parties across the spectrum, including the BJP have such figures. But what these results do indicate is that leaders can no longer rely solely on the brand appeal of their family names to get past the finish line

These changes pulls for dialogue to bring reform or awareness against the political dynasts and pushes for wider understanding of constructive role of people of this country to shape the development and politics which were earlier considered as the monopoly of big dynasts.

General Studies Paper- II

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

Topic: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.



4. THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY REPORT : AN ANALYSIS

Why in News?

National Statistics Office (NSO) has released the 'Periodic Labour Force Survey' (PLFS), which showed the unemployment rate in 2017-18 was 6.1 per cent, corroborating the pre-election leaked report that had claimed joblessness at a 45-year high. The NSO's release also highlights unemployment data for the year 2004-5, 2009-10 and 2011-12. It added that the past data shouldn't be compared with that of 2017-18 figures as in the latest round of the survey, several methodological changes were introduced.

Introduction

Unemployment in the country is at a four-decade-high. The figures released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) pegged joblessness at 6.1 per cent. The report was released after a long delay.

Alongside the unemployment rate for the country rising to 6.1 per cent in 2017-18, there has also been a marked shift in the unemployment pattern to higher age groups in a little over a decade. The share of unemployed in different age groups, as per the recently released PLFS for 2017-18, shows that the higher unemployment has shifted to the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups as against the 15-19 age group earlier, signifying more people opting for higher education or willing for a longer wait to get their desired jobs.

Reading the Data

In 2017-18, the percentage share of unemployed rural males rose to 43.2 per cent in the 20-24 age group, from 38 per cent in 2004-05 National Sample Survey (NSS) round of Employment-Unemployment Survey. In the 15-19 age group, there was sharp reduction in percentage share of unemployed males to 23.9 per cent in 2017-18, from 35.7 per cent in 2004-05.

The shift in the unemployment pattern is more noticeable for females, especially in rural areas. Rural females remained unemployed for a slightly longer time than males, with percentage share of unemployed rural females for the 20-24 age group rising to 47.33 per cent in 2017-18 from 36.9 per cent in 2004-05. Similarly, for the 25-29 age group, percentage share of unemployed rural females rose to 25.41 per cent in 2017-18 from 22.6 per cent in 2004-05. In the 15-19 age group, the percentage share of unemployed rural females saw a reduction to 12.7 per cent in 2017-18 from 18 per cent in 2004-05.

Analysing the Data and its Policy Relevance

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is garnering a lot of attention based on selective reading of tables and spurring partisan debates. In particular, the staggering increase in the unemployment rate, from 1.7% in 2011-12 to 5.8% in 2017-18 for rural men and from 3.0% to 7.1% for urban men, has generated wide ranging hand-wringing. However, a more nuanced picture emerges if we are to look beyond the partisan debates to policy implications of the data on employment and unemployment.

First, while the unemployment rate is a frequently used measure of poor performance of the economy, under conditions of rising school and college enrolment, it paints an inaccurate picture. Second, the reported unemployment rate is dominated by the experience of younger Indians who face higher employment challenges and exhibit greater willingness to wait for the right job than their older peers. Third, the unemployment challenge is greatest for people with secondary or higher education and rising

education levels inflate unemployment challenges. These three conditions, taken together, suggest that part of India's unemployment challenge lies in its success in expanding education while not expanding formal sector jobs.

Comparison of male employment and unemployment data from the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) 68th round Employment survey conducted in 2011-12 and the new PLFS of 2017-18 illustrates each of these points. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed by the number in the labour forces, that is, the sum of employed and unemployed. This statistic ignores people who are out of the labour force — students, homemakers and the disabled.

As long as the proportion of the population out of the labour force is more or less stable, the unemployment rate is a good indicator of the changes in the employment situation. However, India has seen massive changes in proportion of individuals enrolled in an educational institution over the past decade. For 15-19-year-old rural men, the proportion primarily engaged in studying increased from 64% to 72% between 2011-12 and 2017-18. As a result, while the proportion of the population aged 15-19 that is unemployed doubled from 3% to 6.9%, the unemployment rate tripled from 9% to 27%. Leaving the numerator (proportion of population unemployed) same while the denominator changes by removing students from the labour force can overstate job losses.

The proportion of the population that is unemployed has increased only slightly for population aged 30 and above but increased substantially for younger men. For rural men (30-34), the proportion of unemployed increased from 1% to 2.3% while that

for men (20-24) increased from 4.6% to 16.1%. Much of the increase in male unemployment is located among ages 15-29. It is important to recognise that in a country dominated by informal sector work, remaining unemployed is possible only for individuals whose families can survive without their immediate contributions. While a 25-year-old may spend his time diligently applying for a formal sector and be supported by his parents during this period, a 30-year-old with a wife and children may have no option but to take any work available to him, even if it pays poorly and offers little job security.

Finally, the unemployment rate has been traditionally high for men with secondary or higher level of education and this is the segment in which most of the increase in unemployment is located. The unemployment rate for illiterate rural men increased from 0.5 to 1.7 between 2011-12 and 2017-18 but the absolute increase was substantially larger, from 3.8 to 10.5 for rural men with at least secondary education. Similar trends are evident for urban men.

This increase in unemployment for educated youth comes at a time when education has expanded substantially. Among rural men (15-29 years), the population with secondary or higher education increased from 43% to 53% between 2011-12 and 2017-18; in

urban areas there was a five percentage point increase, from 61% to 66%.

These three observations taken together suggest that the roots of India's present day unemployment challenges lie in its very success. Educational expansion affects the unemployment debate by skewing the unemployment statistics and by creating greater competition for well-paid jobs among a rising population of educated youth. Rising prosperity allows young graduates to wait for well-paying jobs, creating an army of educated unemployed, before being forced to accept any work, frequently returning to family farms or starting small shops.

Recognition of rising unemployment as a function of rising education forces us to grapple with different issues than a simple focus on unemployment statistics. Public policies such as demonetisation may be responsible for rising unemployment to some extent but that alone could not give us the holistic picture, as it should have implication on all the age group. But since this phenomenon is located mainly among the young and well educated reflects a challenge that goes well beyond the temporary slowdown facing India post-demonetisation.

The Structural Problem of the Economy

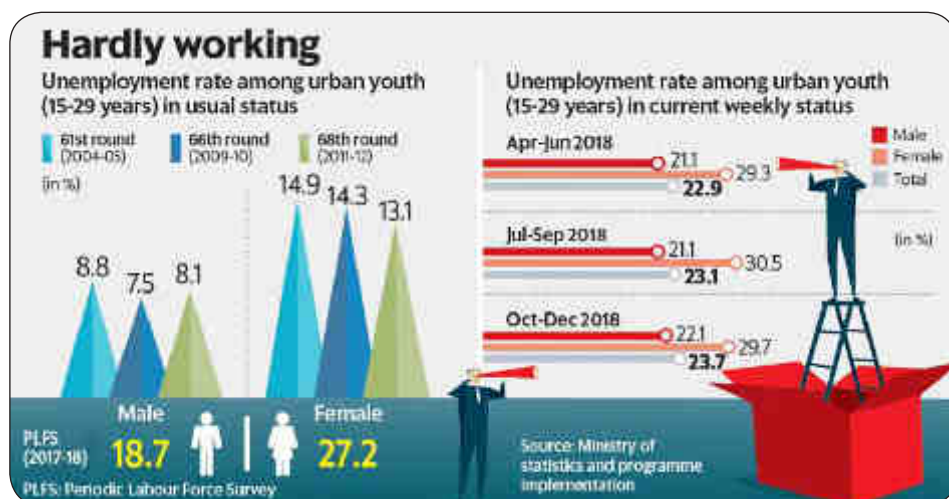
With the above analysis it seems that we need not to bother about the employment data. While the

arguments made are correct but there is definitely some structural problem in our economy which we can't turn our blind-eye upon.

Unemployment in India is a major social issue. The rise in unemployment rate can be traced to various factors. The prime among them is farming. It has become very unattractive given the vicissitudes of the monsoon and government policy. A bad monsoon means lower crop output and income leading to farmer indebtedness and at the extreme, suicides. A good crop leads to prices coming down and with an ineffective minimum support price (MSP), farmers' income tend to come down again leading to the same set of problems. Therefore, the children of farmers would rather not do farming and move over to the urban areas or look for jobs in the non-agricultural space. In a way, the disguised unemployment which was earlier there with excess hands working on a piece of land has officially become unemployed.

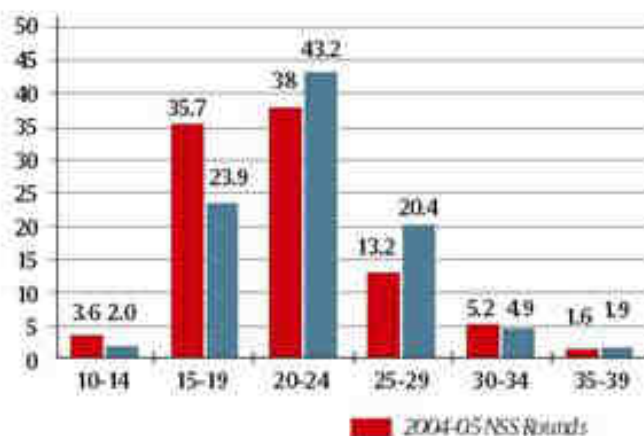
With the advent of Goods and Service Tax (GST), there has been an upheaval in the small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) space which was a major absorber of labour all through the years especially in rural areas. With forced recognition and opaqueness of processes, there has been unsettling of several self-employed leading to distress. Considering that this came on the back of demonetisation, it was but natural that this class got affected the most as business went down.

Similarly real estate construction sector which takes in unskilled labour is a major absorber of migrant labourers. This has been the trend in the past. Now, 2017-18 was a year when Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was enforced post-demonetisation and there was a perceptible slowdown in the real estate sector, especially commercial and non-affordable housing projects. The stock

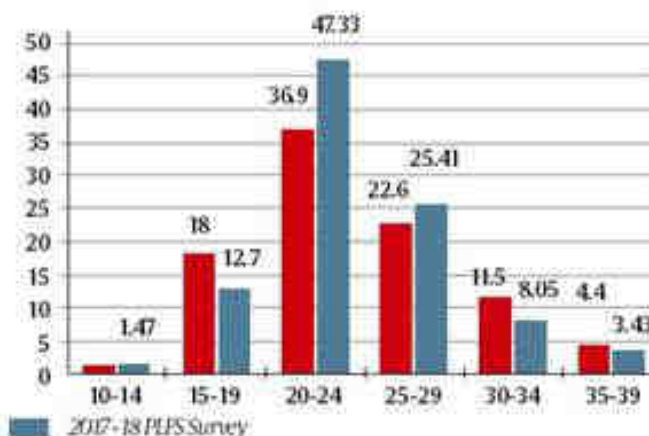


PERCENTAGE SHARE OF USUALLY UNEMPLOYED IN SELECTED AGE GROUPS

RURAL MALE FOR DIFFERENT NSS ROUNDS



RURAL FEMALE FOR DIFFERENT NSS ROUNDS



of inventory tended to increase which slowed down the pace of new projects. This, combined with slow pace of growth in private infrastructure, meant that these jobs also became scarce. Therefore, the intake of labour was restricted.

Given that the economy is not growing at the desired pace of 8 percent-plus in the last three years; demand for labour has been restricted to the higher-end—engineers, management graduates and other professionally qualified personnel. This makes a basic degree irrelevant for employment and while local laws ensure there is employment in super markets and e-commerce businesses, migratory labour is not within the perimeter.

Stringent labour law is another factor that have ensured that companies have moved towards technology which will always be a challenge in a labour surplus economy. Rather than get into issues of not being able to lower staff strength when the business slows down, technology substitution helps such companies tide over difficult times.

Persistent underemployment also contributes to the decline in labour force participation rates. As people grow frustrated with their inability to find a good job, they may

stop looking for work and drop out of the labour force altogether. Data from the leaked NSSO labour force survey suggest that the labour force participation rate declined to 49.8% in 2017-18 from 55.9% in 2011-12. Both underemployment and this form of discouragement are a significant loss of productive potential. This is particularly troubling when it pertains to India's large and growing youth population. Pathways to productive and high-quality employment are essential to deliver better living standards to citizens, but also for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Further, the quality of education needs to be addressed. While we do take a lot of credit in attaining numbers of school enrolment or even higher education, the quality of education in the public space is inadequate which puts students at a disadvantage. Further, those students from a vernacular background will find openings only in the self-employed or government spaces. The latter is also economising on head count which makes future absorption a challenge.

Conclusion

Modern India is an aspirational society. After decades of economic stagnation, the 21st century has seen massive growth in aspirations. Parents invest

their hearts and souls along with their rising incomes in educating their children. Children hope to make rapid economic progress well beyond the modest gains achieved by their parents' generation. The unemployment statistics based on PLFS data document the challenges these young people are likely to face.

The new government has returned to power with a mandate that allows it the freedom to focus on key challenges facing modern India. Creating jobs for an increasingly educated workforce and ensuring that the new workers are well equipped to enter the labour force are twin challenges that deserve greatest priority. Along with them repealing some archaic laws hampering the growth and a healthy and credible data capturing for policy making can go a long way in this regard.

General Studies Paper- II

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

General Studies Paper- III

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



5. CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO : LAST TRACES OF BRITISH COLONIALISM

Why in News?

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has passed a resolution demanding the United Kingdom (UK) return control of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. The vote concluded with 116 votes in favor of decolonization including India, 56 abstentions and only 6 votes against, predictably from the United States, United Kingdom, Israel, the Maldives, Hungary and Australia. The vote was in support of a motion setting a six-month deadline for Britain to withdraw from the Chagos island chain and for the islands to be reunified with neighbouring Mauritius. It endorsed an advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in February, calling on the UK to relinquish its hold on the territory in order to complete the process of decolonisation.

Introduction

In 1810, the territory of Mauritius was captured by Britain and under the terms of the 1814 Peace Treaty of Paris, the archipelago was ceded to Britain by France, as part of the lesser dependencies of Mauritius. Until 1965, the Chagos Archipelago was governed by the United Kingdom from Mauritius. However, in November 1965, the UK purchased the entire Chagos Archipelago from the self-governing colony of Mauritius, officially separating it from the latter and establishing territorial sovereignty over it as a British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).

Consequently, from 1968 to 1973, the entire population of the Chagos Archipelago was removed by force to create space for the still active US military base on the archipelago's largest island, Diego Garcia. Today, Diego Garcia hosts a major US military

base and is a strategic node in US bombing campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. In the five decades since their removal, the islanders have fought for their right to return.

In 2016, after several judicial challenges, Britain extended Diego Garcia's lease until 2036 and declared that the expelled islanders would not be allowed to go back. In 2017, Mauritius successfully petitioned the United Nations to seek an ICJ advisory opinion on the legality of the separation. In 2017, the UNGA adopted a resolution calling on the ICJ to deliver an advisory opinion on whether the continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom following the 1968 decolonisation process of Mauritius was lawful. The ICJ held public hearings in September 2018 in the case after Britain was defeated in its attempt to halt a UNGA resolution calling for the UN's highest court to deliver an advisory opinion on the issue.

In February 2019, ICJ in its advisory opinion had ruled that Britain has an obligation to end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago and complete the process of decolonisation of Mauritius. The court found that the continued administration of the territory by the UK amounted to a 'wrongful act', which was not consistent with the right to the people of 'self-determination.' The judges concluded that any detachment of part of a colony had to be based on the 'freely expressed and genuine will' of the people.

The resolution left the UK diplomatically isolated and was also a measure of severely diminished US clout on the world stage.

About Chagos Archipelago

The Chagos Archipelago is a cluster of seven coral atolls, situated around 500 km South of the Maldives archipelago in the Indian Ocean. It comprises 55 individual tropical islands, and also contains the Great Chagos Bank, the world's largest coral atoll. It is considered to have the most pristine tropical marine environment on the planet and to be by far the richest area of marine biodiversity. The archipelago is better known for hosting the U.S. military base at Diego Garcia.

Diego Garcia, coral atoll, largest and southernmost member of the Chagos Archipelago, in the Central Indian Ocean, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory.

The atoll is located 3,535 km East of Tanzania's coast, 1,796 km South-southwest of the Southern tip of India (at Kanyakumari) and 4,723 km West-northwest of the West coast of Australia (at Cape Range National Park, Western Australia). Diego Garcia lies at the southernmost tip of the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge, a vast underwater mountain range with peaks consisting of coral reefs, atolls and islands comprising Lakshadweep, the Maldives, and the Chagos Archipelago.

Rationale behind Mauritius Claim

The crux of the Mauritian claim is the right of self-determination. The Mauritian government claimed that the separation of the islands from Mauritius was in clear breach of UN resolution 1514, also known as the 'Colonial Declaration'. It was passed in 1960, enshrined the right of self-determination for colonial peoples and specifically banned the breakup of



colonies prior to independence. This was intended to keep borders stable, and to prevent colonial powers from simply absorbing colonial territory into their overseas territory so as to retain their sovereignty. Yet in spite of this resolution, a number of states (including France and the UK) kept possession of parts of their former colonies following the decolonisation process.

Challenges faced by the U.K.

The current challenges faced by the UK are twofold: increased international human rights pressure demanding the Chagossians' right to return and the recent ruling of the UNGA, both of which attack the legitimacy of British presence in the region. The UK's decision to depopulate Diego Garcia was an egregious example of human rights violations. The US and the UK have often wagged their fingers at developing countries on human rights violations and now find themselves in the dock for the same at the UN.

Strategic Importance of Diego Garcia to the U.S.

The 12-square-mile Diego Garcia lies nearly equidistant from Australia, India, the Saudi peninsula and Africa's east coast. The US military facility on the island "supports long-range bomber operations, the replenishment of naval vessels and the prepositioning of heavy equipment to expedite the rapid deployment Army and Marine Corps brigades.

Moreover, Diego Garcia reduces the need for the US military to maintain a large footprint on the ground in order to protect America's regional allies, control the spread of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction proliferation and maintain the

flow of energy and commerce through key chokepoints such as the straits of Hormuz and Malacca. These regional objectives can be achieved by engaging in an offshore balancing posture that maintains local preeminence via control of the sea. As a result, air and naval platforms, as well as rapidly deployable special operations forces, staged "over the horizon" at Diego Garcia, can enable the US to pursue its regional interests with a less provocative and less visible presence.

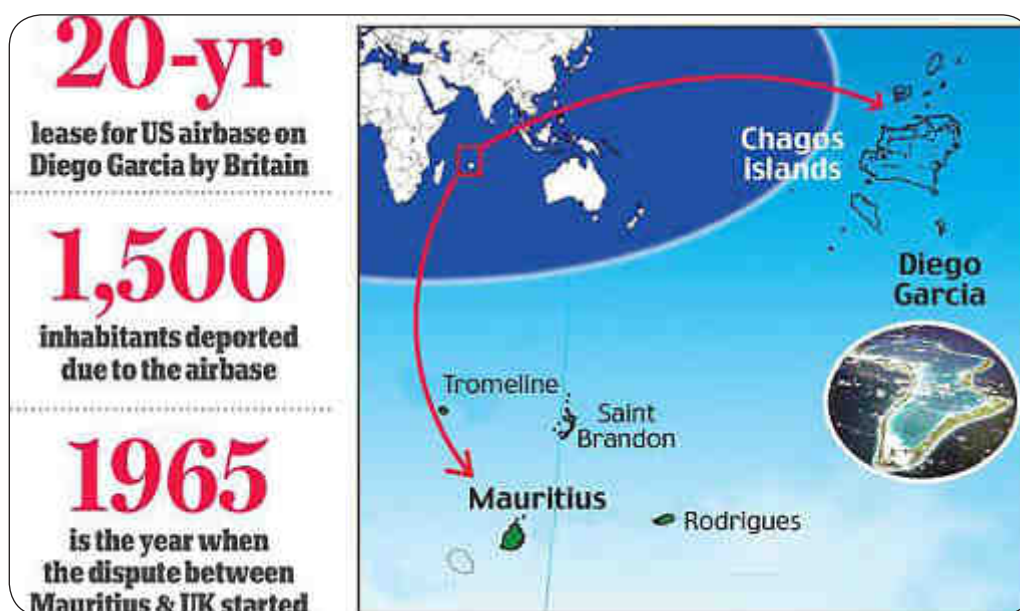
As of early 2019, facilities on the island included an anchorage and a port housing a US Navy support force, a flotilla of Navy prepositioning ships mostly carrying Army and Marine Corps equipment, barracks, an airfield, separate US Air Force detachments supporting Pacific Air Forces and Air Mobility Command flights, an Air Force satellite relay and a powerful telescope that the flying branch operates to keep track of spacecraft. The naval facilities might be the most important to long-term US plans for the region as the US Navy expands in order to counter a growing Chinese fleet that itself is deploying more and more frequently to the Indian Ocean. In the Indo-Pacific region, where many US allies are wary of hosting substantial American forces,

Diego Garcia could become even more important to US interests.

India's Engagement

India has played an important role, away from the public glare, in this whole affair. India's relations with Mauritius are unique and it was a foregone conclusion that India would solidly back Mauritius's claims, given India's active role in decolonisation. The US and the UK tried to influence India to restrain Mauritius. Both countries conveyed to Mauritius they could not hand over the Chagos as long as it is required for defence purposes. The realistic view is that nothing will change but some accommodation or agreement can be worked out. India is likely to play a not too insignificant role in working out a modus vivendi.

Though India was a strident critic of military bases in the Indian Ocean during the Cold War, geo-strategic changes in the last three decades have thrown up new challenges, with China making inroads into the Indian Ocean and occupying islands illegally in the South China Sea. The increasing footprint of China in the maritime domain has led to countervailing measures in the formation of the Quad, a loose formation of Australia, Japan,





India and the US and the renaming of the US's Pacific Command as the Indo-Pacific Command.

India-US defence ties have also progressed significantly with the signing of the 'Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement', which provides mutual access to the armed forces of the two countries to selected military facilities. The other significant bilateral agreement is the 'Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement', which facilitates encrypted communication between the two militaries. These developments have a bearing on Diego Garcia and India's more nuanced view on this military base.

Eventually, the issue of sovereignty will have to be finessed by agreements that allow continuation of the military base at Diego Garcia with guarantees that Mauritius will retain sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago. Mauritius will agree to lease out the island for a

long period to the US for maintaining the military base. The UK's role is more problematic in the aftermath of the ICJ ruling and the UN resolution. It would be best for London to step back and hand over sovereignty to Mauritius and simultaneously work out the leasing arrangement with the US. India can play a pivotal role in bringing such an agreement to fruition.

Way Forward

The recent UNGA resolution, however, will not change the situation overnight, but, it will surely allow the Chagossians forcibly removed from their homes to be able to return one day. It has immediate practical consequences such as the UN and specialised agencies and all other international organisations are now bound, as a matter of UN law, to support the decolonisation of Mauritius and restricted from aiding any claim by the UK over the BIOT, as London calls its colony. The UK may not

doubt its sovereignty over Chagos, but if it claims it in any forum – from the Europeans Union (EU) to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission – or in any intergovernmental negotiation, its claim will not be recognised.

No doubt the UK will try to tough it out, just as South Africa tried after the Hague court gave a similar decision back in 1971, in respect of territory then known as South West Africa, today Namibia. Justice is a long game, but on matters such as this it delivers, eventually, even if time is not on everyone's side.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood-relations.

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



6. PINK REVOLUTION IN INDIA : CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Why in News?

According to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), India's buffalo meat exports have fallen 9% in 2018-19 from a year ago to the lowest level in six years. China had stopped buying Indian meat on fear of the foot and mouth disease a few years ago. Exporters said the devaluation of currencies of Brazil and Argentina had also made Indian supplies less competitive. China was a bulk consumer a few years ago and there was a safety net for the industry in terms of consistent volume of trade.

Pink Revolution

Pink revolution refers to the modernization of the meat and poultry processing sector in India. Modernization refers to the specialization, mechanization and standard of processes in the meat industry. Technological up gradation and industrialization is necessary for Indian entities to keep up with global standards. Also, adoption and development of mass production capabilities will help the industry be more productive. There is especially immense scope for development of the domestic market. A sizeable number of Indians still prefer to buy meat at the local shop or from the wet market instead of standard packaged meat. Additionally, in light of the increasing threat of zoonotic diseases, it is important for India to maintain or build top notch facilities so that exports from India do not get banned by other countries.

India is having a good potential for meat production because of large livestock population. In India, the largest meat producer species is poultry followed by bovines, goat and sheep. Production of meat is largely an

unorganized activity in India. The lack of appropriate slaughtering facilities leading to unnecessary losses of meat as well as valuable by-products. The major constraints in hygienic meat production are lack of hygienic facilities in slaughter houses, poor transport and cold storage facilities, ignorance about hygiene at butcher level and religious taboo. The global demand for livestock products are an opportunity for India to increase its exports. Meat exported from India is risk-free, lean, nutritious and competitively priced meat. It has resulted in consistent, high compound growth rate in the export volumes. The importers of Indian meat are Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Uttar Pradesh state has emerged as the major exporter of buffalo meat followed by Punjab and Maharashtra. The value addition to slaughterhouse by products generate additional income as well as the costs of disposing of by products can be minimized. Measures should be taken to increase the meat production efficiency of different species of animals using the improved management practices.

There is huge potential in this sector for economic development of country through increasing exports so the policy makers should adopt critical measures at every stage to encourage and support this vital segment of the Indian agriculture.

Overview of Poultry Production Systems in India

According to government report, poultry sector in India is valued at about Rs. 80,000 crore (2015-16) broadly divided into two sub-sectors – one with a highly organized commercial sector with about 80% of the total market share (say, Rs. 64,000 crore) and the other being

unorganized with about 20% of the total market share of Rs. 16,000 Crore. The unorganized sector also referred to as backyard poultry plays a key role in supplementary income generation and family nutrition to the poorest of the poor. It is estimated that with a poultry population of 729 million [30% layers at around 215 million and 40% broilers at around 480 million] small and medium farmers are mostly engaged in contract farming system under larger integrators and there are around 30 million farmers engaged in backyard poultry as per 19th Livestock Census. The needs of organized and unorganized sectors are very different. Discussions with various stakeholders reveal that poultry sector- especially commercial poultry sector- is flourishing in certain pockets, where amenable environment exists, along with backward and forward linkages while the unorganized sector is very dispersed and micro-fragmented.

Organized sub-sector needs conducive environment to grow for which policy support & intervention is required mainly for disease surveillance, drug residue and drug/vaccine quality control, standardization & quality control of poultry feed, eggs & meat, application of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) and Good Manufacturing Practices for compliance to WTO & CODEX norms and gradation, value addition, brand promotion & export boosting (about Rs. 532 crore in 2016-17) etc. The above issues are broadly dealt with by a number of Ministries/ agencies like Export Inspection Council of India, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) etc. Besides, National Institute of Animal Health

under Animal Husbandry Department is dealing with quality control of vaccines and the 'The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009' is the key regulation to control important livestock and poultry diseases in the country. Compartmentalization for disease control as per OIE Standards is an important issue being dealt with by DADF to facilitate smooth trade.

Unorganized sub-sector generates additional income and improvement of nutritional status among the poorest of the poor. However until now there has been little support to this sector. Now however through one of the components 'Rural Backyard Poultry Development' under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Poultry Development' assistance is provided for to cover beneficiaries from BPL families. But this continues to be very little as compared to the demand. A part of the unorganized sector is the Transitional Small & Marginal sub-sector. Due to Government initiatives for entrepreneurship development, small/ marginal units are now coming up. However, these can sustain only if they operate in a clustered manner.

Strengths

- ◆ Low cost Protein in the country.
- ◆ Good growth rate- CAGR is around 5% for eggs and 7% for poultry; The CAGR of GVA for last 5 years for egg and poultry is nearly 13% and 15% respectively. Rising economy & growing emphasis on poultry products.
- ◆ Livestock contributes nearly 12% to rural household monthly Income; Poultry alone can contribute nearly half of the same Coping up with captive production of Soya bean & maize.
- ◆ Consolidation of integrated operations would strengthen poultry supply chain.

Weakness

- ◆ Lack of infrastructure facilities for Value addition such as Poultry processing, warehousing, Cold storage, refrigerated vehicles.
- ◆ High Maize & Soya price fluctuation leading to availability issues of poultry feed at reasonable prices.
- ◆ Small farms, losing out on economies of scale and biosecurity.
- ◆ Lack or undefined standards leading to impending cheaper imports.

Houses for Hygienic Meat Production

The growing number of fast food outlets in the country has significantly influenced the meat producing industry. The slaughter houses in India are primarily catering to the needs of domestic market. However, exporters have been also procuring the meat from some of these Municipal Slaughter houses. Most of these slaughter houses are very old and they lack essential amenities such as water, light, drainage, lairage, holding pens, etc. The government is improving the conditions of these slaughter houses for increasing the exports. India also has several integrated mechanized slaughter house-cum meat processing plants with facilities for slaughtering, processing, freezing, packing and cold storage of meat. Some of the exporters have started backward integration in meat production.

Growth Drivers and Emerging Trends for Eggs and Poultry

- ◆ In India, poultry sector growth may be attributed to many factors like rising incomes and a rapidly expanding middle class, together with the emergence of vertically integrated poultry producers that have reduced consumer prices by lowering production and marketing costs.

- ◆ Integrated production, market transition from live birds to chilled and frozen products, and policies that ensure supplies of competitively priced corn and soybean are keys to future poultry industry growth in India. Further, disease surveillance, monitoring and control will also decide the fate of this sector.
- ◆ Concurrently, India's unorganized and backyard poultry sector is also one of the potent tool for subsidiary income generation for many landless/ marginal farmers and also provides nutritional security to the rural poor.
- ◆ These achievements and growth rates are still being sustained despite the ingress of avian influenza which was a severe setback for the industry, showing the resilience of the subsector, perseverance of the private sector and timely intervention by the Government.
- ◆ To assess the future trends we have to review the past planning and present scenario to extrapolate the future. The externalities and variables are often unprecedented and sudden. Both empirical and statistical methods need to be accounted for while making any predictive assumptions

Regulatory Framework

Relevant Acts promulgated by DADF, government of India.

- ◆ The Prevention & Control of Infectious and Contagious Disease in Animals Act, 2009 to regulate disease transmission from one state to other.
- ◆ Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 regulates veterinary practice and education.
- ◆ Importation of livestock and livestock products are regulated by the Livestock Importation Act, 1898.

Other Acts, Rules & Regulation

- ◆ Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006.
- ◆ Quality Control of Food Products of Animal Origin (Export-oriented).
- ◆ Residue Monitoring Plan (export-oriented).
- ◆ Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (Global Trade-Oriented).
- ◆ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) & ISO 22000:2005.
- ◆ APMC Model Act, 2017.
- ◆ The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- ◆ The Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

Opportunities Ahead

India is the 6th largest and fastest growing economy of world with 95% Raw/Wet market –which can be transformed and harnessed. India is having a good potential for meat production because of large livestock population. Measures should be taken to increase the meat production efficiency of different

species of animals using the improved management practices. Adoption of improved shelter management practices can reduce the environmental stress. New breeds should be developed for meat production with higher feed conversion efficiency, faster growth and disease resistant. Health management practices should be followed for prevention of diseases and economic loss to the farmers. Regular prophetic health measures should be carried out against infectious diseases. Regular screening of animals should be carried out against disease such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, salmonellosis etc. The livestock market yard should have basic facilities for feeding, watering and holding animals for days. By vertical integration with meat processing industries the middle men can be eliminated, which will ultimately increase the profit of farmers. There is need for modernizing the quality control laboratories of the State Government, apart from need for strict laboratory inspection of meat and meat products, training programs for meat workers regarding

hygiene and sanitation need to be organized regularly. Modernization of abattoirs, setting up of rural abattoirs and registration of all slaughter houses in cities/towns are essential for quality meat production. The setting up of large commercial meat farms have been recommended to address the traceability issues necessary for stringent quality standards of CODEX.

Being a secular country the focus should be more on professional aspect of market rather than religious aspect. India needs legislations and willingness to make India fair play ground not only for domestic entrepreneurs but also for global players in meat and poultry business.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significant; location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.



7. RURAL TOURISM : A NEW WING TO RURAL GROWTH

Context

The growth in the India rural tourism market in recent years means that many Indian villages have now found a place on the tourist map. Not only does it provide the villagers with a much needed additional source of income, visitors are able to interact with them and gain a rare insight into their way of life.

Introduction

Tourism as an activity undertaken by individuals provides diversification from routine functions of one's day to day life. Today tourism is recognized as one of the largest industries of the

world. It contributes to employment generation, enhances income and enables fair distribution of wealth from an economic perspective. Simultaneously it provides a ground for cultural exchanges enhances tolerance and mutual respect amongst different cultures and promotes international friendship. It is also one of the surest and economical means of gaining exchange income.

Tourism is an enormous subset of the entertainment industry. In the recent years with the changing dynamics of tourism, the industry has witnessed shifts from mass tourism to tourists being more specific in their

taste for seeking new and unexplored destinations. This presents a challenge to the service providers to discover exotic places and package these to attract the new breed of tourists and also as a means to beat competition.

Many forms of Special Interest Tourism (SIT) catering to the new needs of the tourists have emerged. One such trend has been to present the urbanized tourists a chance to travel from concrete jungles to greener pastures. This has led to the introduction of rural tourism. With growing demand for short weekend breaks especially amongst the domestic markets, the increasing popularity of forms of

tourism which comprise rural tourism represents a large and important sector for the overall tourism market.

The Concept of Rural Tourism

Rural tourism can be defined as the country experience which encompasses a wide range of attractions and activities that take place in agricultural or non-urban areas. The essential characteristics of this form of tourism include wide-open spaces, low levels of tourism development and opportunities for visitors to directly experience agricultural and/or natural environments. Rural tourism can be defined according to its relationship with its environment.

Government of India explained rural tourism as “any form of tourism that showcases the rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations, thereby benefitting the local community, economically and socially, as well as enabling interaction between the tourists and the locals for a more enriching tourism experience can be termed as rural tourism. Rural tourism is essentially an activity that takes place in the countryside. It is multi-faceted and may entail farm/agricultural tourism, cultural tourism, nature tourism, adventure tourism and eco-tourism. As against conventional tourism, rural tourism has certain typical characteristics like- it is experience oriented, the locations are sparsely populated, it is predominantly in natural environment, it meshes with seasonality and local events and is based on preservation of culture, heritage and tradition.”

Major Types of Rural Tourism in India

Agricultural Tourism: To explore more about the agricultural industry and how farmers work with crops.

Cultural Tourism: To allow tourists to be immersed in local culture related activities, like rituals and festivals.

Nature Tourism: Responsible travel to natural areas, which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people.

Adventure Tourism: Any constructive activity which tests the endurance of both a person and his equipment to its extreme limit is termed as adventure.

Food Routes: Where wanderlust meets the variety that persists in our cuisine. This tourism is all about food and knowing more about different staples of different places.

Community Eco-tourism: Where tourism is for a purpose. It is a rather responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improves the well-being of local people.

Ethno-tourism: To expand the horizons to view different cultures. It is essentially to know more about various ethnic and cultural lifestyles and beliefs.

Increasing Interest in Rural Tourism

- ◆ Rural tourism helps to garner knowledge on agriculture, farming, local governance, etc.
- ◆ Rural tourism helps to remove myths about rural lifestyle that may exist in urban minds like villages are unhygienic, rural life is unsafe, etc.
- ◆ Rural tourism will help a person to explore the vast diversity that breathes in the interiors of India.

Economic Potential in Rural Tourism

The fact that tourism industry has emerged as a major sector which contributes for the faster development of any nation needs no emphasis. By virtue of tourism industry's ability to create jobs with minimum capital outlays, through exploiting natural endowment of resources is widely acknowledged. Therefore, it is no surprise that policy makers have turned

their attention towards promotion of tourism of all hues.

Need for an Entrepreneurial Approach

Entrepreneurship as a concept and practice encompasses all human endeavours. It is region, sector and gender neutral. Yet, it is a pity that entrepreneurship is largely construed as an activity relevant to manufacturing sector, leaving aside several other human endeavors where entrepreneurship spirit is dormant.

Human curiosity, imagination, spirit of enterprise, the urge to excel and the desire to achieve - all along have brought the mankind from the nomad status to what it is today where the human race is now all set to conquer even other planets. Needless to say, it is entrepreneurship which drives people towards action leading to the overall development.

Rural Tourism Resources Mapping

Resources mapping brings to the fore what rural India has to offer to tourists. Some villages are known for their rich folklore, some are known for better farm practices, some are known for scenic beauty, some are known for traditional martial arts while some for floriculture and the other for fish ponds and prawn culture. Rural India thus offers mind blowing diversity. What is required is effective product design and communication. In the absence of systematic resource mapping, any attempt to promote rural tourism is akin to a blind man throwing the stone.

The several distinct rural resources may apparently look very humble and mundane. But the experience and novelty they offer to the discernable tourists are priceless.

Skilling the Unskilled

Educated youth in the villages may be imparted basic computer skills such that they can connect with the tourists

before and after the visits and also with the various service providers in the supply chain. Basic skills in using the technology will make wonders given the present penetration of smart phones and access to internet. Now that there are many user friendly apps, the target group in the villages could be familiarized with the use of apps so that dependence on intermediaries may be minimized. Participants at the village level in various tourism operations may know the preferences of the tourists, how they wish to spend time in the village, what they want to see and experience the kind of food they like to taste and souvenir items to take home.

Ecosystem for Rural Tourism

Accessibility, Accommodation, Attractions and Amenities, popularly known as '4As' in the tourism parlance constitute the four important pillars of tourism. Mere possession of various tourism attractions does not guarantee tourism promotion automatically. Such an ecosystem needs to be created and sustained.

Information about specific rural tourism centers, availability of facilities and the key people to contact may be put up in the websites of rural tourism portals. A effective presentation of information helps the tourists plan the visit and enjoys the stay with least inconvenience to the host community. Eventually, it would be a win-win situation to both the tourists and the host community.

Agritourism and Rural Development

Agritourism can be viewed as an integrated system of activities that takes place in rural areas; activities that are in relationships of independence and which have as their final goal of regional rural development. Agritourism has been identified to be a tool for measuring the quality of life, the

quantification of the standard of living of certain social groups. It promotes agriculture related range of activities to achieve income, employment and economic stability in rural communities by providing a host of amenities and services to the urban tourists in rural settings ultimately connecting peoples back to their roots. It also represents an economic activity taking place in parallel with agriculture, recovers surplus of accommodation in peasant household, provide for tourist services like accommodation, catering and leisure.

In India the concept is new but this has been in practice in so many countries for considerable time. In Maharashtra rural areas have formed an organization named 'Maharashtra State Agriculture and Rural Tourism (MART). The state has more than 150 agritourism centers running with financial assistance under different government schemes.

Rural Tourism vs Agritourism

There are a number of differences between the most practiced forms of tourism in the countryside: rural tourism and agritourism, the relationship between these is that the part of whole.

Agritourism is a subset of larger industry called rural tourism. It is a commercial enterprise of working at farm, ranch or agricultural plant conducted for the enjoyment of visitors that generate supplemental income for the owner.

Rural tourism enterprises do not necessarily occur on a farm or ranch or an agricultural plant. They also do not necessarily generate supplemental income for the agricultural enterprise.

Agritourism is largely a secondary activity with the agricultural activity remaining the main occupation and source of income, rural tourism is not secondary to any other enterprise.

The importance of rural tourism should not be over estimated, it is and remains a complementary activity, seasonal, but taking it at face value is beneficial to the rural importance, importance that cannot be neglected.

Socio-Cultural Impact of Rural Tourism

Rural tourism is making a valuable contribution to rural economies. Its contribution can be expressed not only in financial terms, but also in terms of jobs, contributions towards funding conservation and encouragement to the adoption of new working practices. In terms of the social fabric of the rural community, definitely an additional source of income that comes from tourism contributes positively to this community. The rural society through tourism can overcome their complete dependence on agriculture for revenue. Tourism can also build a sense of pride amongst the rural community in their heritage and traditions. The rural community is also exposed to the urban world directly and interactions between the two can lead to encouraging mutual respect. The development of rural tourism contributes to the social benefits in several ways. It leads to the maintenance and support of public transport.

Increased social contact brings opportunities for cultural exchanges, greater awareness and the revitalization of local customs, crafts and cultural identities. It can also aid in preventing the youngsters of these communities to shift to urban centers as they are now exposed to an array of alternate income through tourism.

The role of women can also gain momentum as they participate and gain economically from tourism. The facilities created for tourists can benefit the residents in terms of upgraded infrastructure, health and cleaning of public spaces. Thus the standard of

living of the rural community is on the surge.

One of the major positive impacts on the rural society is the resurgence of cultural, traditional and historical traditions. This caters to conducive environment for conservation and sustainable management of local and indigenous culture, arts and crafts.

Government Initiatives

The Ministry of Tourism has identified many spots which are being developed as tourist destinations in rural areas. These sites are still unexplored. To help the holistic development of such tourist places, the Ministry has introduced certain schemes, such as:

Swadesh Darshan

India's rich cultural, historical, religious and natural heritage provides a huge potential for development of tourism and job creation. Under 'Swadesh Darshan', 13 thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation for Spiritual Augmented Drive (PRASAD)

Pilgrimage tourism is a form of tourism motivated partly or wholly

by religious sentiments. India is a land of many religions like Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity, Jainism and Sufism, having their major pilgrimage centres in different parts of the country. Religion and spirituality are common motivations for travel, with major tourist destinations having developed largely as a result of their connections to sacred places, persons and events.

Special Tourism Zones

In 2017, the government has developed five Special Tourism Zones, anchored on special purpose vehicles (SPVs) to boost the 'Incredible India 2.0' campaign.

e-Tourist Visa Facility

To facilitate arrival of international tourists, government has introduced the e-tourist visa in 2014 with 46 countries. It has now been made applicable for 166 countries. Someone with e-tourist visa can now stay continuously for each visit for 90 days in case of nationals of all countries who are eligible for grant of e-visa except nationals of US, UK, Canada and Japan, who can stay for 180 days. This was previously limited to 60 days.

Way Forward

The success of rural tourism lies in creating a balance between the positive and negative impacts of tourism and maintaining a healthy rural environment. As any other business



activity, rural tourism is also profit oriented. Nevertheless, because it is driven by the accountability principles, rural tourism should be based not only on the core features of rural tourism (local biodiversity and eco-systems support, sustainable development), but also on understanding the lifestyle of the users of products and services of rural tourism. Rural tourism has an immense possibility for exotic destination seekers and has been recognized as a key business opportunity by the stakeholders mainly due to the growing demand for domestic weekend holidays. It is therefore paramount that the third party involved that is the rural community should be an equal beneficiary through tourism with minimal damages to its socio-cultural structure.

General Studies Paper- III

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

Topic: Investment models.



SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Menstrual Hygiene Campaign : Empowering Women and Girls

Q1. “The myths and taboos surrounding menstruation need to be broken down effectively before schemes and incentives make their way to make life better for menstruating women.” Discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ Myths and stigmas surrounding menstruation cause some women and girls to miss school or work or go into isolation. Women and men of all ages must be made aware of the importance of menstrual hygiene through an open dialogue and education at home and in school to foster engagement with this often unspoken issue.
- ◆ Poor menstrual hygiene caused by a lack of education on the issue, persisting taboos and stigma, limited access to hygienic menstrual products and poor sanitation infrastructure undermines the educational opportunities, health and overall social status of women and girls around the world.
- ◆ Menstruation is such a taboo subject that many women are ashamed even to seek medical advice if they face any health problems due to menstruation. Unhygienic menstrual conditions often result in women developing health problems which are further aggravated due to their inability to seek medical help on time.
- ◆ The myths and taboos surrounding menstruation need to be broken down effectively before schemes and incentives make their way to make life better for menstruating women. Conditions for menstruating women in India can only improve when awareness on menstrual hygiene is spread.

Beyond the South Asia-Centric Notion of Neighbourhood

Q2. “As India’s interests move beyond its borders, the fixation with South Asia-centric notion of neighbourhood can no longer serve as a useful analytical framework in understanding and explaining India’s regional diplomacy.” Critically discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ India shares both land and maritime boundaries with BIMSTEC members (land borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal) and (maritime boundaries with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand). The re-imagining of the Bay of Bengal subregion through the BIMSTEC forum has allowed a greater role for the ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy. This also means that the sub-regional grouping holds an important place in the success of the policy.
- ◆ BIMSTEC emerged out of the necessities of the member countries. India was motivated to join BIMSTEC as it wanted to enhance its connectivity with ASEAN countries: a major component of its Look East Policy, now rechristened ‘Act East’ policy. For Thailand, BIMSTEC helps achieve the country’s Look West Policy. BIMSTEC also helps smaller countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan to develop connectivity with ASEAN countries, the hub of major economic activities globally.
- ◆ Despite the many successes of BIMSTEC, however, some concerns remain. In its 20 years of existence, the BIMSTEC summit has taken place only thrice. This calls into question the seriousness of the member countries. Moreover, the delay in the adoption of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a framework that was agreed upon in 2004, fuels doubts about BIMSTEC’s efficacy.
- ◆ In tandem with its national interest, India must keep all its avenues open and must have a comprehensive approach to promote cooperation amongst its neighbours. The success of BIMSTEC does not render SAARC pointless; it only adds a new chapter in regional cooperation in South Asia.

Dynastic Politics : A Rising Phenomenon in India

Q3. What do you understand by ‘dynastic politics’? Critically discuss its pros and cons in the context of Indian politics?

Hints:

- ◆ A succession of rulers or people or group from the same family or line who maintains power for several generations can be defined as basic definition. Dynastic politics, usually presumed to be the antithesis of democracy, which is a routine aspect of politics in many modern democracies.
- ◆ Pros
 - ◆ In dynastic politics, the person entering into politics already holds a lot of experience about the work he/she is ought to do and is not a novice as he has already seen his family working in the same direction.
 - ◆ There is a personal aspect to dynastic politics. When a family continues ruling, there is this sort of bond created between the nation and the rulers and they work into symbiotic relation.
- ◆ Cons
 - ◆ Dynastic politics enables only those leaders who have strong connections to come forward and take the charge irrespective of the ability of that person, thus ignoring the right potential.
 - ◆ Dynastic politics discourages young and new talents to come forward and join politics which deserves crowd away from politics.

The Labour Force Survey Report : An Analysis

Q4. As per the 'Periodic Labour Force Survey', unemployment in the country is at a four-decade-high. Discuss the factors which are responsible for the rise of unemployment rate.

Hints:

- ◆ Unemployment in India is a major social issue. The rise in unemployment rate can be traced to various factors. The prime among them is farming. It has become very unattractive given the vicissitudes of the monsoon and government policy.
- ◆ With the advent of GST, there has been an upheaval in the small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) space which was a major absorber of labour all through the years especially in rural areas.
- ◆ Given that the economy is not growing at the desired pace of 8 percent-plus in the last three years; demand for labour has been restricted to the higher-end—engineers, management graduates and other professionally qualified personnel.
- ◆ Stringent labour law is another factor that have ensured that companies have moved towards technology which will always be a challenge in a labour surplus economy.
- ◆ While we do take a lot of credit in attaining numbers of school enrolment or even higher education, the quality of education in the public space is inadequate which puts students at a disadvantage. Further, those students from a vernacular background will find openings only in the self-employed or government spaces. The latter is also economising on head count which makes future absorption a challenge.

Chagos Archipelago : Last Traces of British Colonialism

Q5. Recently the United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution demanding the United Kingdom return control of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. Discuss its implications.

Hints:

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has passed a resolution demanding the United Kingdom (UK) return control of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius.
- ◆ The current challenges faced by the UK are twofold: increased international human rights pressure demanding the Chagossians' right to return and the recent ruling of the UNGA, both of which attack the legitimacy of British presence in the region. The U.K.'s decision to depopulate Diego Garcia was an egregious example of human rights violations. The U.S. and the U.K. have often wagged their fingers at developing countries on human rights violations and now find themselves in the dock for the same at the UN.
- ◆ The recent UNGA resolution, however, will not change the situation overnight, but, it will surely allow the Chagossians forcibly removed from their homes to be able to return one day. It has immediate practical consequences such as the UN and specialised agencies and all other international organisations are now bound, as a matter of UN law, to support the decolonisation of Mauritius and restricted from aiding any claim by the UK over the BIOT, as London calls its colony.
- ◆ The UK may not doubt its sovereignty over Chagos, but if it claims it in any forum – from the EU to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission – or in any intergovernmental negotiation, its claim will not be recognised.

Pink Revolution in India : Challenges and Prospects

Q6. What do you understand by 'pink revolution'? Discuss its challenges and future prospects.

Hints:

- ◆ Pink revolution refers to the modernization of the meat and poultry processing sector in India. Modernization refers to the specialization, mechanization and standard of processes in the meat industry. Technological up gradation and industrialization is necessary for Indian entities to keep up with global standards. Also, adoption and development of mass production capabilities will help the industry be more productive.
- ◆ These achievements and growth rates are still being sustained despite the ingress of avian influenza which was a severe setback for the industry, showing the resilience of the subsector, perseverance of the private sector and timely intervention by the Government.
- ◆ Meat Production India is having a good potential for meat production because of large livestock population. Future Strategies for Increasing Meat Production India is having a good potential for meat production because of large livestock population. Measures should be taken to increase the meat production efficiency of different species of animals using the improved management practices.
- ◆ Adoption of improved shelter management practices can reduce the environmental stress. New breeds should be developed for meat production with higher feed conversion efficiency, faster growth and disease resistant. Health management practices should be followed for prevention of diseases and economic loss to the farmers. Regular prophetic health measures should be carried out against infectious diseases.

Rural Tourism : A New Wing to Rural Growth

Q7. "The success of rural tourism lies in creating a balance between the positive and negative impacts of tourism and maintaining a healthy rural environment." Discuss it in the context of growing rural tourism in India.

Hints

- ◆ Rural tourism can be defined as the country experience which encompasses a wide range of attractions and activities that take place in agricultural or non-urban areas. The essential characteristics of this form of tourism include wide-open spaces, low levels of tourism development and opportunities for visitors to directly experience agricultural and/or natural environments.
- ◆ The growth in the India rural tourism market in recent years means that many Indian villages have now found a place on the tourist map. Not only does it provide the villagers with a much needed additional source of income, visitors are able to interact with them and gain a rare insight into their way of life.
- ◆ The success of rural tourism lies in creating a balance between the positive and negative impacts of tourism and maintaining a healthy rural environment. As any other business activity, rural tourism is also profit oriented. Nevertheless, because it is driven by the accountability principles, rural tourism should be based not only on the core features of rural tourism (local biodiversity and eco-systems support, sustainable development), but also on understanding the lifestyle of the users of products and services of rural tourism.
- ◆ Rural tourism has an immense possibility for exotic destination seekers and has been recognized as a key business opportunity by the stake holders mainly due to the growing demand for domestic weekend holidays.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. The Wellbeing Budget of New Zealand

New Zealand government has unveiled its new financial budget which places a heavy emphasis on the “wellbeing” of citizens, over economic growth or other priorities.

The Well-being Approach

Wellbeing is when people are able to lead fulfilling lives with purpose, balance and meaning to them. Based on the idea that gauging the long-term impact of policies on the quality of people’s lives is better than focusing on short-term output measures, the initiative has five priorities for 2019: aiding the transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy, supporting a thriving nation in the digital age, lifting Maori and Pacific incomes, skills and opportunities,

reducing child poverty and supporting mental health for all New Zealanders.

Worldwide Push

While the New Zealand government is planning to move away from traditional methods of measuring growth and development are in keeping with a global push for a more purposeful capitalism, new metrics may be difficult to quantify and could take years to refine. Ideas about measuring and promoting well-being aren’t new. Frameworks are already in existence, while some nations, including Bhutan and the United Arab Emirates, have already incorporated them into government policy. Politicians, economists and lobby groups in other countries, like the UK, are calling for

governments to do more. The UAE has a Minister of State for Happiness and a National Programme for Happiness and Positivity. Its agenda is based on three pillars: inclusion of happiness in the policies, programmes and services of all government bodies and at work, promotion of positivity and happiness as a lifestyle, and development of benchmarks and tools to measure happiness.

Bhutan measures Gross National Happiness over nine domains: psychological well-being, health, education, time use, cultural diversity, good governance, community vitality, ecological diversity and living standards. It is used to support policy-making and track the effectiveness of policies over time. ■

2. USA has removed India from its Currency Monitoring Watchlist

The US government has removed India from its list of major trading partners to be closely monitored for potentially questionable foreign exchange policies with the move coming amid escalating trade tensions between the two countries.

The US includes major trading partners in its monitoring list if they meet at least two of three criteria – if it has either a significant bilateral trade surplus with the US, if it has a material current account surplus or if it is engaged in persistent one-sided intervention in the foreign exchange market.

The US has added Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam to

the list, with China continuing to figure in latest list.

While the designation of a country as a currency manipulator does not immediately attract any penalties, it tends to dent the confidence about a country in the global financial markets.

The criterion

Countries with a current-account surplus equivalent to 2 per cent of gross-domestic product are eligible for the list, according to modifications made in the new list, down from 3 per cent earlier. Other thresholds include repeated intervention in the currency markets and a trade surplus with the US of at least \$20 billion.

Background

India was included in the list over a year ago because, in 2017, its foreign exchange purchases over the first three quarters of the year pushed net purchases of forex above 2 per cent of GDP. It also had a trade surplus of over \$20 billion.

President Trump has repeatedly claimed that India is a 'tariff king' and imposes 'tremendously high' tariffs on American products, while also dismissing as 'inadequate' the Indian government’s decision to halve the import tariff on Harley-Davidson motorcycles from 100% to 50% last year. ■

3. IMD World Competitiveness Rankings 2019

As per the latest edition of IMD World Competitiveness Rankings 2019, India has moved up one place to rank 43rd most competitive economy in the world on the back of its robust economic growth, a large labour force and its huge market size.

Global Highlights

Singapore has moved up to the top, from the third position last year, while the US has slipped to the third place.

Hong Kong SAR has held onto its second place, helped by a benign tax and business policy environment and access to business finance.

The Asia-Pacific region has emerged as a global beacon with 11 out of 14 economies either improving or holding their ground.

In the top-five, Switzerland has climbed to fourth place from fifth, helped by economic growth, the stability of the Swiss franc and high-quality infrastructure.

The United Arab Emirates ranked 15th as recently as 2016 entered the top five for the first time. The effects of rising fuel prices influenced the ranking, with inflation reducing competitiveness in some countries.

Venezuela remained anchored to the bottom of the ranking, hit by inflation, poor access to credit and a weak economy.

India's Performance

India's improved ranking has driven by a robust rate of growth in real GDP, improvements in business legislation

and an increase in public expenditure on education.

India has scored well on several economic parameters and tax policies but has lagged in terms of public finance, societal framework, education infrastructure, health and environment.

The challenges before India remain maintaining high growth with employment generation, digital literacy and internet bandwidth in rural areas, managing fiscal discipline, as also issues related to the implementation of Goods and Services Tax and resource mobilisation for infrastructure development.

4. Orchha town have been included in tentative list of UNESCO

The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in the tentative list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the United Nations (UN) body.

According to the rules, to be a part of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, the heritage or any historical site first

has to be on the tentative list. After it makes to the tentative list, another proposal is sent to the UNESCO.

Why Orchha?

Orchha was built by king Rudra Pratap Singh of Bundela dynasty in the 16th century. The ancient town is famous for its Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha fort complex, Raja Mahal among others.

The Bundela architecture has Mughal influence since the two dynasties were very close. The famous

King of Bundela dynasty Veer Singh Dev was a close friend of Mughal emperor Jahangir and fought wars as Akbar's aid.

Orchha is also famous for its two elevated minaret called Saavan and Bhadon and its four palaces - Jahangir Palace, Raj Mahal, Sheesh Mahal and Rai Praveen Mahal and for its concept of open bungalows, stone work windows, animal statues depicting the culture of Bundelkhand.

5. E-cigarettes are Posing Public Health Risk

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has warned of a potential public health disaster if action was not taken to completely prohibit and dissuade the use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-cigarettes given that the nicotine delivered by these devices adversely affect almost all systems in a human body.

Key Highlights

E-cigarette use adversely affects the cardiovascular system, impairs respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory disease. It also poses risk to foetus, infant and child brain development.

There are more than 460 different e-cigarette brands with varying configurations of nicotine delivery available in the market.

E-cigarettes also open a gateway for new tobacco addiction, which is a potential threat to the country's tobacco control laws and ongoing tobacco control programmes and efforts.

Studies have found that youths using e-cigarettes and other such devices are more likely to use regular cigarettes later. They increase the likelihood to experiment with regular products and increase the intention to indulge in cigarette smoking.

Based on the currently available scientific data, the ICMR has

recommended complete prohibition on ENDS or e-cigarettes in India in the greater interest of protecting public health.

About ENDS

Vapes, vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or e-cigs), and e-pipes

are some of the many terms used to describe electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). ENDS are noncombustible tobacco products. These products use an “e-liquid” that may contain nicotine, as well as varying compositions of flavorings, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, and other ingredients. ■

6. Nine Dots Prize 2019

Indian playwright and journalist Annie Zaidi has won the '2019 Nine Dots Prize' for her essay 'Bread, Cement, Cactus'. Her novel 'Bread, Cement, Cactus', combines memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging rooted in her experience of contemporary life in India.

The winner of the Nine Dots Prize is supported to develop their response into a full-length book, which is published by Cambridge University Press (CUP), and given the opportunity to spend a term at the Centre for

Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), Cambridge University.

About Nine Dots Prize

The foundation was established by Peter Kadas, who has worked around the world for a number of leading institutions.

The Nine Dots Prize is a book prize for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. Entrants for the prize are asked to respond to a question in 3,000 words and the

winner receives \$100,000 (Rs 69.83 lakh) to write a short book expanding on the essay's idea. The question this year was “Is there still no place like home?”

The aim of the Prize is to promote, encourage and engage innovative thinking to address problems facing the modern world.

The name of the Prize references the nine dots puzzle – a lateral thinking puzzle which can only be solved by thinking outside the box. ■

7. Astronomy Group called for Action on SpaceX Starlink Satellites

On 23 May, SpaceX has launched 60 communications satellites into space, the first in a planned fleet of 12,000. Soon amateur skywatchers started sharing images of those satellites in night skies, igniting an uproar among astronomers who fear that the planned orbiting cluster will wreak havoc on scientific research and trash our view of the cosmos.

Concerns

The main issue is that those 60 satellites are merely a drop in the bucket. SpaceX anticipates launching thousands of satellites — creating a mega-constellation of false stars collectively called 'Starlink' that will connect the entire planet to the internet and introduce a new line of business for the private spaceflight

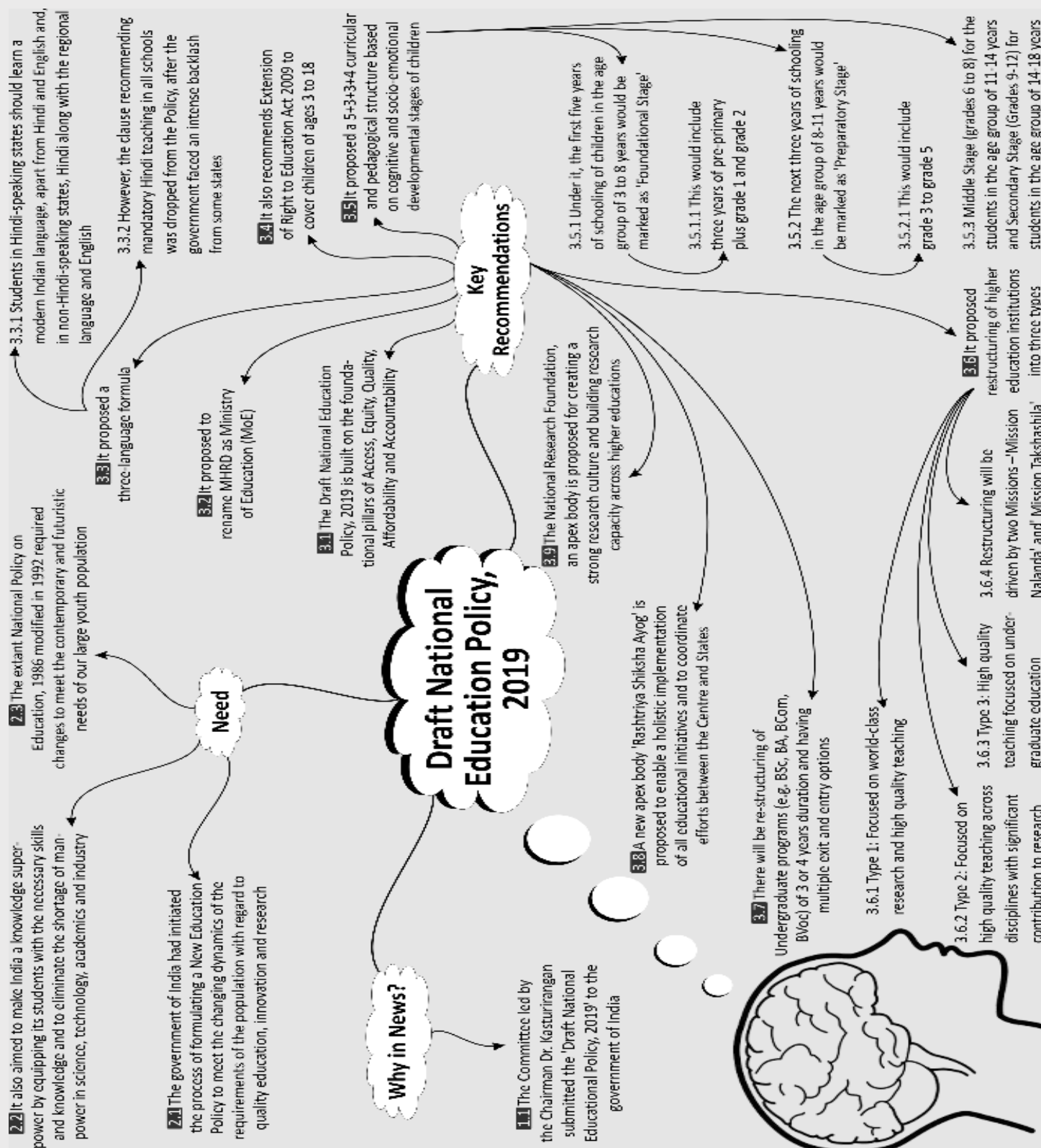
company. The satellites, strung out like a line of glowing army ants, shone brightly as they moved along their orbit around Earth, clearly visible to the naked eye. Now, many in the astronomy community are concerned that this mega constellation might be too bright, and the sheer number of satellites that SpaceX wants to launch could muck up their telescope observations of the Universe.

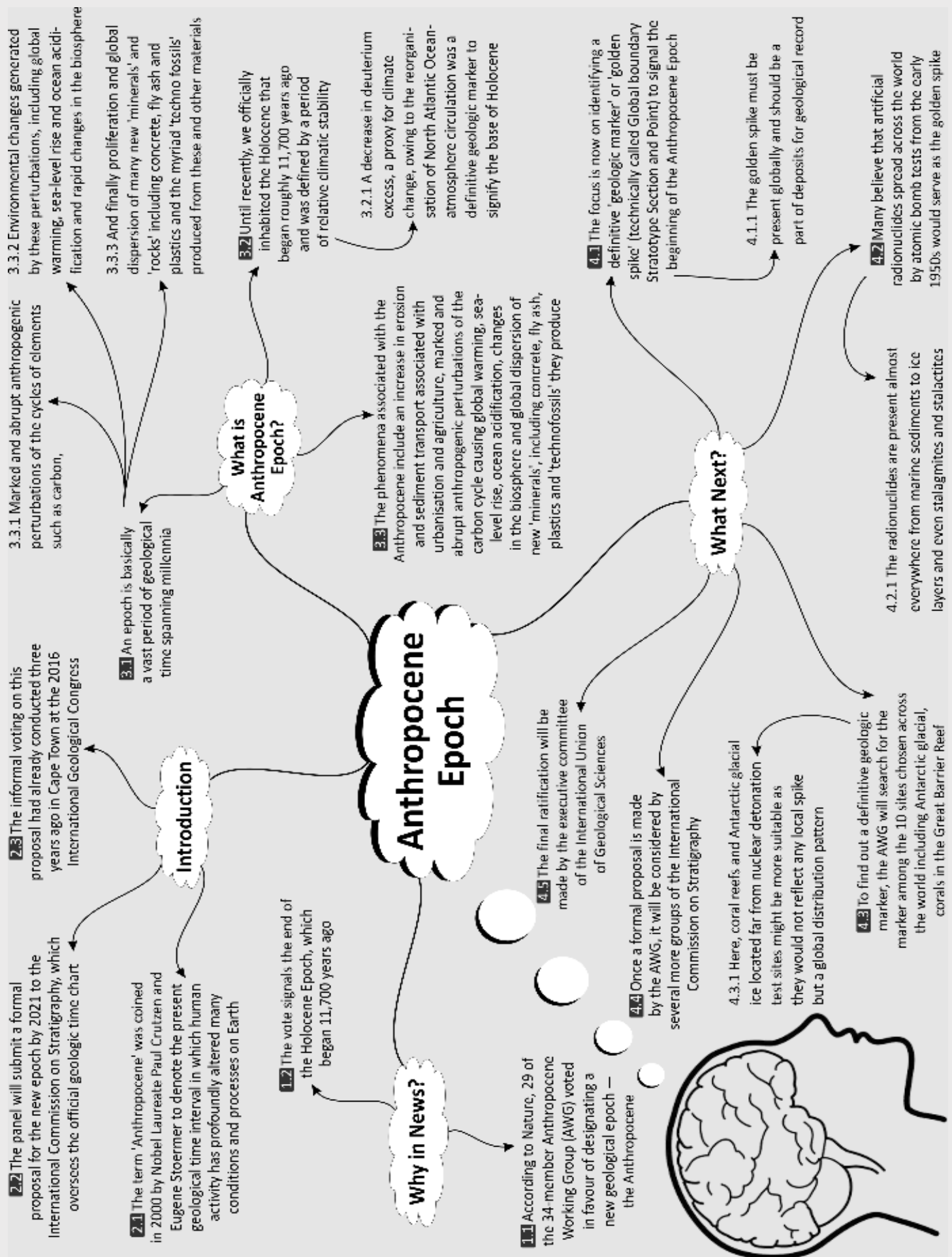
Satellites are already an issue for astronomers studying celestial objects in deep space. In order to get detailed images of objects many light-years away from Earth, astronomers take long-exposure shots of the sky with their telescopes. This type of imaging entails leaving the telescope exposed to light for minutes or hours. As a

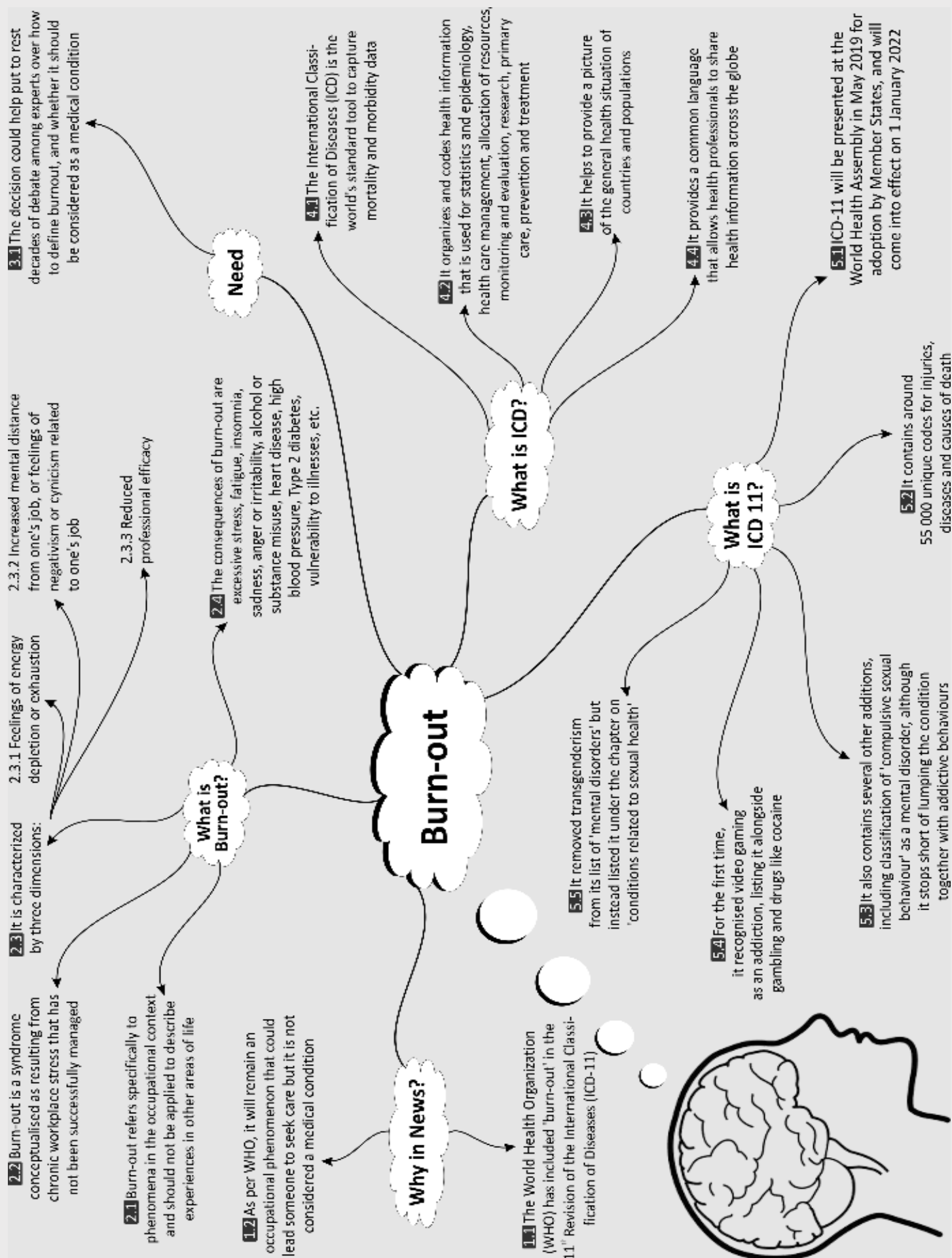
result, scientists can gather light from a very distant, faint object and figure out more about it.

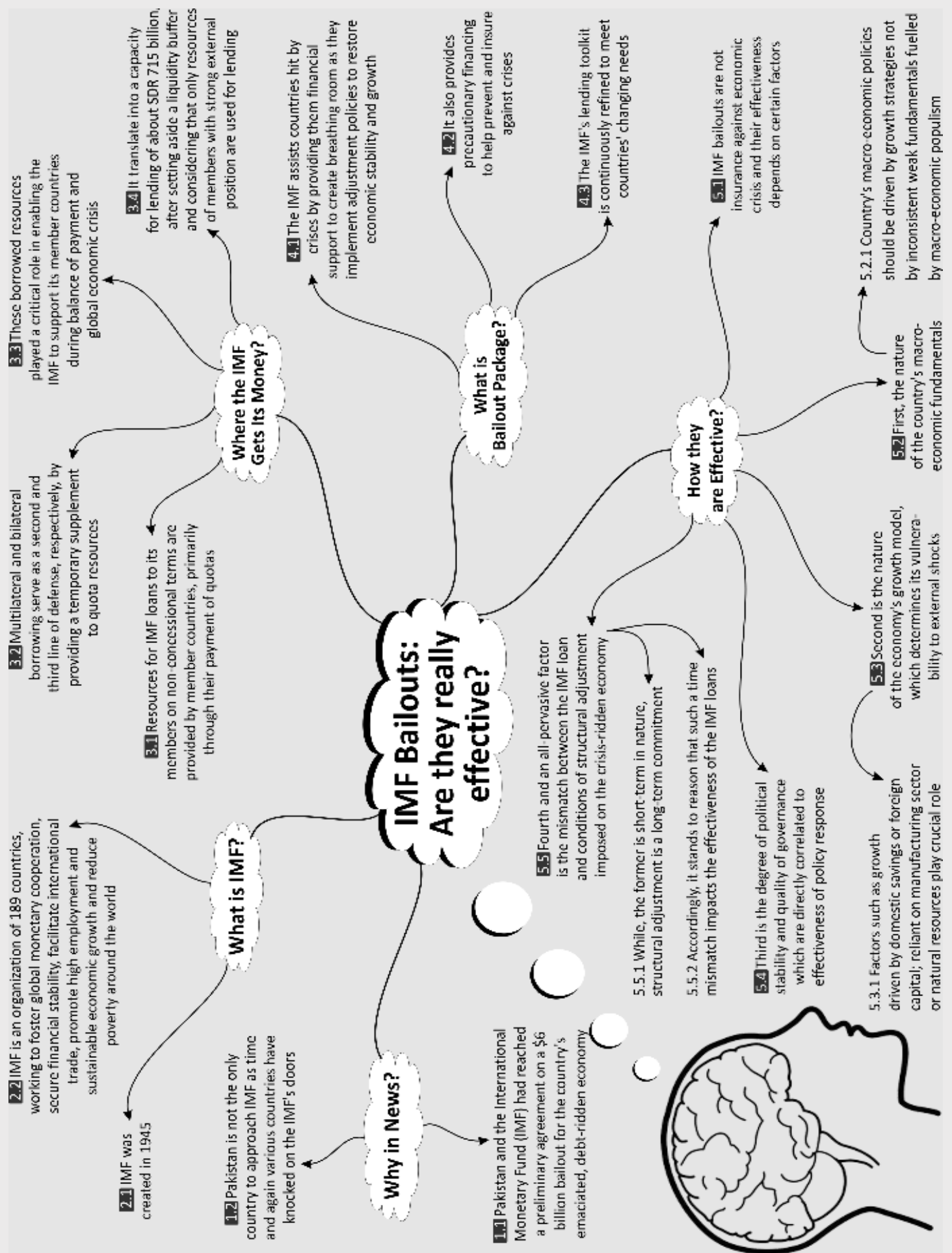
According to the European Space Agency, currently, there are about 5,000 satellites in orbit around Earth, around 2,000 of which are still operational. These objects already cause the occasional streak and headache for astronomers. But with the addition of SpaceX's Starlink constellation, as well as other proposed mega constellations from OneWeb, Telesat, Kepler Communications, and now Amazon, the number of operational satellites could increase significantly. And that could drastically up the risk of satellites streaking across a telescope's sightline. ■

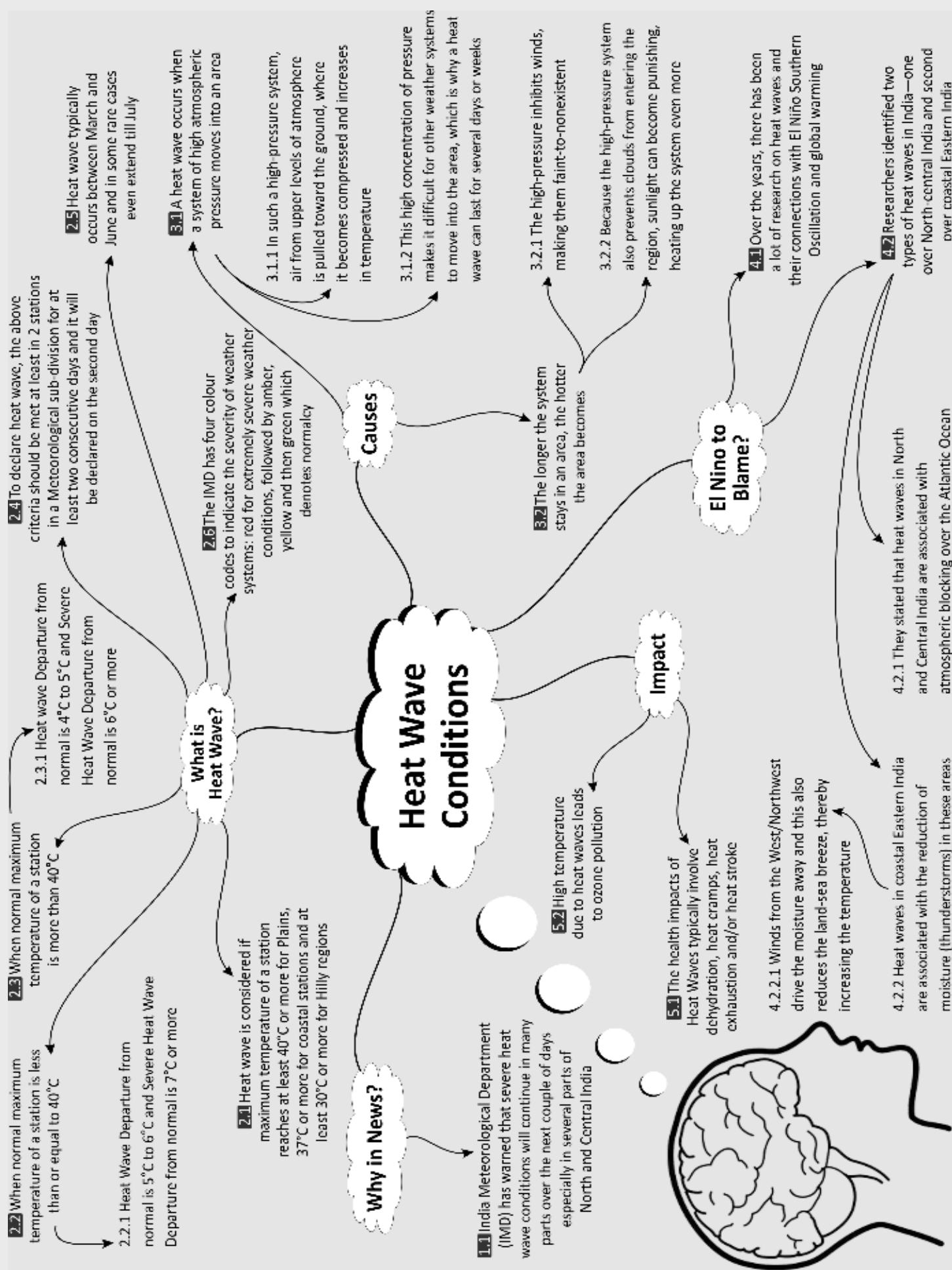
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

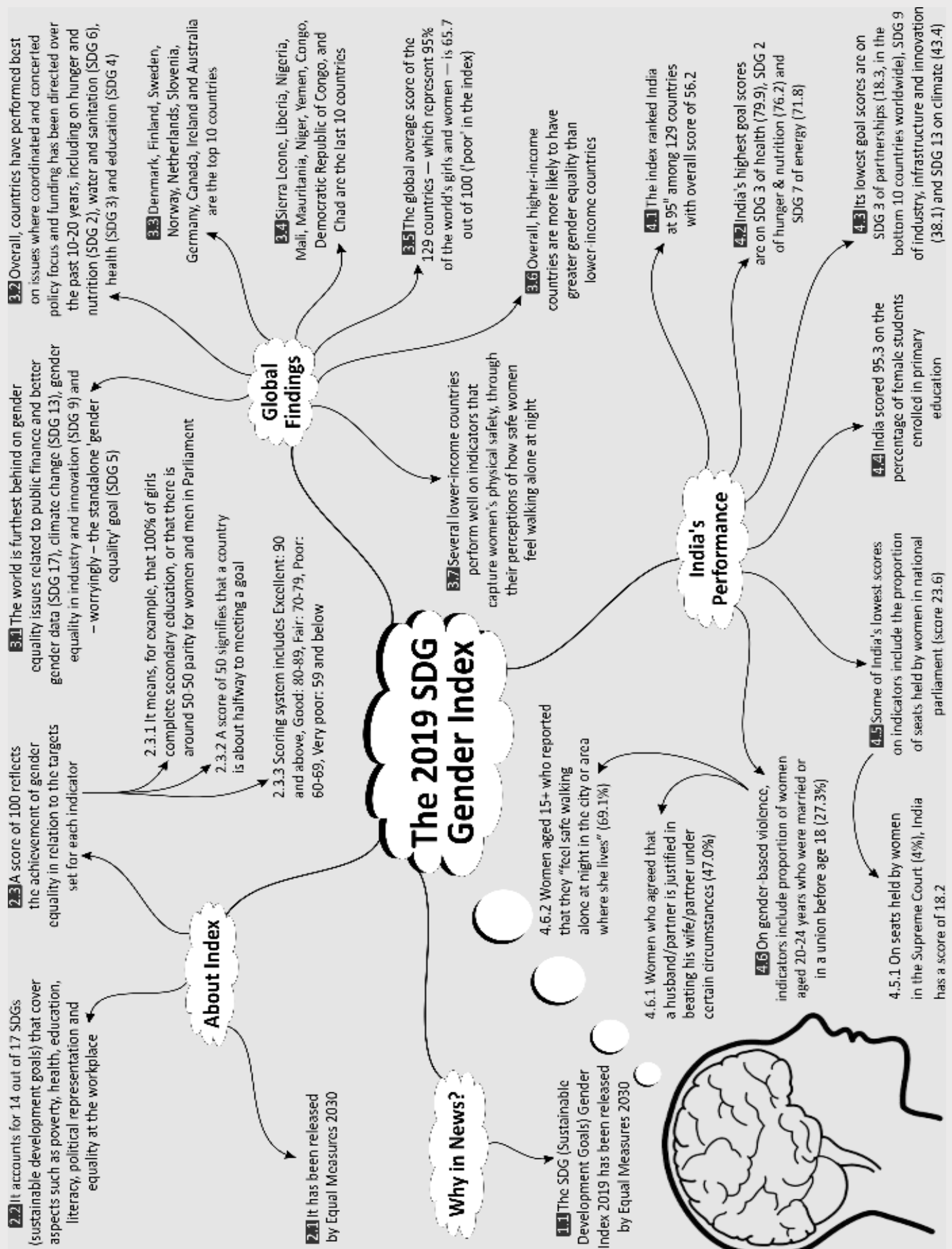


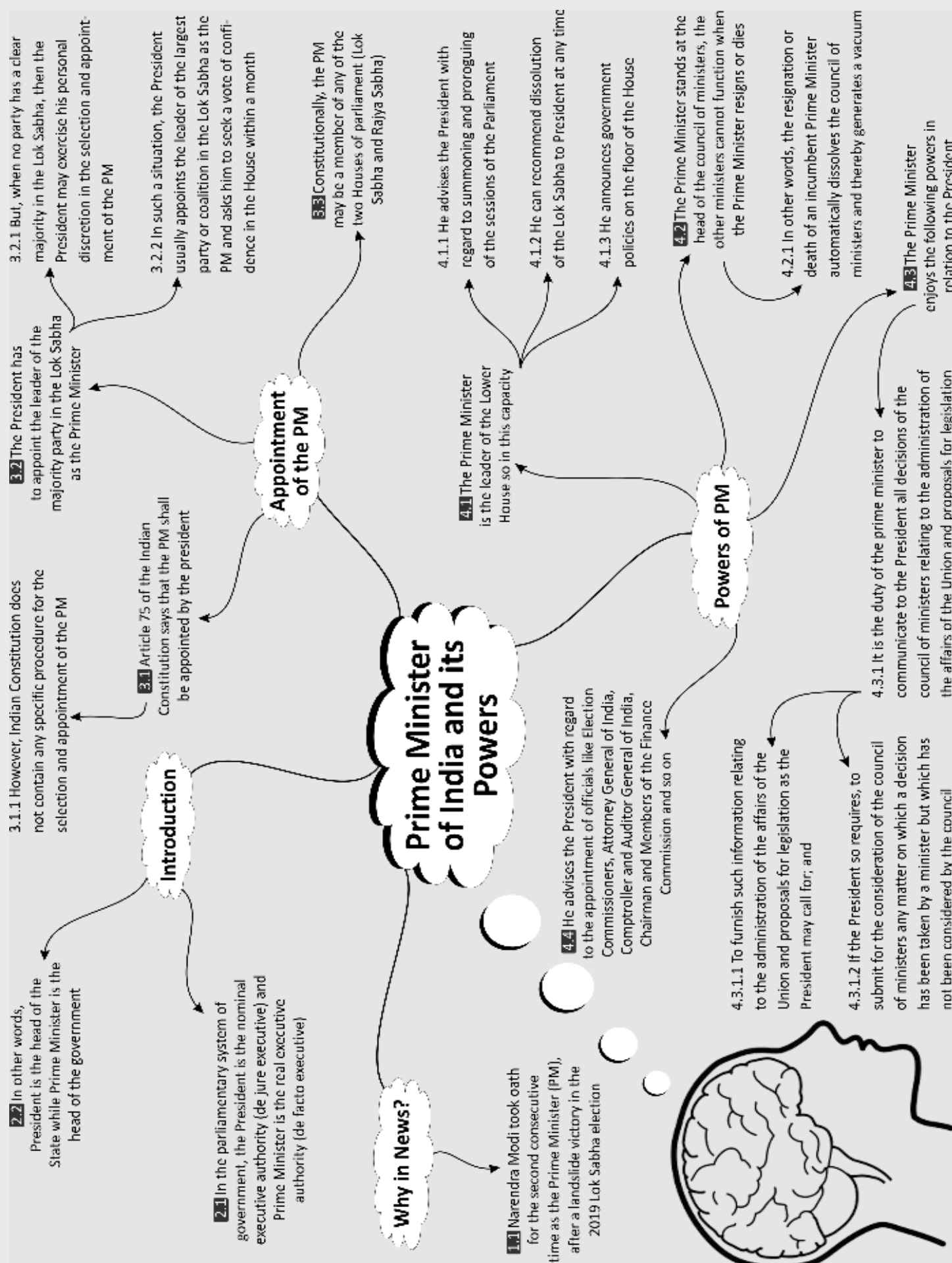












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

Draft National Education Policy, 2019

Q1. Consider the following statement in respect of 'Draft Education Policy, 2019':

1. It recommends Extension of Right to Education Act, 2009 to cover children of ages 3 to 18.
2. A new apex body 'Rashtriya Shiksha Ayog' is proposed to enable a holistic implementation of all educational initiatives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. The Draft National Education Policy, 2019 is built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. It recommended extension of 'Right to Education Act, 2009' to cover children of ages 3 to 18.

A new apex body 'Rashtriya Shiksha Ayog' is proposed to enable a holistic implementation of all educational initiatives and to coordinate efforts between the Centre and states.

Anthropocene Epoch

Q2. With reference to the 'Anthropocene Epoch', consider the following statements:

1. The term 'Anthropocene' denotes the present geological time interval in which human activity has profoundly altered many conditions and processes on Earth.
2. Until recently, we officially inhabited the Holocene that began roughly 11,700 years ago.
3. The International Union of Geological Sciences has ratified the proposal for the new epoch by 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 is correct. The term 'Anthropocene' was coined in 2000 by Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer to denote the present geological time interval in which human activity has profoundly altered many conditions and processes on Earth. Until recently, we officially inhabited the Holocene that began roughly 11,700 years ago and was defined by a period of relative climatic stability.

Statement 3 is not correct. The panel will submit a formal proposal for the new epoch by 2021 to the International Commission on Stratigraphy, which oversees the official geologic time chart. The final ratification will be made by the executive committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

Burn-out

Q3. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Burn-out':

1. Burn-out is a syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed.
2. As per WHO, it will remain an occupational phenomenon that could lead someone to seek care but it is not considered a medical condition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. The World Health Organization (WHO) has included 'burn-out' in the 11th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

WHO has defined burn-out as a syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed.

IMF Bailouts: Are they really effective?

Q4. With reference to the 'bailout packages of IMF', consider the following statements:

1. IMF provides financial assistance to only low income countries for their infrastructure projects.
2. Resources for IMF loans to its members on non-concessional terms are provided by member countries, primarily through their payment of quotas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. The IMF assists countries hit by balance of payment and global crises by providing them financial support to create breathing room as they implement adjustment policies to restore economic stability and growth.

Statement 2 is correct. Resources for IMF loans to its members on non-concessional terms are provided by member countries, primarily through their payment of quotas.

Heat Wave Conditions

Q5. With reference to the 'Heat Waves', consider the following statements:

1. Heat wave is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains, 37°C or more for coastal stations and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.
2. A heat wave occurs when a system of low atmospheric pressure moves into an area.
3. Heat waves in coastal Eastern India are associated with the addition of moisture (thunderstorms) in these areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Heat wave is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains, 37°C or more for coastal stations and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.

Statement 2 is not correct. A heat wave occurs when a system of high atmospheric pressure moves into an area. In such a high-pressure system, air from upper levels of atmosphere is pulled toward the ground, where it becomes compressed and increases in temperature.

Statement 3 is also not correct. Heat waves in coastal Eastern India are associated with the reduction of moisture (thunderstorms) in these areas. Winds from the West/

Northwest drive the moisture away and this also reduces the land-sea breeze, thereby increasing the temperature.

The 2019 SDG Gender Index

Q6. Consider the following statements in respect of 'The 2019 SDG Gender Index':

1. It has been released and developed by World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. It ranked India at 108th among 129 countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. The SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Gender Index 2019 has been released by Equal Measures 2030. Equal Measures 2030 is a joint effort of regional and global organisations including African Women's Development and Communication Network, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and International Women's Health Coalition.

It ranked India at 95th among 129 countries.

Prime Minister of India and its Powers

Q7. With reference to the 'Prime Minister', consider the following statements:

1. After the resignation or death of incumbent Prime Minister, President can appoint any other minister as a Prime Minister.
2. Article 75 of the Indian Constitution laid down the specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the PM.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. The Prime Minister stands at the head of the council of ministers, the other ministers cannot function when the Prime Minister resigns or dies i.e. council of ministers will automatically dissolves and thereby generates a vacuum.

The Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister. Article 75 says only that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President.

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SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Which Indian personality has received the Mexico's highest civilian honour "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle)?

–Former President Pratibha Patil

2. Which volcano has recently spewed lava in new phase of eruptions?

–Mount Etna (Italy)

3. Which state is again under the threat of deadly 'Nipah virus infection'?

–Kerala

4. Which paintings in the Nilgiri forests are facing the threat of defacing because of illegal tourism?

–Rock Paintings in Karikiyoor at Kil Kotagiri

5. Which nation has demanded social media details of last five years from visa applicants?

–The United States

6. Which nation has deployed its 'P-8I Long-Range Maritime Surveillance Aircraft' for anti-piracy sorties from Salalah in Oman to patrol the Gulf of Aden?

–India

7. What is the number of women ministers of cabinet rank in the 17th Lok Sabha?

–3 (total women minister are 6)



SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. PM-KISAN Yojana has been extended to All Farmers

The Union Cabinet, has approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to all farmers of India. With this decision, all land holding eligible farmer families (subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria) would avail of the benefits under this scheme.

The revised scheme is expected to cover around 2 crore more farmers, increasing the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries, with an estimated expenditure by Central government of Rs. 87,217.50 crores for year 2019-20.

About PM-KISAN

It was announced in the interim Budget under which the government decided to provide Rs 6,000 per year (in three equal instalments) to an estimated 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers holding land up to 2 hectares, now it has been expanded to all farmers irrespective of the size of land holdings.

The amount is being released in three 4-monthly instalments of Rs.2000/- each over the year, to be credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries held in

destination banks through Direct Benefit Transfer mode. It was introduced - unusually - as a retrospective scheme, starting from December 1, 2018, which the government could use to argue makes it an ongoing scheme.

Achievements

The scheme was launched in a record time of 3 weeks, on 24th February at a huge programme in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh where the first rounds of instalments was paid to several farmers.

So far, 1st instalment to 3.11 crore beneficiaries and 2nd instalment to 2.66 crore beneficiaries have been credited directly to the bank accounts of the farmer families.

Background

Between 2014 to 2019, numerous measures were taken to empower the farmer. This includes increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 22 crops, Soil Health Cards, PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana, PM KisanSampada Yojana, e-NAM for better markets and more.

2. Pension Scheme for Traders

The Union Cabinet has approved a new scheme that offers pension coverage to the trading community. This is a part of the Prime Minister's vision to provide a robust architecture of universal social security.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Under this scheme all shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- ◆ All small shopkeepers and self-employed persons as well as the retail traders with Gross and Service Tax (GST) turnover below Rs. 1.5 crore and age between 18-40 years, can enrol for this scheme. The scheme would benefit more than 3 crore small shopkeepers and traders.
- ◆ The scheme is based on self-declaration as no documents

are required except Aadhaar and bank account. Interested persons can enrol themselves through more than 3,25,000 Common Service Centres spread across the country.

- ◆ The government of India will make matching contribution in the subscribers' account. For example if a person with age of 29 years contributes Rs. 100/- month, then the government also contributes the equal amount as subsidy into subscriber's pension account every month.
- ◆ The scheme proposes a Rs 2 per day premium for those entering at the age of 18, Rs 100 per month premium for those of 29, and Rs 200 per month for those who are 40 and above.
- ◆ Small traders do not come within the ambit of the goods and services tax and nearly 50 million traders are expected to join the scheme over the next three years.

3. Tobacco Control Measures

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in partnership with World Health Organization (WHO), India had organized a National Consultation on 'Tobacco and Lung Health' to commemorate the World No Tobacco Day 2019.

At the event, the Health Ministry has released 'Guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions'. The guidelines have been revised to provide a fresh momentum to implementation of tobacco control initiatives among adolescents and young adults.

A 'National Tobacco Control Programme' (NTCP) Website was also launched. The website will house all the tobacco control related resource material at a single portal. This will cater to the ever growing demand for resource material.

Apart from this, a public awareness campaign material on TB-tobacco control was also released. This material is designed to create awareness and shall also be used in the social media.

The Ministry also released 'Operational Guidelines for National Tobacco Testing Laboratories' (NTTL). The Ministry has commissioned three NTTL which possess world class

facilities to analyze various kinds of tobacco products. The guidelines provide the operational framework for the NTTL in India.

Suggestions

It is important to build a framework that is long term, effective and based on data and evidence.

Community engagement is the key to address tobacco control so there is a for need more community engagement and it's important for people and the families to learn how smoking affects the quality of life.

About World No Tobacco Day 2019

- ◆ World No Tobacco Day is celebrated every year, on 31 May.
- ◆ The theme of the day was 'Tobacco and Lung Health'.
- ◆ The theme of day focused on how tobacco harms lungs and causes respiratory illnesses and cancer.
- ◆ The day is meant to raise awareness about effects of tobacco and how usage of tobacco products can be fatal.

4. New initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis

The Union Cabinet has cleared the initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers. It will benefit crores of farmers and improve the health of animals.

Key Highlights

The Cabinet had cleared a total outlay of Rs. 13,343 crores to fully control these diseases amongst the livestock in the country in the next five years and subsequently eradicate these diseases.

This decision indicates the spirit of compassion towards those animals who are a valued part of our planet but are not able to speak.

The programme so far has been implemented on cost sharing basis between the Central and state governments. In a rare instance of departure, the Central government has decided to now bear the entire cost of the programme to ensure complete eradication of these diseases and better livelihood opportunities for all the livestock rearing farmers in the country.

Threat of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis

These diseases are very common amongst the livestock – cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc. If a cow/buffalo gets infected with FMD, the milk loss is upto 100% which could last for four to six months. Further, in case of Brucellosis the milk output reduces by 30%, during the entire life cycle of animal. Brucellosis also causes infertility amongst the animals. The infection of brucellosis can also be transmitted to the farm workers and livestock owners.

Both the diseases have a direct negative impact on the trade of milk and other livestock products.

Care and Compassion for Animals

In case of FMD, the scheme envisages vaccination coverage to 30 crore bovines (cows-bulls and buffaloes) and 20 crore sheep/goat and 1 crore pigs at six months' interval along with primary vaccination in bovine calves, while the Brucellosis control programme shall extend to cover 100% vaccination coverage of 3.6 crore female calves.

5. Pension Coverage to Farmers

The Union Cabinet has approved a new Central Sector Scheme, which will ensure them a monthly income of Rs 3,000 after they turn senior citizens at 60. It is for the first time since independence that such a pension coverage has been envisioned for farmers.

Key Highlights

- ◆ A voluntary and contributory pension scheme for all Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) across the country.
- ◆ Entry age of 18 to 40 years with a provision of minimum fixed pension of Rs.3,000/- on attaining the age of 60 years.
- ◆ It is estimated that 5 crore small and marginal farmers will benefit in the first three years itself.
- ◆ The government will provide Rs 10,774.50 crore over a three-year period towards matching premium



contribution (which will depend on the age of each farmer) for 5 crore such farmers.

- ◆ The premium for an 18-year-old farmer will be around Rs 2 per day, which will increase to Rs 100 per month for a 29-year old and Rs 200 for a farmer who is 40. The Central Government shall also contribute to the Pension Fund an equal amount as contributed by the eligible farmer.
- ◆ After the subscriber's death, while receiving pension, the spouse of the SMF beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension, provided he/she is not already an SMF beneficiary of the Scheme. If, the death of the subscriber happens during the period of contribution, the spouse shall have the option of continuing the Scheme by paying regular contribution.
- ◆ An interesting feature of the Scheme is that the farmers can opt to allow his/her monthly contribution to the scheme to be made from the benefits drawn from the Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme directly. Alternatively, a farmer can pay his monthly contribution by registering through Common Service Centres (CSCs).

6. '#SelfiewithSapling' Campaign

On the eve of World Environment Day 2019, Ministry of Environment has launched a people's campaign '#SelfiewithSapling' urging all to join and plant a sapling and post the selfie with the sapling on social media. The 'Jan Bhagidari' is integral towards tackling the environmental issues and environment protection has to be a people's movement.

About World Environment Day 2019

It is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action and takes place every 5th June.

It will be hosted by China, with a theme of "Air Pollution". Air pollution is the biggest environmental health risk of our time. Airborne pollutants are responsible for about one third of deaths from stroke, chronic respiratory disease, and lung cancer, as well as one quarter of deaths from heart attack. Air pollution is also fundamentally altering our climate, with profound impacts on the health of the planet.

World Environment Day 2019 urges governments, industries, communities and individuals to come together to explore renewable energy, green technologies and improve air quality in cities and regions across the world.

The celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment.

Other Facts related Air Pollution

- ◆ 92 percent of people worldwide do not breathe clean air.
- ◆ Air pollution costs the global economy \$5 trillion every year in welfare costs.
- ◆ Ground-level ozone pollution is expected to reduce staple crop yields by 26 percent by 2030.

7. Swachh Survekshan 2020

The government of India has launched 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020' on June 6 under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U). It would be a quarterly cleanliness assessment of towns and cities in India and will be integrated with Swachh Survekshan 2020, the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted between January-February next year.

Key Highlights

Swachh Survekshan League 2020 has been introduced with the objective of sustaining the on ground performance of cities along with continuous monitoring of service level performance when it comes to cleanliness.

It will be conducted in 3 quarters, i.e. April- June, July – September and October- December 2019 and will have a weightage of 2000 marks for each quarter to be evaluated on the basis of monthly updation of SBM-U online MIS by cities along with citizen's validation on the 12 service level progress indicators through outbound calls. These two parameters will together determine the quarterly ranking of cities.

Ranks will be assigned in two categories, namely, cities with population of one lakh and above and cities with population

of less than 1 lakh. The performance of cities in SS League 2020 will be crucial to their ranking in Swachh Survekshan 2020 due to the 25% weightage of the quarterly assessments to be included in the annual survey in January 2020.

About Swachh Survekshan

Swachh Survekshan is a ranking exercise taken up by the government of India to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner.

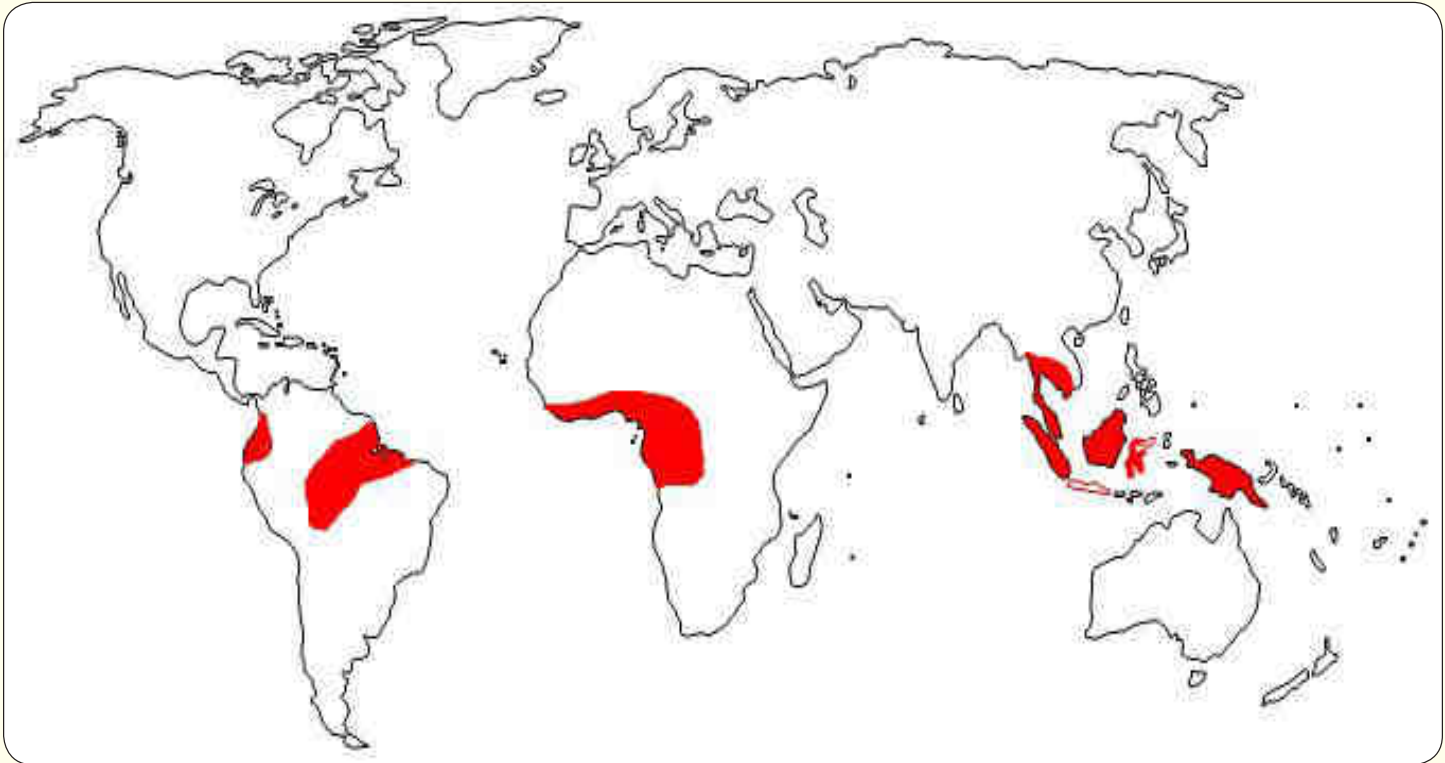
The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes validated by third party certification, institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.

Additionally, the survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities.



SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

1. Equatorial Climate



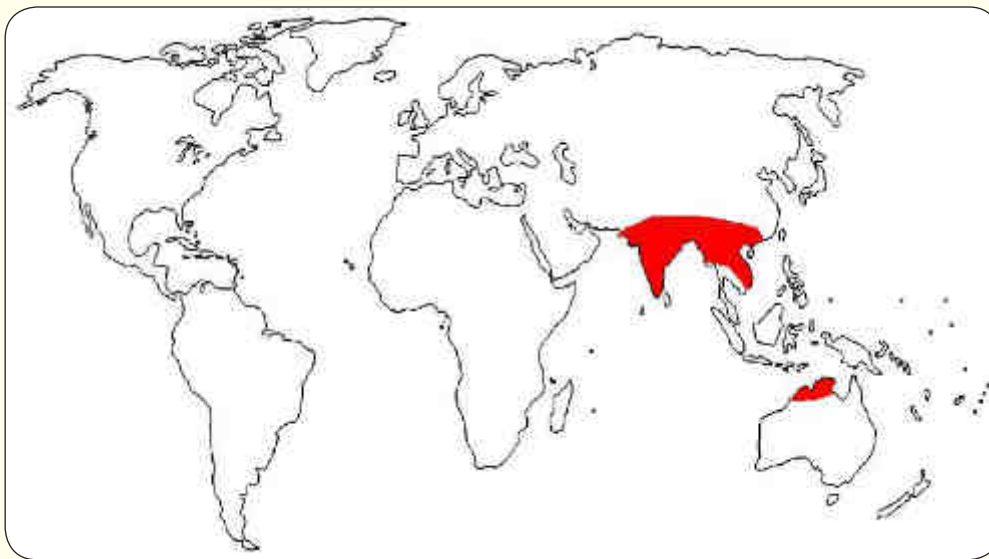
Key Facts

- The equatorial hot, wet climate is found between 5° and 10° North and South of the equator.
- It is found in the lowlands of the Amazon belt, the Congo, South East (SE) Asia between 10° North-South. Further away from equator, the influence of trade winds leads to monsoonal influences.
- The most outstanding feature of the equatorial climate is its great uniformity of temperature throughout the year.
- The mean monthly temperatures are always around 80°F, with very little variation.
- There is no winter. Cloudiness and heavy precipitation help to moderate the daily temperature, so that even at the equator itself, the climate is not unbearable.
- Precipitation is heavy, between 60 inches and 100 inches and well distributed throughout the year.
- There is no month without rain. Rainfall has twin monthly peaks - in March and September (equinoxes) because the Sun is directly overhead during these times and rainfall is convectional. Rainfall is least on solstices.
- Due to the great heat in the equatorial belt, mornings are bright and sunny. There is much evaporation and convectional air currents are set up, followed by heavy downpours of convectional rain in the afternoons from the towering cumulonimbus clouds.
- High temperature and abundant rainfall in the equatorial regions support a luxuriant type of vegetation-the tropical rain forest. The equatorial vegetation comprises a multitude of evergreen trees that yield tropical hardwood, e.g. mahogany, ebony, greenheart, cabinet woods and dyewoods.
- Forest is arranged in 3 canopy layers vertically. From the air, the tropical rain forest appears like a thick canopy of foliage, broken only where it is crossed by large rivers or cleared for cultivation.
- Main crops are plantation crops like rubber, cocoa and coconuts, sugar, coffee, tobacco, spices and banana.

2. The Tropical Monsoon Climate

Key Facts

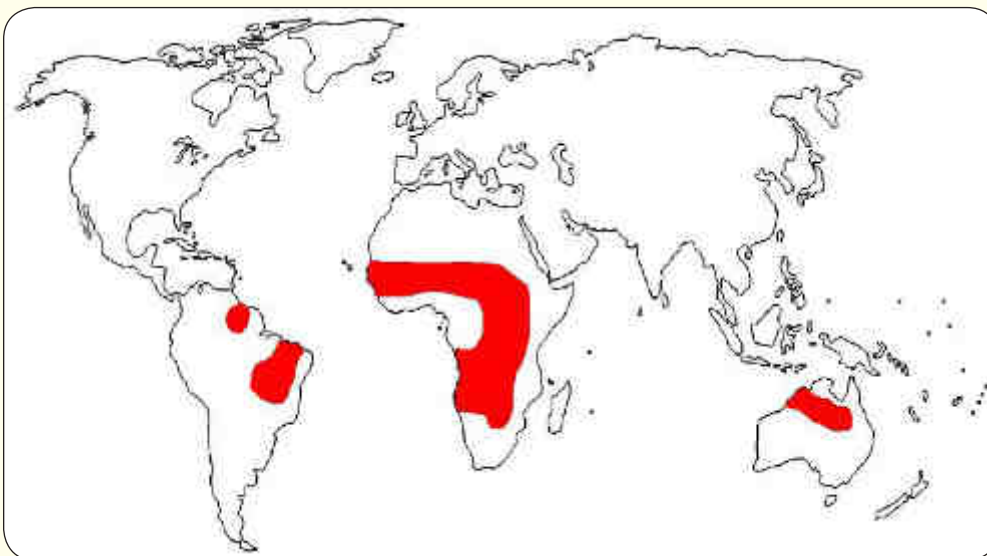
- The tropical monsoon lands with on-shore wet monsoons in the summer and off-shore dry monsoons in the winter. They are best developed in the Indian sub-continent, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, parts of Vietnam and South China and Northern Australia.
- Seasons: The cool, dry winters (October to February), the hot dry season (March to mid-june), the rainy season (mid June to September).
- The basic cause of monsoon climates is the difference in the rate of heating and cooling of land and sea. In the summer, when the sun is overhead at the Tropic of Cancer, the great land masses of the northern hemisphere are heated.
- With the burst of the South-West Monsoon in mid-June, torrential downpours sweep across the country. As much as 95% of the annual rainfall is concentrated within four months. This pattern of concentrated heavy rainfall in summer is characteristics feature of the tropical monsoon climate.
- Main crops are rice, sugar, jute and cotton. Coffee is grown in Brazil. Tea requires modest temperatures (15 - 20°C), heavy rainfall (150 cm) and well drained slopes.
- The natural vegetation of tropical monsoon lands depends on the amount of the summer rainfall. Trees are normally deciduous, because of the marked dry period, during which they shed their leaves to withstand the drought.



3. The Savanna or Sudan Climate

Key Facts

- The 'Sudan Climate' is a transitional type of climate found between the equatorial forests and the trade wind hot deserts.
- It is confined within the tropics and is best developed in the Sudan where the dry and wet seasons are most distinct, hence its name the 'Sudan Climate'.
- The belt includes West African Sudan and then curves southwards into East Africa and Southern Africa North of the Tropic of Capricorn.
- In South America, there are two distinct regions of savanna North and South of the equator, namely the 'llanos' of the Orinoco basin and



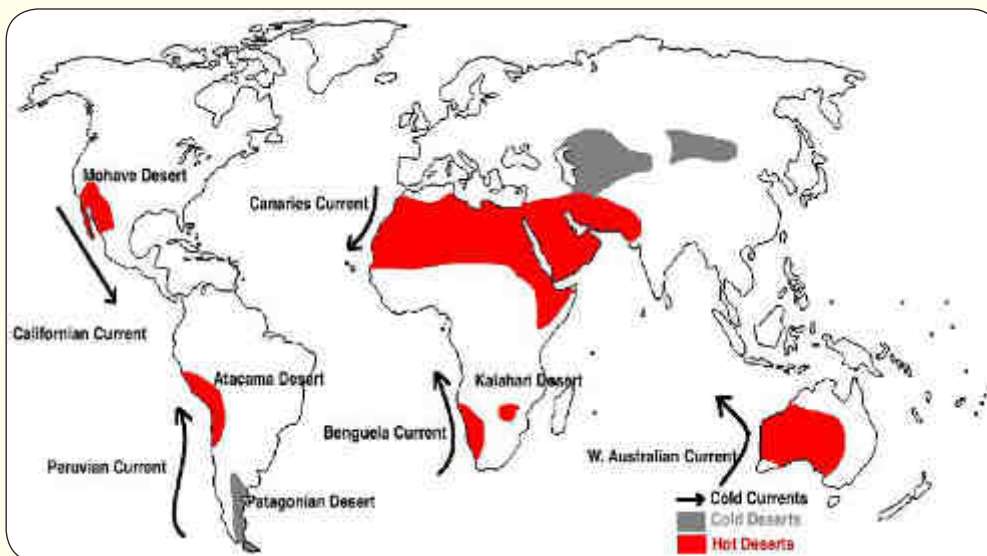
the 'compos' of the Brazilian Highlands. The Australian savanna is located South of the monsoon strip running from West to East North of the Tropic of Capricorn.

- The Sudan type of climate is characterized by an alternate hot, rainy season and cool, dry season.
- Annual range of temperature is ~ 10°C and the range increases as we move polewards.
- The Savanna landscape is typified by tall grass and short trees.
- Trees decrease in height and density polewards. Some trees are deciduous shedding their leaves in cool, dry season to prevent water loss. Some trees have broad trunks with water storing devices. Many trees are umbrella shaped exposing only a narrow edge to the winds.
- Heavy rainfall in hot, wet season lead to intense leaching of the soil and all the nutrients are washed away.

4. Desert Climate

Key Facts

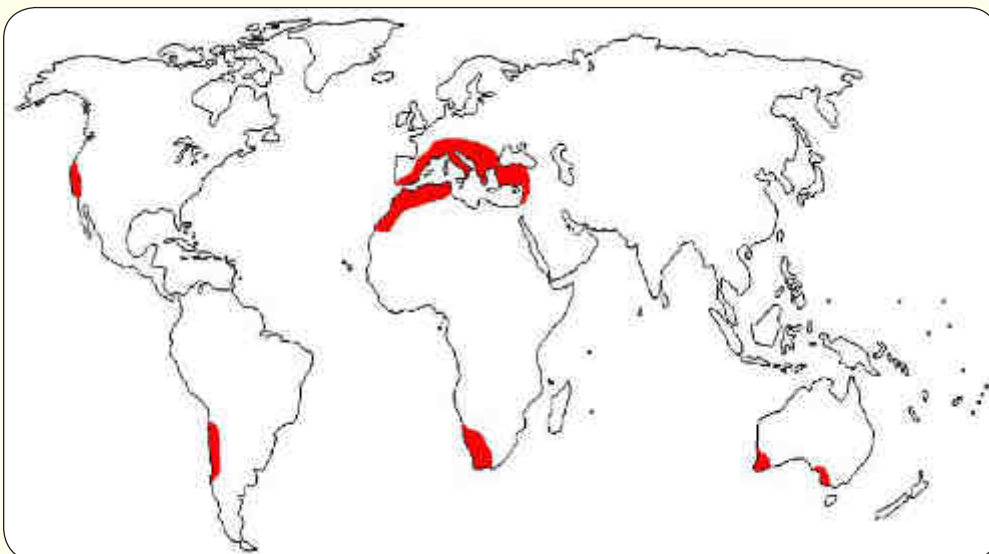
- The major hot deserts of the world are located on the Western coasts of continents between latitudes 15° and 30° North and South.
- The aridity of the hot deserts is mainly due to the effects of off-shore trade winds, hence they are also called 'trade wind deserts'.
- The temperate deserts are rainless because of their interior location in the temperate latitudes, well away from the rain-bearing winds.
- This type of climate is experienced along the Eastern coasts of tropical lands, receiving steady rainfall from the trade winds all the time.
- Rainfall occurs mostly because of convectional rainfall and with thunderstorms.
- In cold deserts in Asia, whatever rainfall happens occurs because of occasional Western Disturbances and in form of snow.
- The deserts are some of the hottest spots on earth and have high temperatures throughout the year. There is no cold season in the hot deserts and the average summer temperature is around 86°F.
- Intense evaporation increases the salinity of the soil so that the dissolved salts tend to accumulate on the surface forming hard pans. Absence of moisture retards the rate of decomposition and desert soils are very deficient in humus.
- Coastal deserts by virtue of their maritime influence and the cooling effect of the cold currents have much lower temperatures.
- All deserts have some form of vegetation such as grass, scrub, herbs, weeds, roots or bulbs. They have long roots, modified leaves and stems.



5. Mediterranean Climate

Key Facts

- Mediterranean Climate confined to the Western portion of continental masses, between 30° and 45° North and South of the equator.
- The basic cause of this type of climate is the shifting of the wind belts. Though the area around the Mediterranean Sea has the greatest extent of this type of 'winter rain climate' and gives rise to the more popular name Mediterranean Climate the best developed form of this peculiar climatic type is, in fact, found in central Chile.

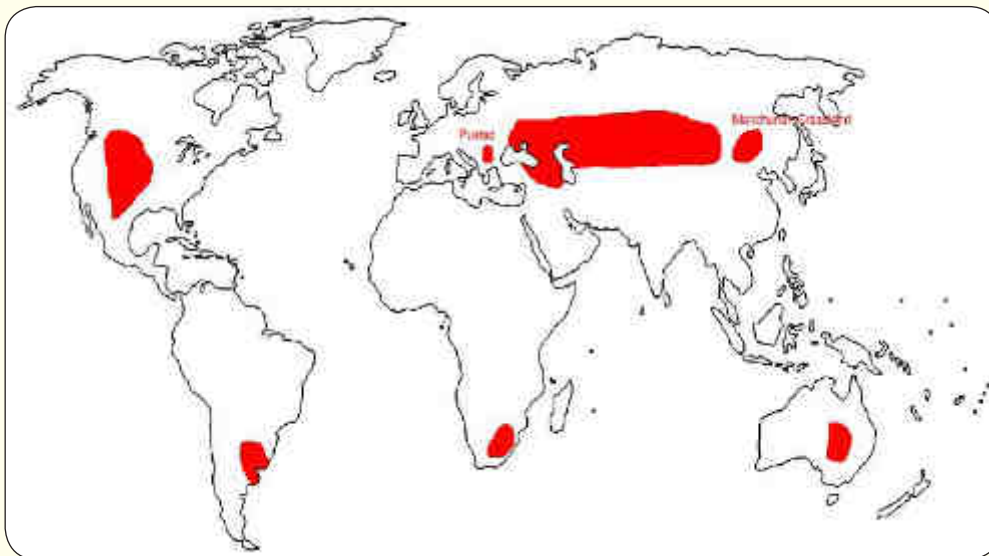


- Seasons: a dry, warm summer with off-shore trades, a concentration of rainfall in winter with on-shore westerlies and bright and sunny weather with hot dry summers and wet, mild winters.
- Winds: Sirocco- This is a hot, dry dusty wind which originates in the Sahara Desert. In the Adriatic and Aegean Sea, this hot wind, better known as Gharbi, gathers much moisture causing fog, heavy dew and rain. This may be 'blood rain' because the wind is carrying the red dust of the Sahara Desert.
- Mistral -It is a cold wind from North in Alps region which rushes down in winter into the valleys to fill the low pressure towards the sea. It is fast and may take the temperature below the freezing point.
- Vegetation: Mediterranean evergreen forests- They are found in regions of high rainfall. Cork oak trees are common in Europe while eucalyptus are grown in Australia.

6. Steppe Climate

Key Facts

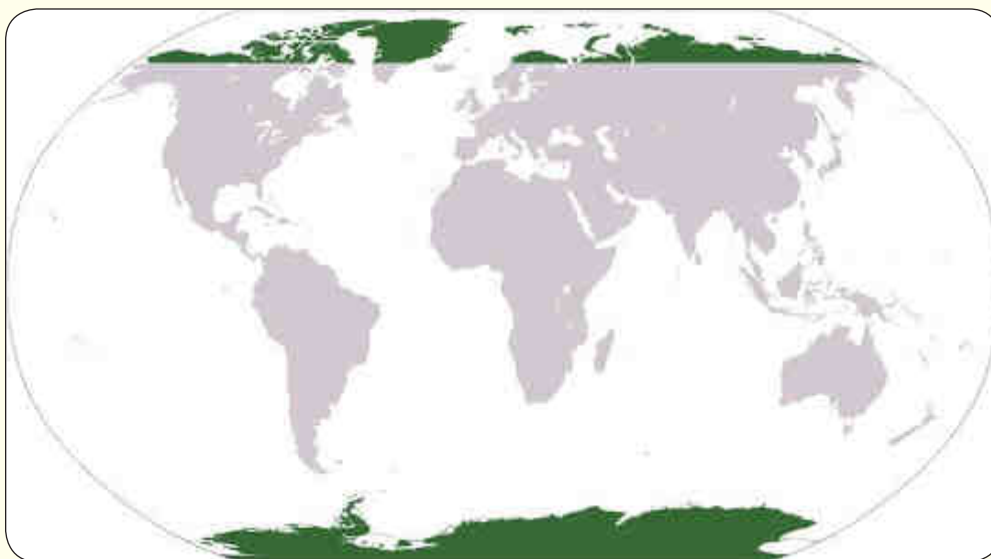
- Bordering the deserts, away from the Mediterranean regions and in the interiors of continents are the temperate grasslands. Though they lie in the Westerly wind belt, they are so remote from maritime influence that the grasslands are practically treeless.
- Their location in the heart of continents means that they have little maritime influence. Their climate is thus continental with extremes of temperature - warm summers and cold winters.
- Annual precipitation is light with maximum rainfall in summers. Winters get occasional rains from western disturbances and in the form of snow.
- Annual precipitation is higher in Southern hemisphere due to proximity to ocean and warm ocean currents.
- Winds: On the eastern slopes of the Rockies in Canada and U.S.A. a local wind, called the 'Chinook', comes in a south-westerly direction to the Prairies and has a considerable effect on the local pastures.
 - It is a hot wind and may raise the temperature by 40°F. It melts the snow-covered pastures and animals can be driven out of doors to graze in the open fields. Local farmers welcome the 'Chinook' for frequent Chinooks mean mild winters.
- The grasses lie dormant in the winters and become active in the spring when the temperature is hot enough. In summers they get scorched but in autumn they grow again.
- Polewards, an increase in precipitation gives way to coniferous trees while equatorward they merge with desert shrubs.



7. The Arctic or Polar Climate

Key Facts

- The Polar type of climate and vegetation is found mainly North of the Arctic Circle in the Northern hemisphere.
- The ice-caps are confined to Greenland and to the highlands of these high-latitude regions, where the ground is permanently snow-covered. The lowlands, with a few months ice-free, have 'tundra' vegetation.
- The Polar climate is characterized by a very low mean annual temperature and its warmest month in June seldom rises to more than 50°F.



- Winters are long and very severe; summers are cool and brief.
- Precipitation is mainly in form of snow and as it takes 10 – 12 inches of snow to make 1 inch of rain, precipitation in polar regions is generally light, not more than 12 inches in a year.
- Convective rainfall is generally absent because of the low rate of evaporation & lack of moisture in the cold polar air.
- Such an environment can support only the lowest form of vegetation, mosses, lichens and sedges.
- Climatic conditions along the coastal lowlands are a little more favourable.
- Human activities of the tundra are largely confined to the coast.
- Minerals: gold, coal, petroleum oil, deposits of iron, etc.



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**11
AUG.**

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**18
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Test-14- (9:30 am to 11:30 am)

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**08
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Test-15 - (9:30 am to 11:30 am)

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**15
SEP.**

Test-16- (9:30 am to 11:30 am)

सामान्य अध्ययन-I/General Studies-I

**22
SEP.**

Test-17- (9:30 am to 11:30 am)

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

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

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