

PERFECT 7

**Weekly
Current Affairs**

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



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Periods in Pandemic

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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01

Menstrual Hygiene Day 2020 : Periods in Pandemic

Why in News?

- ◆ World Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed on May 28. The main idea behind marking this day is to change the social stigma associated with menstruation.
- ◆ The date May 28 was chosen to observe the day because on an average the menstrual cycle for most women is 28 days and the menstruation period for most women is for five days. Hence, the date was kept as 28/5.
- ◆ The theme of World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2020 is 'Periods in Pandemic'. The idea behind choosing this theme is to highlight how the challenges faced by women during menstruation have worsened due to the ongoing pandemic.

About Menstrual Hygiene Day

- ◆ Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) is a global advocacy platform that brings together the voices and actions of non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector and the media to promote good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for all women and girls. More specifically, MH Day:
 - ◆ 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.

- ◆ MH Day has grown tremendously since it's first celebration in 2014.

Menstrual Cycles

- ◆ Menstrual cycles tend to be accompanied by irregular periods, excessive bleeding, pain and cramps.
- ◆ Every month, when the womb sheds the lining in the absence of a pregnancy, it results in a period or menses, which lasts an average of five days.
- ◆ The normal cycle varies from 21 to 35 days and the bleeding can last from two to seven days. So, a regular period indicates that a woman is ovulating every month.

Menstruation: A Taboo

- ◆ The pervasive culture of shame and silence around menstruation often propagated even by older women in the family, exacerbates the challenges women and girls face, limiting their knowledge and conversations on the subject.
- ◆ Thanks to the taboo, menstruation imposes different kinds of restrictions on woman's life, including restraining entry to temples, the kitchen and schools; many women are prevented from touching animals (including pets) and are forced to remain secluded in 'menstrual huts'.

- ◆ There is a mythical belief that during menstruation, women emit some kind of smell or rays that can potentially contaminate preserved food. So dietary restrictions are also imposed, including not eating preserved food like pickles and curd.
- ◆ All of these social conditions can be traced to regressive cultural traditions that have deep-rooted patriarchal biases against women. Studies have also shown that male attitudes towards menstruation often intensify these myths and misconceptions.
- ◆ A dominant discourse in menstrual health is related to men's engagement. Since menstruation doesn't concern men, men don't see it as a vital issue. This manifests in the form of insufficient empathy and discriminatory practices towards women throughout their lives.

Menstruation and the Pandemic

- ◆ Menstruation continues to remain one of the most undermined factors in women's health. The onset of the pandemic and the government-mandated lockdown has significantly limited women's and girls' access to menstrual products.
- ◆ Limited supply and escalating prices keep sanitary pads out of reach of women, especially poorer women. And for those living in relief camps,

shelters and quarantine centres, access to food, water and medicines are often deemed more important than pads, whereas they are equally important.

- ◆ One can only imagine the agony of migrant women labourers walking scores of kilometres home during their period, with no access to water, toilets and pads.
- ◆ The situation becomes even more challenging for women with disabilities, who have to grapple with practicing safe menstruation while also depending on their family members or caregivers for assistance.
- ◆ Women in healthcare have also been experiencing challenges during menstruation while working on long shifts, when they can't change their protective gear as frequently as they might want to change their sanitary pads.
- ◆ Key findings of the Menstrual Hygiene Awareness campaign survey:
 - ◆ During the Coronavirus pandemic, there were increased challenges for girls and women in India to access period products. As it is, menstrual hygiene education is not a socially discussed focus area.
 - ◆ Notably, 82 percent of organizations noted that there was either no access or severely restricted access to sanitary pads due to non-operational production units.
 - ◆ Further, the survey found that around 58 per cent of the small and medium scale manufacturers were not able to operate whereas 37 per cent were not operational

at all.

- ◆ Another factor that the survey points to is that several organizations supporting production units had switched to producing face masks. Inevitably, this move impacted the production of sanitary napkins.

Key Challenges related to Menstrual Hygiene

1. Continuing taboos and restrictions related to menstruation.
2. Limited access to sanitary pads.
3. Limited access to social support.
4. Restricted access to sanitation facilities.
5. Anxiety and stress over how to manage menstruation.
6. Disrupted manufacturing of menstrual hygiene products.
7. Broken supply chains for menstrual hygiene products.
8. In many places, shared toilets made it challenging for menstruating girls and women to manage menstrual hygiene.
9. School going girls, women in quarantine, women in relief camps, women migrant workers are in need of vital information related to menstrual hygiene and access to sanitation facilities.

How to Improve Menstrual Hygiene amidst COVID-19?

- ◆ The MHAI-WaterAid's Advocacy Brief shares valuable information with useful recommendations such as:
 1. Create more awareness through community programmes including radio.
 2. Information on making

home made cloth pads and its maintenance, use and maintenance of menstrual cups.

3. Menstrual hygiene products should be brought within the purview of 'essential supplies'.
4. Ensure sanitation facilities are accessible even in relief camps, isolation and quarantine centres, community and public toilets.
5. Waste bins for disposing off menstrual products is a key component of safe and hygienic solutions.

Way Forward

- ◆ It is essential to bring greater awareness about access to safe and hygienic menstrual hygiene products.
- ◆ While menstruation and menstrual hygiene still remain somewhat taboo topics, it is the need of the hour in rural and urban areas to make menstrual hygiene a key component of women's healthcare and well-being.



General Studies Paper- II

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

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

Q. Menstruation is a lot more than just a hygiene issue. In the light of the given statement highlight the issues faced by women in this regard, the social taboos and how the global pandemic has created more problems for women.

02

Heatwaves in India : Becoming Unusual

Why in News?

- North and central India have been reeling under a severe heat wave and temperatures have soared over 47 degrees Celsius at a few places. On 26th May 2020, Delhi recorded a maximum of 47.6 degrees Celsius in the Palam area, while most places saw their maximum temperatures six notches above the normal. As the heatwave conditions intensified in most parts of the northern states Churu in Rajasthan recorded 50-degree Celsius temperature, in the last 10 years, this is the second time the maximum temperature has surpassed this mark.

What are Heat Waves?

- A heat wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season in the North-Western parts of India. Heat Waves typically occur between March and June, and in some rare cases even extend till July. The heat waves have been caused by the dry north-westerly winds that started blowing ----- size in temperature. The extreme temperatures and resultant atmospheric conditions adversely affect people living in these regions as they cause physiological stress, sometimes resulting in death.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has given the following criteria for heat waves:
 - Heat wave need not be considered till maximum temperature of a station reaches atleast 40 degrees Celsius for plains and atleast 30 degrees Celsius for hilly regions.

- When normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40 degrees Celsius heat wave departure from normal is 5 degrees Celsius to 6 degrees Celsius severe heat wave departure from normal is 7 degrees Celsius or more.
- When normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40 degrees Celsius heat wave departure from normal is 4 degrees Celsius to 5 degrees Celsius. Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 6 degrees Celsius or more.
- When actual maximum temperature remains 45 degrees Celsius or more irrespective of normal maximum temperature, heat waves should be declared.

Heatwave Spell

- A heatwave spell generally lasts for a minimum of four days. On some occasions, it can extend up to seven or ten days. The longest recorded heatwave spell, in recent years, was between 18 – 31 May 2015. This spell had severely affected parts of West Bengal along with Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. A similar spell in 2014 was reported during June 2 – June 11.

Health Impacts of Heat Waves

The health impacts of Heat Waves typically involve dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke. The signs and symptoms are as follows:

- Heat Cramps:** Edema (swelling) and Syncope (Fainting) generally accompanied by fever below 39 degrees Celsius i.e. 102 degrees

Fahrenheit.

- Heat Exhaustion:** Fatigue, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps and sweating.
- Heat Stroke:** Body temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius i.e. 104 Degrees Fahrenheit or more along with delirium, seizures or coma. This is a potential fatal condition

According to National Disaster Management Authority's guidelines for preparation of heat action plan released in 2017, heatwaves have caused 25,716 deaths between 1992 and 2016 across various states.

Reasons for Unusual Heatwaves

- Summer season reaches its peak by May 15 in India, when the day temperatures across north, west, and central India cross 40 degrees and hover close to 45 degrees then on. This year, north India did not experience such temperatures till May 21. It was mainly because of the continuous inflow of Western Disturbances that influenced the weather in the north till as late as April. Since last winter, there was frequent passing of Western Disturbances over the north, appearing after every five to seven days. Originating in the Mediterranean Sea, Western Disturbances are eastward-moving winds that blow in lower atmospheric levels. They affect the local weather of a region during its onward journey.
- Between January and March this year, there were about 20 Western Disturbances, a record of sorts. When Western Disturbances interact with weather systems heading from the two southern

Urban Heat Island

- An urban heat island (UHI) is an urban area or metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to human activities. The temperature difference is usually larger at night than during the day, and is most apparent when winds are weak. UHI is most noticeable during the summer and winter. The main cause of the urban heat island effect is from the modification of land surfaces. Waste heat generated by energy usage is a secondary contributor. As a population center grows, it tends to expand its area and increase its average temperature. The term heat island is also used; the term can be used to refer to any area that is relatively hotter than the surrounding, but generally refers to human-disturbed areas. In times of a heat wave, its impact is multiplied by urban heat island effect.

seas, that is, warm winds blowing in from the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea, they cause snowfall or rainfall over the north. A significant influence of Western Disturbances is experienced during December to February. However, this year, its influence persisted till early May.

- ◆ The recent Western Disturbances got support from easterly winds blowing over from the Bay of Bengal. It resulted in rainfall and thunderstorm activities over parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, north Madhya Pradesh and Delhi until mid-May, keeping atmospheric conditions cooler than normal for summer standards.

Role of Cyclone Amphan

- ◆ Since the event of severe heat has emerged immediately after

the passing of Cyclone Amphan, experts confirm its role in leading to the present heatwave spell. Cyclone Amphan, which was a massive Super Storm covering 700 kms, managed to drag maximum moisture from over the Bay of Bengal, entire South Peninsula, parts of Central India and to some extent, even from the Arabian Sea.

- ◆ All the moisture, that was otherwise built during the thunderstorm and rainfall, got gradually depleted from over vast areas as the storm advanced towards West Bengal and Bangladesh between May 16 and 20. It has now triggered dry north-westerly winds to blow over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra causing severe heatwave.

Western Disturbances Balances Heat Waves

- ◆ A western disturbance is an extratropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent. It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies. It provides relief from the heat waves and significantly brings the temperature down, thereby bringing down the mean temperature.
- ◆ A high-pressure area over Ukraine and neighbourhood consolidates, causing the intrusion of cold air from polar regions towards an area of relatively warmer air with high moisture. This generates favorable conditions for cyclogenesis in the upper atmosphere, which promotes the formation of an

eastward-moving extratropical depression. Traveling at speeds up to 12 m/s (43 km/h; 27 mph), the disturbance moves towards the Indi subcontinent until the Himalayas inhibits its development, upon which the depression rapidly weakens.

Conclusion

- ◆ Heat waves are lasting longer and have become more intense over the past decade. It is not just day temperatures that are soaring; nights are becoming hotter, too. The number of Indian states hit by heat waves has surged in recent years. Hotter summers and heat waves are hitting our hills, too. Himalayan glaciers are receding rapidly, causing serious flooding. Clearly, climate change is not a distant nightmare any longer. Global warming is real and already unfolding and India is suffering its deadly impact, this time in the midst of a pandemic.



General Studies Paper- I

Topic: Important Geophysical phenomena such as Earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, Cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including Waterbodies and Ice caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Q. Heat wave in May 2020 scorched northern India where temperature hovered above 45 degrees in many places. What was the cause of such unprecedented heat wave and how can one deal with heat waves?

03

Cooperative Federalism during COVID-19

Context

- Many exigencies have tested the foundations of our federal democracy, but none as harshly as coronavirus pandemic. And when India's success in defeating COVID-19 actively rests upon Centre-State collaboration, it is indeed its commitment to federalism that is under the most strain.

Background

- In the current times, every country across the globe is engaged in a battle against COVID-19. The architecture of a country's constitution influences its response to this pandemic – authoritarian countries' response is quite different from that of democratic countries.

Federalism in India

- The constitution of India has not described India as a federation. However, Article 1 of Indian constitution describes India as a "Union of States." This means India is a union comprising of various states which are an integral part of it. Here, the states cannot break away from the union. They do not have the power to secede from the union. In a true federation, the constituting units or the states have the freedom to come out of the union.
- India is not a true federal government because it combines features of a federal government and the features of unitary

government which can also be called as a quasi-federal government.

Constitutional Debate on Federalism

- Dr. Ambedkar listed several features of the draft constitution which mitigated the rigidity and legalism of federalism in his historic speech in the constituent assembly in November 1949. The following features are follows as:

- Article 246 of Indian constitution distributes legislative power between union and states. It gives union exclusive power to legislate in respect of matters contained in list 1 and concurrent power to legislate in respect of matters contained in list 3 of schedule 7 of the constitution.
- Parliament is given power to legislate on exclusively state subjects matters namely:
 - Article 249 of Indian constitution gives power to parliament with respect to matter in the state list in the national interest.
 - Article 250 of Indian constitution gives power to parliament in respect of any matter in the state list if a proclamation of emergency is in operation.
 - Article 252 of Indian constitution gives power to parliament to legislate two or more states by consent of those states.

- Article 352 and 353 states about provisions for the proclamation of emergency and the effect of such proclamation.

- There are provisions included in the constitution which are to be operative unless parliament made any contrary provision or word to the same effect.
- Article 368 of Indian constitution states about provisions regarding the amendment of the constitution.

- Dr Ambedkar made it clear that the provisions make the Indian constitution both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances. He further stated that in normal times it is framed to work as a federal system. But in times of war it is designed as to make it as though it was a unitary system.

Quasi Federal & Cooperative Federalism

- 'cooperative federalism' — essentially defined by administrative cooperation between the Centre and the States, and a partial dependence of the States upon payments from the Centre. Accordingly, Indian constitutional law expert Granville Austin remarks that despite a strong Centre, cooperative federalism doesn't necessarily result in weaker States; rather, the progress of the Republic rests upon active cooperation between the two.

Covid Infecting Cooperative Federalism

- ◆ The Centre took the decision to impose a national lockdown all by itself. There was no consultation with states. This was justified by the use of the Epidemic Diseases Act (EDA), 1897, and the National Disaster Management Act (NDMA), 2005, which provides a broad legal architecture to take a variety of emergency measures to contain the pandemic. Therefore, while health remains a state subject, infectious disease control is in the Concurrent List requiring the Centre's leadership. The 1897 EDA allows both the central and state governments to regulate the spread of epidemic diseases.
- ◆ On finances, states feel aggrieved at the delay in the payment of compensation due to them under the Goods and Services Tax regime; they also expected the Centre to provide a greater financial cushion in these times. The Centre, for its part, feels that it has, in fact, relaxed borrowing limits for states — and making it conditional on a set of reforms will eventually help governance in the states.
- ◆ However, in first week of June, the Centre has released compensation worth Rs 36,400 crore to states for three months up to February 2020.
- ◆ Several Members of Parliament complained that the suspension of MPLADS and diversion of the funds to the Consolidated Fund of India may not be in concurrence of cooperative federalism, as it discourages locally tailored solutions by the MPs.
- ◆ Zone classifications into 'red' and 'orange' has evoked sharp criticisms

from several States. The States have demanded more autonomy in making such classifications. This is despite the fact that State consultation is a legislative mandate cast upon the Centre under the Disaster Management Act of 2005 (under which binding COVID-19 guidelines are being issued by the Centre to the States). The Act envisages the creation of a 'National Plan' under Section 11, as well as issuance of binding guidelines by the Centre to States under Section 6(2), in furtherance of the 'National Plan'.

- ◆ The 'National Plan' then is a broader vision document while the binding guidelines are its enforcement mechanism. Now, Section 11(2) of the Act mandates State consultations before formulating a 'National Plan', and to that extent, when the binding guidelines are ultimately issued under it, they are expected to represent the views of the States.
- ◆ Centre has not formulated the 'National Plan', and has chosen instead to respond to COVID-19 through ad hoc binding guidelines issued to

States, thereby circumventing the legislative mandate of State consultations.

- ◆ However, lockdown 5.0 has not an extension of the full lockdown. The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said that the lockdown is being extended until June 30 only in containment zones. These containment zones will be demarcated by states, depending upon the severity of the coronavirus outbreak in an area. For areas outside of containment zones, this is the lifting of the lockdown in a phased manner.
- ◆ On March 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government was constituting the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund to help the country better combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and the ministers of Defence, Home Affairs and Finance are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund. On April 10, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) issued a set of FAQs (F. No. CSR-01/4/2020-CSR-MCA) clarifying the eligibility of CSR expenditure related to



COVID-19 activities. This document stated that contributions made by companies to the PM CARES Fund shall qualify as CSR expenditure under item no. (viii) of Schedule VII of the Companies Act. However, contributions made to the 'Chief Minister's Relief Fund' or 'State Relief Fund for COVID-19' (run by several states) shall not qualify as admissible CSR expenditure. The logical consequence of this position is that corporations would be deterred from contributing to state relief efforts, and would instead redirect their CSR money to the PM CARES Fund.

Mandate for States

- Notably 'public health and sanitation' are matters falling exclusively within the legislative competence of the states [Entry 6, List II, Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India]. Admittedly, the subject of constituting funds to tackle the challenge of the pandemic is not an issue of legislative competence. But the fact that states are vested with the exclusive authority to legislate on health-related issues is a good indicator of the crucial role that our Constitution-makers envisaged for states with respect to matters pertaining to public health.

Way Forward

- Federalism is a part of the 'basic structure' of the Indian Constitution,



as held by the Supreme Court in the case of *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala*. But what is the extent of the Centre's responsibility towards upholding features of the basic structure. Indisputably, the Parliament cannot alter or efface features of the basic structure.

- There has been a heightened number of interaction between the states and Centre on how to tackle COVID-19. The administrators have understood that it cannot be a top-down approach to this pandemic and local governments need to take a call. In the last 60 days, the Centre and states have held elaborate discussions on the lockdown, how much of that will continue post coronavirus remains to be seen.
- As it is the States which act as first responders to the pandemic, supplying them with adequate funds becomes a pre-requisite in

effectively tackling the crisis. This requires the Centre to view the States as equals, and strengthen their capabilities, instead of increasing their dependence upon itself.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

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

Q. Highlight the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on 'Cooperative Federalism' in India and how it impacted its politico-administrative environment in India. Also give suggestions, as to what more could have been done.

04

Self-reliant Panchayats : The Road to Self-reliant Bharat

Why in News?

- ◆ This Pandemic has thrown at us new challenges and problems which we have never imagined, but it also taught us a very good lesson that we have to be self-reliant and self-sufficient. It has taught us that we should not look for solutions outside the country.
- ◆ The COVID-19 has offered India a valuable lesson on the importance of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, and the country, each state within it, each district within every state, and each village within every district must aspire to attain the twin goals.
- ◆ Progress of Panchayats will ensure the development of the nation and democracy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the biggest lesson from the coronavirus pandemic was that it has taught people to become self-reliant. On Panchayati Raj Day he said, "the collective power of the villages is helping the country move forward".

Background

- ◆ The world is now battling the COVID-19 outbreak, we must remember not just the doctors and paramedical staff on the ground, but also the anganwadi and sanitation workers, and officials of the local government, who work tirelessly to ensure that the country comes out of this pandemic.
- ◆ The biggest challenge in this whole fight against COVID-19 has been the issue of migrant workers and labourers. But a bigger challenge lies in ensuring the delivery of adequate healthcare facilities for

these workers, who have travelled thousands of kilometres barefoot to reach their villages in different parts of India.

Panchayati Raj in India

- ◆ The Panchayati Raj system of local self government was introduced by the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India. Part IX was inserted in the Constitution as a sequel to the 73rd Constitution Amendment in 1993, bestowing the Constitutional mandatory status to the 'Panchayats'. As per the Constitution, three tiers of Panchayats are to be constituted through elections every five years, except in States/Union Territories with population less than 20 lakhs, where Panchayats of two tiers may be created. The Constitution envisages that Panchayats will function as institutions of local government and prepare plans and implement schemes 'for economic development and social justice'.
- ◆ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was created on 27 May 2004. It has the primary objective of overseeing the implementation of Part IX of the Constitution, implementation of The Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 in the Fifth Schedule areas and operationalizing District Planning Committees in terms of Article 243ZD of Part IXA of the Constitution. Since most of the actions including framing of laws rests with the State Governments, the Ministry strives to reach its goals with regard to improvements in the functioning of Panchayats primarily through policy

interventions, advocacy, capacity building, persuasion and financial support. Its role is for strengthening the administrative infrastructure, basic services etc. by leveraging technology and capacity building of the functionaries of Rural Local Bodies (RLB).

Panchayats in Action: Examples

- ◆ In Meerut for the migrant workers, facilities like food and lodging have been provided by gram pradhans and panchayat secretaries, which highlights the crucial role of the panchayats in taking active measures in these testing times.
- ◆ In Kerala, the panchayats have been running community kitchens to feed thousands of poor people every day.
- ◆ Karnataka have decentralised panchayats, giving them complete flexibility to work, and have also empowered them with major departments. Karnataka has become one of the first states to restart major economic activities in the fourth phase of the lockdown.
- ◆ PM applauded rural folk for their contribution in the fight against the pandemic and said, "All of you have given the mantra to the world – do gaj doori (two yards away) to define social distancing in simpler terms, to fight coronavirus pandemic. It is your efforts that there is a discussion in the world today how India has responded to coronavirus."

Empowering Panchayats

- ◆ In 2014, less than 100 panchayats had broadband connections. This number has increased to nearly 1.25 lakh.

- ◆ In 2019, before the local body elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the government of India decided to empower the panchayats with financial and decision-making powers. It was then decided that the functions and functionaries of all the 29 subjects shifted under the 73rd Amendment, will also be transferred to the panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir. This brought basic institutions like primary health centres, primary schools, and anganwadis under the administrative control of the panchayats. Further, the financial powers of the panchayats were increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh, and from Rs 25,000 to Rs 2.5 lakh for block councils. Empowering local body institutions, especially the panchayats, in this manner will ensure an enhanced governance module, better public participation, and the strengthening of democratic principles.

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a mobile portals E-Gram Swaraj Portal & Swamitva Scheme on April 24, 2020.

Gram Swaraj Portal/App

- The E-gram swaraj.gov.in portal is one single interface on which the details will be listed panchayat wise. The platform will provide records of work from planning to the implementation in every village panchayat under Gram Panchayati Development Plan (GPDP).
- Monitoring and recording all the work via Gram Swaraj Portal/App will help speed-up the implementation of projects in village areas.
- As it will contain the details of ongoing development works and the fund allocated for the projects, one can access and know about the groundwork.
- All the details related to Panchayat Sachiv and Panch can be viewed on Gram Swaraj Portal.
- The works of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj will be accessible through Gram Swaraj Portal.
- The Gram Swaraj Portal and application will provide a boost in transparency by decentralized planning of development projects, with progress reports updates and increased accountability.

Neglected Panchayats

- ◆ Although PRIs have emerged as an important medium of decentralised development in India, several challenges continue to hamper

them from becoming the vanguard of grassroots democracy. The 73rd Amendment had only created a broad framework of local self-governing bodies and left the decision of delegating functions and powers to state legislatures. It is mandatory for states to implement provisions like the setting up of state finance commissions and holding regular elections to panchayats every five years through an independent state election commission. But other provisions like granting financial powers and authority to panchayats and reserving seats for backward classes fall in the domain of the states.

- ◆ Another important issue is to see that the panchayat system does not become sarpanch-centric. The gram sabha was envisioned to be the focal point of this novel experiment. The involvement of villagers should not be limited merely to casting votes once every five years. Democracy would be robust when people participate in governing their own affairs responsibly at the grassroots level—in the true spirit of Gandhiji's Gram Swaraj. For Gandhi, the ideal governance structure was the responsive, people-centric, just and caring state exemplified by the kingdom of Lord Rama. Within this concept of Rama Rajya was embedded the concept of Gram Rajya or village-self government.

- ◆ Despite occasional heroics as in the case of COVID-19, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) continue to play a subservient role notwithstanding the 73rd Constitution Amendment entrusting them as critical "self-governing institutions" or little republics. The progress with regard to decentralisation and panchayats having modest degree of autonomy is slow due to numerous systemic





bottlenecks and institutional challenges. This is largely because while most Indian states appear to have met the necessary conditions, such as enactment of the State Panchayat Act, setting up of the State Finance Commission, the State Election Commission and the District Planning Committee, still several of them have not devolved funds and functions to these local bodies.

- While some States like Kerala, West Bengal, Karnataka have devolved as many as 26 departments to Panchayats, several States have devolved only as low as three

functions. In large number of cases, states that have devolved these departments to PRIs do so on paper. Despite 27 years of their existence, there have been little efforts to strengthen the capacities of these institutions. Not only very few States have done some work on internalising the planning process (mapping core activities) of panchayats, several States have not even paid any attention to build the capacities of the newly elected representatives, many of whom are first-timers and belongs to the most vulnerable sections particularly the Scheduled Caste,

Scheduled Tribes and women. So, lack of capacity raised plenty of doubts about efficacies of these institutions and has rightly challenged their credibility as self-governing institutions.

Way Forward

- When we talk about Atmanirbhar Bharat, we should also have in mind Atmanirbhar panchayats. In the battle against COVID-19, India must pay attention to the role of the local administration, municipalities and panchayats. Today, we have more than 2,50,000 panchayats across India with nearly 3.1 million elected representatives and 1.3 million women representatives. Public participation, people-driven approach, powerful local bodies and panchayats can ensure India's success against the pandemic.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Separation of powers between various organs, dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

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

Q. Discuss the role of Panchayats in the fight against Covid pandemic and give some examples in this regard.

05 Question Mark on the Supreme Court's Constitutional Duties

Why in News?

- ♦ As India, along with the rest of the world, grapples with the public health crisis caused by COVID-19, it faces many unique challenges. The most acute problem is faced by migrant labourers: they have no work, no source of income, no access to basic necessities, no quality testing facilities, no protective gear, and no means to reach home.
- ♦ The Fundamental Rights of the citizens are being under the strain of global pandemic and administrative reach is not enough to accommodate everyone. In times like these, the 'Judiciary', cannot sit back and leave everything on the 'Executive'. The constitutional arrangement of checks and balances must be ensured. Additionally the Supreme Court (SC) has the responsibility to look into the matters of the fundamental rights of the citizens.

Background

- ♦ The SC has a pivotal constitutional role in protecting and safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens of this country, and particularly the vast swathes of our population who eke out a living near or below the poverty line or minimum wage. The SC's constitutional role and duty assume even greater importance in the time of a crisis, such as the present when the entire country and its economy was "locked down" from March 24 by an order of the central government. More than 75 per cent of the Indian workforce

earn their livelihoods in the informal or unorganised sector, and for them, a stoppage of economic activity in the Medium, Small and Micro sectors has resulted in an immediate loss of livelihood and the means of sustenance.

- ♦ The "lockdown" was imposed on March 24 without any consideration being paid to the plight of these poor, especially migrant labours earning their livelihood in the major cities, and for whom social distancing was and is a utopian impossibility. These poor citizens were faced with the prospect of being cooped up in small cramped tenements/rooms or on the pavements, without any employment or livelihood or even a definite source of food and were thus compelled to start walking back to their home states, often thousands of kilometres away, with little children, family members or elderly parents. They were forced to do so as the central government's lockdown had precluded them from taking trains or buses back to their home towns.

Mis-reading or Misrepresenting or Failing

- ♦ While hearing public interest litigation on the plight of the migrant workers, Alakh Alok Srivastava v. Union of India, the SC considered the Status Report filed by the learned Solicitor General, representing the Union of India, which referred to the government's circular dated March 29, prohibiting movement and transportation of migrant labourers and a direction

to shift them to relief shelter homes and relief camps instead and the Solicitor General's statement before the Court that as of March 31, "no migrant person was walking on the roads in an attempt to reach his/ her home towns villages". The SC, vide order dated 31.03.2020, expressed satisfaction at the steps taken by the Union of India to combat COVID-19 and proceeded to observe that "the migration of labourers working in the cities was triggered by panic created by fake news that the lockdown would continue for more than 3 months". As a consequence of the Court's failure to intervene, even though the number of COVID cases was only a few hundred at the time, the millions of migrant workers were unable to proceed to their hometowns. This enforced stay in cramped quarters only exposed poor workers to a higher risk of infection. Moreover, the government's statement has been clearly shown to be contrary to the facts.

- ♦ In one of the strictest lockdowns in modern India, the Centre issued many directives, but designated the States as the implementing authorities. But the issue of migrant labourers is inherently an inter-State issue, and States have had to tackle it both internally as well as inter-se.
- ♦ The SC's failure to intervene in March resulted in a massive migration of millions of workers by early May — they were fed up with being virtually incarcerated for the previous six weeks. By this time, the

COVID infections in the country had crossed 50,000 and a significant number of migrant workers were also infected. Even at this stage, the government initially sought to obstruct their travel/movement on foot or by trucks. Subsequently, the government agreed to their movement by bus and trains (Shramik Specials). However, even when the arrangements were made, onerous conditions were sought to be imposed on them, such as obtaining a medical certificate after getting themselves tested at great cost to themselves. The right to life, liberty and freedom of movement of these hapless poor millions was rendered virtually meaningless.

- ◆ On May 15, a three-judge bench of the SC dismissed an application seeking immediate directions to all the district magistrates to identify the migrant workers who are walking on roads, provide them with appropriate food and shelter facility and facilitate their travel back to their home states free of cost. Without going into the merits, the said application was dismissed and it was left for the state governments to sort this out.

Unjustified Reluctance

- ◆ The Court's reluctance to intervene may have stemmed from a belief in letting the executive handle the fallout of an unprecedented global crisis, but, in the process, it abandoned its primary responsibility of protecting fundamental rights, especially of those most vulnerable. Such was the resultant dismay that retired judges called it out for apparent abdication of its duty.

- **MIGRANTS WILL NOT BE CHARGED FARE**
- **STATES TO SHARE FARE CHARGES**
- **STATES TO PROVIDE MEAL & WATER**
- **STATES TO OVERSEE REGISTRATION**
- **PUBLICISE INFORMATION FOR MIGRANTS**



MAJOR RELIEF FOR MIGRANT WORKERS AS SC GIVES INTERIM ORDERS

- ◆ There are numerous judgments where it has laid out matters of policy: for instance, the Vishaka guidelines on sexual harassment in the workplace; the right to food; and various environmental protection policies. In these cases, the Court formulated policies and asked the States to implement them.
- ◆ In this lockdown, enough and more evidence points to fundamental rights of citizens having been grossly violated, and especially those of vulnerable populations like migrant labourers.

Handling of PIL's

- ◆ Court is not merely rejected or adjourned petitions; it is actively dissuaded petitioners from approaching the courts for redress because the Court determined that it was the executive's responsibility. Ordinarily, the Court would have at least nudged petitioners towards the High Courts, but here, even that choice was not available — the Court practically slammed the door shut.
- ◆ PILs are a specific instrument designed to ensure the protection of

the rights of the poor, downtrodden and vulnerable, and "any member of the public" can seek appropriate directions on their behalf. This lies at the heart of the PIL. The concept of a PIL is to be non-adversarial, but the Court is treating these as adversarial matters against the government. PILs, in fact, ought to be a collaborative effort between the court and all the parties, where everyone comes together in seeking a resolution to the problem.

- ◆ Equally, lawyers have been castigated for approaching the Court 'merely' on the basis of reports.

High Courts Coming to the Rescue

- ◆ At least four High Courts (Karnataka, Madras, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat) have started asking questions about migrant rights. This is almost a replay of what happened during Emergency, where High Courts boldly stood up and recognised violations, but were overruled eventually by the Supreme Court.
- ◆ The Madras High Court, for example, has quashed criminal

defamation cases against media houses, stating that democracy cannot be throttled this way. Contrast this with the Supreme Court's reaction to the bizarre claim of the Solicitor-General who argued that the exodus of workers was due to fake news: the Court seemed to have accepted this, and media houses were advised to report more responsibly.

- ◆ In such times, High Courts come across as islands of rationality, courage and compassion. However, in truth, the subject matter of migration is inherently an inter-State issue, not an intra-State one.

MIGRANT CRISIS

500,000-600,000

No. of workers who walked on foot to villages after lockdown

8.4 mn Those given food by govt and NGOs

Source: Centre's submission to petitions in the Supreme Court

1.03 mn Persons in relief camps or shelter homes

1.5 mn Workers given shelter or food by employers

22,567 No. of shelter homes; Kerala accounts for around 70% of them

Way Forward

- ◆ The SC has developed the jurisdiction of continuous mandamus to monitor executive action to ensure that orders of the Court are indeed followed. The apparent deference to executive action and the reliance on bald (and patently incorrect) statements made on behalf of the executive and the expression of helplessness on this part of the SC to monitor executive action, severely impairs this Courts constitutional status and duty. The SC has the power bestowed by the Constitution of India under Article 142 to undertake any measure to do complete justice. The show of helplessness does no justice

to the moto of this court "Yato dharmastato Jaya". The survival of Indian democracy and the rule of law, particularly in the current COVID-19 pandemic, is dependent on the SC actively fulfilling its constitutional obligation of being the guarantor of the fundamental rights of citizens against State action.

- ◆ The migrant workers crisis is continuing even today, with millions still stranded on roads at railway stations and state borders. The SC should intervene and ensure that adequate transport arrangements, food and shelter are immediately provided for by the Central and State governments free of cost.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; Ministries and Departments of the Government: pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

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

Q. Supreme Court has been criticized for handling the PIL's related to the migrant crisis and not fulfilling its constitutional duties. In the light of the given statement, discuss the role played by Supreme Court in the initial part of the crisis and suggest corrective measures.

06

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar : A Misunderstood Revolutionary

Why in News?

- ◆ 28th May 2020 marked the 137th birth anniversary of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, one of the most prominent ideologues of Hindutva in the 20th century.

Background

- ◆ Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is amongst those rare individuals who have the potential to emerge like a phoenix from the dust of history despite unparalleled advocacy against him by a segment of his ideological rivals.
- ◆ Though he sometimes referred to his brand of 'Hindutva' as cultural as opposed to geographical India, but many historians have ascribed communal angle to this. This giant of a revolutionary has many other facets that have contributed to the modern society.
- ◆ Savarkar was also the first political leader to set independence as India's goal in the 1900s. Almost immediately after joining college, he had started organising and

spreading his anti-British and revolutionary ideas through his efficient oratory and writing skills — the Congress accepted this goal much later in its Lahore session in 1929.

- ◆ He was a proponent of a united India, which was inclusive and diverse — an India that was an organic result of all its diverse cultures. He believed in the idea of inclusivity for mobilising the Indian masses. Some oppositional forces have, generally, made skewed arguments by terming him as the proponent of the two-nation theory, by referring to parts of his presidential address of the 19th Hindu Mahasabha session in Karnavati (Ahmedabad) in 1937. This is far from the truth. During the 21st annual session of the Hindu Mahasabha held in Calcutta in 1939, Savarkar, in his presidential address, spoke about how the Hindus and Muslims could bury their historical differences

in a common Hindustani constitutional state. It was not Savarkar but Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, who propagated the two-nation theory, which was adopted by Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Savarkar's Appreciation of Ambedkar

- ◆ Savarkar, a Chitpavan Brahmin, and B R Ambedkar had represented the two opposite extremes of the Indian societal setup, there was proximity between some of their views which remains unexplored. Savarkar was impressed with the insights and meticulous approach of Ambedkar. Savarkar had quoted Ambedkar several times while advocating social reforms, harmony, and the upliftment of the downtrodden. Savarkar appealed that "every true Indian needs to resolve in his or her mind to absolve oneself of... seven fetters", that is, Vedoktabandi (exclusivity of access to Vedic literature), Vyavasayabandi (continuation of a profession by virtue of one's birth), Sparshabandi (practices of untouchability), Samudrabandi (forbidding the crossing of the seas to go to foreign lands), Shuddhibandi (disallowing reconversions to Hinduism), Rotibandi (the practice of inter-caste dining), Betibandi (rigidity in abolishing inter-caste marriage). These reformist ideas subsequently became provisions under the Indian Constitution. Savarkar also wrote how, "In what is construed



as a 'low caste' — the Mahars — we have had such illustrious saints as Chokha Mela and such brilliant thinkers such as Dr Ambedkar, whose piety and intellect far surpasses many a Brahmin's."

Modernist Outlook

- ◆ Savarkar also openly embraced the "Era of Machines" and warned the Indian leaders to learn from Europe's mistakes. His futuristic approach to Indian cinema, too, was commendable. He believed in the innovative spirit of the human mind. He was a multidimensional personality and wore many hats: A freedom fighter, social reformer, writer, poet, historian, political leader and philosopher. Biased historiography has led to the building of a controversial narrative with a superficial understanding of Savarkar.

Against Caste System

- ◆ Savarkar was a strong critic of the caste system and ensured that children of the so-called lower castes attend school. He gave monetary incentives to their parents and distributed slate and chalk to children from these castes. Savarkar said, "Once the children are educated together, they will not observe caste hierarchy in later life. They will not feel the need to observe caste division. In addition, the government should abandon the title 'special schools for low caste children'. This very title creates a feeling of inferiority among children attending the school."
- ◆ On Hindu festivals like Dussehra and Makar Sakranti, Savarkar

would visit houses, accompanied by people from different castes, and distribute traditional sweets. He himself brought up a girl child from a former untouchable community and taught people from untouchable communities to read, write and recite the Gayatri mantra.

- ◆ In 1930, Savarkar started the first pan-Hindu Ganeshotsav. The festivities would be marked by "kirtans" rendered by the so-called untouchables. Listeners from the so-called higher castes would garland those who rendered these devotional songs. Public lectures by women and inter-caste dining by women were special features of these festivities. Savarkar was also behind many temple movements of Maharashtra, where the untouchables were encouraged to pray, recite Sanskrit hymns and conduct "abhishek" of the Vishnu idol.
- ◆ In 1931, the Patitpavan temple was established in Ratnagiri; it had on its trust, representation from all castes, including those from the erstwhile untouchable caste. On May 1, 1933, Savarkar started a cafe for Hindus of all castes, including untouchables. This was the first pan-Hindu cafe in entire India. Savarkar also talked about the ways to abolish the caste system and untouchability.

Political Activities

- ◆ Savarkar began his political activities as a high school student and continued to do so at Fergusson College in Pune. He was educated at the Fergusson College, finished off in London and became

a barrister. He and his brother founded a secret society called 'Abhinav Bharat Society'. When he went to the United Kingdom for his law studies, he involved himself with organizations such as 'India House' and the 'Free India Society'. He also published books advocating complete Indian independence by revolutionary means. One of the books he published called 'The Indian War of Independence' about the Indian rebellion of 1857 was banned by the British authorities. In 1910, Savarkar was arrested and ordered to be extradited to India for his connections with the revolutionary group India House.

- ◆ Often called the 'Father of Hindutva', Vinayak Damodar Savarkar thought Congress, the backbone of India's freedom struggle, wasn't a good response to the Muslim League. Hence, he had joined the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha and focussed on Hindutva, a term coined by Bengali conservative Chandranath Basu. Savarkar was an atheist and also a pragmatic practitioner of Hindu philosophy.
- ◆ In 1939, when the Congress ministries resigned in protest against Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's action of declaring India to be a belligerent in the Second World War without consulting the Indian people. This led to the Hindu Mahasabha, under Savarkar's presidency, joining hands with the Muslim League and other parties to form governments, in certain provinces. Such coalition governments were formed in Sindh, NWFP, and Bengal.

Interpreting History

- ♦ He was also a revolutionary and later a politician of extraordinary foresight. How he viewed history and learnt lessons from the past to understand the present as well as prepare for the future is an interesting dimension of this great patriot. At a very early stage, Savarkar the historian understood that the way history is constructed, the very terms of narrative are loaded with their own politics and power. For a nation to survive it has to reclaim its past. Savarkar, the utilitarian historian wrote:

- ♦ “The nation that has no consciousness of its past has no future. Equally true it is that a nation must develop its capacity not only of claiming a past, but also of knowing how to use it for the furtherance of its future.”
- ♦ When the British historians and their Indian followers repeatedly termed the 1857 uprising as a ‘mutiny’, Savarkar contested this by calling 1857 a revolution.
- ♦ “The history of the tremendous Revolution that was enacted in the year 1857 has never been written in this scientific spirit by an author, Indian or foreign.”
- ♦ One should note here that Savarkar uses the term ‘scientific spirit’ and not nationalistic or patriotic spirit.
- ♦ Another important work on history written by Veer Savarkar was ‘Hindu Pad Padashahi’. Titled in English as ‘The Maratha Movement’, the book describes the Maratha

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, politician and poet, was born on May 28, 1883

CREATOR OF HINDUTVA

Advocated dismantling the caste system & reconversion to **Hindu religion**

Founded student societies like **Abhinav Bharat Society** and the **Free India Society** in England

Published *The Indian War of Independence* about the Indian rebellion of 1857

Created the term Hindutva, & emphasised its distinctiveness from Hinduism, which he associated with social & political communalism

“Our movement must not be limited to being against any particular law, but it must be for acquiring the authority to make laws itself”



struggle to re-establish the Hindu Empire in India. This was written in 1925. The book was written when Savarkar was still a political prisoner. The book brings out in great detail how the Maratta navy defeated the European forces and how complacency brought the curtains on the last Hindu empire.

- ♦ It was based on this scientific understanding of history that Veer Savarkar asked Hindu youths to join the Indian army in large numbers.

Conclusion

- ♦ Veer Savarkar has been in the news for various reasons. He is sometimes painted as a communal leader and sometimes as a revolutionary who fought for India's independence. Of many things, one agreeable position is that he was a patriot who fought for India's independence. It will be unfair to

judge a person like Veer Savarkar from today's standpoint. Given the era and amount of political liberty and the national environment, the achievements of V.D.Savarkar are commendable. Though some historians often ascribes communal angle to his style of politics and brandishing him as a “Hindu” ideologue, but given the context and circumstances of his actions and choices, the differences in various schools of thoughts are difficult to reconcile.



General Studies Paper- I

Topic: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.

Q. Discuss the contribution by V.D. Savarkar to India's freedom struggle and highlight his contribution to anti-caste movement.

07

India-China Stand-off : Requires Positive Consensus

Why in News?

- Recently, thousands of Chinese troops have forced their way into the Galwan valley in Ladakh, in the disputed Kashmir region.
- The Chinese forces put up tents, dug trenches and moved heavy equipment several kilometres inside what had been regarded by India as its territory. The move came after India built a road several hundred kilometres long connecting to a high-altitude forward air base which it reactivated in 2008.

Introduction

- India and China share a border more than 3,440 km (2,100 miles) long and have overlapping territorial claims. Their border patrols often bump into each other, resulting in occasional

scuffles but both sides insist no bullet has been fired in four decades.

- Their armies - two of the world's largest - come face to face at many points. The poorly demarcated Line of Actual Control (LAC) separates the two sides. Rivers, lakes and snowcaps mean the line separating soldiers can shift and they often come close to confrontation.
- The current military tension is not limited to Ladakh. Soldiers from the two sides are also eyeball-to-eyeball in Naku La, on the border between China and the north-eastern Indian state of Sikkim.
- And there's a row over a new map put out by Nepal, too, which accuses India of encroaching on its territory by building a road connecting with China.

Line of Actual Control

- The LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory. India considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long, while the Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km. It is divided into three sectors: the eastern sector which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the western sector in Ladakh.

Reasons for the Tension Rising Now

- Soldiers from the two sides clashed on at least two occasions in Ladakh. Stand-offs are reported in at least three locations: the Galwan valley; Hot Springs; and Pangong lake to the south.
- The traditionally peaceful Galwan River has now become a hotspot because it is where the LAC is closest to the new road India has built along the Shyok River to Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) - the most remote and vulnerable area along the LAC in Ladakh.
- According to the Chinese military, India is the one which has forced its way into the Galwan valley. So, India is changing the status quo along the LAC - that has angered the Chinese. The road could boost Delhi's capability to move men and material rapidly in case of a conflict.
- When India controversially decided to end Jammu and Kashmir's limited autonomy in August last year, it also redrew the region's map. The new federally-administered Ladakh



included Aksai Chin, an Indian area controlled by China.

- ♦ A strategic road, the Karakoram highway, passes through this area that connects China with its long-term ally Pakistan.
- ♦ Beijing has invested about \$60bn (£48bn) in Pakistan's infrastructure - the so-called China Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC) - as part of its Belt and Road Initiative and the highway is key to transporting goods to and from the southern Pakistani port of Gwadar. The port gives China a foothold in the Arabian Sea.
- ♦ In addition, China was unhappy when India initially banned all exports of medical and protective equipment to shore up its stocks soon after the coronavirus pandemic started earlier this year.

The Disagreement

- ♦ The alignment of the LAC in the eastern sector is along the 1914 McMahon Line, and there

are minor disputes about the positions on the ground as per the principle of the high Himalayan watershed. This pertains to India's international boundary as well, but for certain areas such as Longju and Asaphila. The line in the middle sector is the least controversial but for the precise alignment to be followed in the Barahoti plains.

- ♦ The major disagreements are in the western sector where the LAC emerged from two letters written by Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai to PM Jawaharlal Nehru in 1959, after he had first mentioned such a 'line' in 1956. In his letter, Zhou said the LAC consisted of "the so-called McMahon Line in the east and the line up to which each side exercises actual control in the west".
- ♦ After the 1962 War, the Chinese claimed they had withdrawn to 20 km behind the LAC of November 1959. Zhou clarified the LAC again after the war in

another letter to Nehru: "To put it concretely, in the eastern sector it coincides in the main with the so-called McMahon Line, and in the western and middle sectors it coincides in the main with the traditional customary line which has consistently been pointed out by China". During the Doklam crisis in 2017, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson urged India to abide by the "1959 LAC".

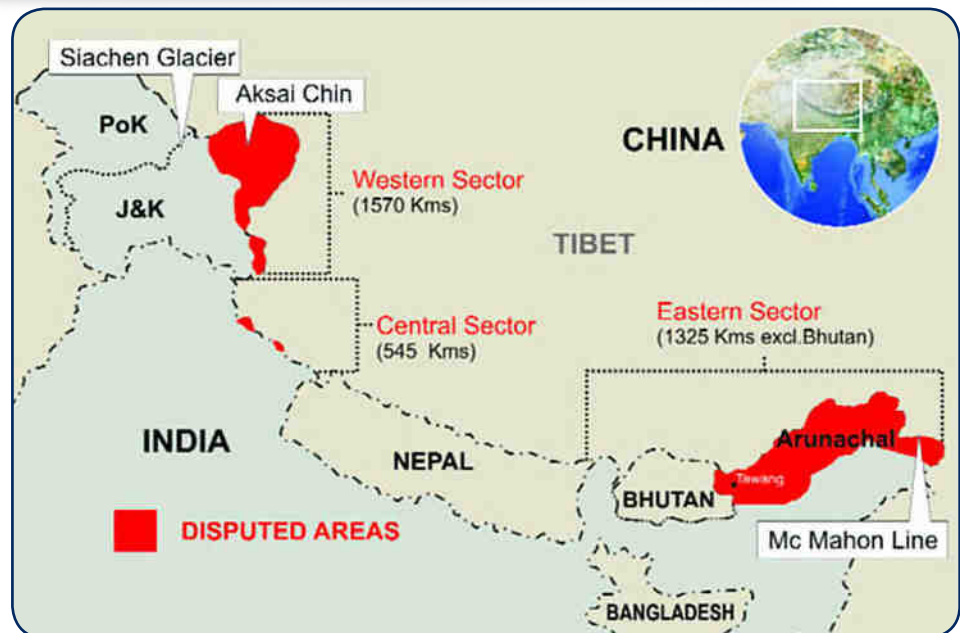
The Agreement

- ♦ The basic framework for dealing with such issues has been laid out in a 1993 "Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas." The two sides agreed to "peaceful and friendly consultations" to resolve the boundary dispute and disclaimed the threat of force as legitimate bargaining tool. Further, until such an agreement could be reached the sanctity of the LAC was to be maintained. Any "contingencies or other problems arising in the areas" were to be dealt with "through meetings and friendly consultations between border personnel of the two countries."
- ♦ However, in June 2017, Indian Army executed "Operation Juniper" and positioned 270 armed troops in the Doklam area of Bhutan. This mobilization was intended to deter a team of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers from constructing a road that would have given the Chinese access to Indian territory.
- ♦ The road would have circumvented Indian posts in Doklam, and provided the



Chinese access to Jampheri Ridge and a clear line of sight to the narrow Siliguri Corridor. The Corridor is commonly referred to as the “chicken’s neck” as it vitally connects seven states in India’s northeast to the rest of India. The Doklam standoff brought both armies face-to-face, leading to a tense 73-day military stand-off. Eventually, the Chinese decided to back down and halt their road preparations, though without abandoning their claim to the territory.

- ◆ A two-day informal summit took place in Wuhan between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2018, the year after the Doklam stand-off. Both countries declared they “respect each other’s sensitivities, concerns and aspirations” and reiterated their commitment to the terms of the 1993 Agreement.



Way Forward

- ◆ Until shifts in material power stabilize, and structural incentives in favor of formalizing the “status quo” present, only deterrence and diplomacy can guarantee stability between two intensely nationalistic states on the Sino-Indian border.
- ◆ For India, it is also important to focus on improving military

deterrence to ensure China’s ceasing of provocative border activities.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood- relations.

Q. In light of the recent intrusion by the Chinese troops in the Galwan valley in Ladakh briefly explain the reasons for rising tensions between India and China and the possible way out.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

China's Security Law for Hong Kong

1. Why in News?

- China's legislature has approved controversial national security laws for Hong Kong, dealing what critics have called a "killer blow" to the city's autonomy and freedoms.
- The decision adopted by China's Parliament on May 28 by a vote of 2,878-1 provides an outline of the upcoming Hong Kong law, and it closely reflects the draconian provisions of the mainland government's current legal framework.



2. The Proposed Law

- Under Article 23 of the Basic Law, Hong Kong has to enact a national security law "to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government, or theft of state secrets, to prohibit foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in the Region, and to prohibit political organizations or bodies of the Region from establishing ties with foreign political organizations or bodies."
- When the Hong Kong government first tried to enact the law in 2003, the issue became a rallying point for the city-wide protests which occurred that year. Since then, the government has steered clear of introducing the legislation again.
- According to a South China Morning Post report, Beijing could now make the law applicable to Hong Kong by another route — by inserting the legislation in Annex III of the Basic Law.
- Under Article 18, national laws can be applied in Hong Kong if they are placed in Annex III, and must be "confined to those relating to defence and foreign affairs as well as other matters outside the limits of the autonomy of the Region."
- Once listed in Annex III, national laws can be enforced in the city by way of promulgation— meaning automatically being put into effect— or by legislating locally in the Special Administrative Region.

4. China-Hong Kong Equation

- A former British colony, Hong Kong was handed over to mainland China in 1997, becoming one of its Special Administrative Regions.
- It is governed by a mini-constitution called the 'Basic Law' — which affirms the principle of "one country, two systems".
- The constitutional document is a product of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration— under which China promised to honour Hong Kong's liberal policies, system of governance, independent judiciary, and individual freedoms for a period of 50 years from 1997.
- Since the handover, Hong Kong residents have time and again taken to the streets to protect their Basic Law freedoms, with the first major pro-democracy protest taking place in 2003.
- In 2014, over one lakh city residents took part in the 'Umbrella Revolution' to protest against China's denial of democratic reforms.
- China is motivated by fear of a younger Hong Kong generation that does not agree with the political system of the Communist Party.

3. Impact

- The new law would ban seditious activities that target mainland Chinese rule, as well as punish external interference in Hong Kong affairs. Many expect a revival of the protests that rocked the city last year.
- A major blow to Hong Kong's freedoms, the law could effectively bring the city under full control of mainland China.
- The move could also undermine Hong Kong's position as an East Asian trading hub, and invite global disapproval for Beijing, which is already being accused of withholding key information related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The legislation is likely to aggravate unrest in the city, where pro-democracy protests have restarted after a pause during the coronavirus outbreak.
- As per critics the laws will be used not only against protesters, but to undermine permanently the city's autonomy under the "one country, two systems" framework and the city's de facto constitution, known as the basic law.
- The legislation, aimed at stamping out protests that have racked the city for the past year, would ban "any acts or activities" that endanger China's national security, including separatism, subversion and terrorism — charges often used in mainland China to silence dissidents and other political opponents.

02 Open Skies Treaty

1. Why in News?

- United States (US) has announced it will withdraw from Open Skies Treaty (OST).
- The US will formally withdraw from the accord in six months.



5. Impact of Departure

- The US exit from the treaty, which will halt Russian overflights of the US, could prompt Moscow's withdrawal.
- Russia's departure could adversely impact Washington's European allies, which rely on OST data to track Russian troop movements in the Baltic region.
- Experts are now contemplating the fate of the much larger US-Russia 'New START' nuclear arms control agreement, which is slated to expire in February 2021.
- Trump has already said that his administration would not renew the treaty unless China joins.

6. China Angle

- The Trump administration has demonstrated a keen desire for China to join these arms control arrangements. The feeling appears to be that these various US-Russia treaties serve to limit US ability to compete effectively with China because China is not bound by the same agreements
- China has been clear in saying that it has no plans to join any future arms control measure involving the US and Russia.

2. The Treaty

- The treaty was signed in 1992 by the then members of NATO and Warsaw Pact and became effective in 2002. Thirty-five countries are parties to the treaty including US, Russia, and other European and Eurasian countries along with one non-ratifying member (Kyrgyzstan).
- The idea was to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities by "mutual aerial observation".
- Under the treaty, a member state can "spy" on any part of the host nation, with the latter's consent. A country can undertake aerial imaging over the host state after giving notice 72 hours before and sharing its exact flight path 24 hours before.
- Apart from an arms control measure, the treaty calls for higher levels of openness and transparency leading to better predictability and stability, thus lessening tensions among the participating states.

3. Usefulness of the Treaty

- The treaty is one of the few remaining avenues for arms control compliance verification that doesn't rely on "national technical means"—a country's unilateral ability to spy or observe from afar.
- Open Skies is remarkable in that, by expressly facilitating overflights between the two countries, it overcame the "intrusive inspection" barrier.
- The OST was signed in 1992, much before the advent of advanced satellite imaging technology which is currently the preferred mode for intelligence gathering. Yet, as explains a report in The Economist, surveillance aircraft provide key information that still cannot be gathered by satellite sensors, such as thermal imaging data.
- Also, since only the US has an extensive military satellite infrastructure, other NATO members would have to rely on Washington to obtain classified satellite data, which would be more difficult to obtain compared to OST surveillance records that have to be shared with all members as a treaty obligation.

4. Rationale Behind Pulling Out

- US fears that Russia has gained an unfair technical advantage under the OST. In 2016, Russia reportedly decided to introduce a new digital electro-optical sensor to its Tupolev Tu-154 aircraft used for Open Skies flights, though it had more to do with the technological advantage Russia gained rather than being a technical violation of the treaty itself.
- Instances where Russia has breached its OST commitments, particularly on U.S. flights over Russia:
 - Russia had denied permission to US observation flights "within a 10-kilometer corridor along its border with the Russian-occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
 - Restriction on flight distance over Kaliningrad, and this has been particularly concerning because the enclave has seen significant military build-up in recent years.

03

ILO and Indian Labour Laws

1. Why in News?

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has informed trade unions of India that its Director-General has expressed concern and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "send a clear message" to the Central and State governments to uphold international labour laws after the recent dilution of laws by some States.



2. Background

- On 14 May, 10 central trade unions wrote to the Geneva-based ILO highlighting the plight of workers and the violation of ILO convention No 144. They sought its intervention. India is a signatory of ILO convention 144, which calls for tripartite consultations among government, employers and workers.
- India has inked many conventions with ILO which commensurate with the existing legal system and laws of the land. A country can ratify a convention with ILO after putting in place all provisions mandated in its laws and legal framework.
 - Thus, a change in labour laws or suspending those may lead to violation of these conventions, which are also an international commitments by ratifying nations.
- To lure investment and make operations of business viable amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have announced sweeping changes in labour laws, either through the ordinance route or through executive orders, including scrapping of some provisions of the relevant laws for three years or more.
- While others, including Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam and Odisha increasing working hours to 12 hours per day for three months. Rajasthan has now withdrawn the order on extended working hours, limiting it to eight hours a day.

3. ILO's Response

- In a response to the unions on May 22, the chief of the Freedom Of Association Branch of the ILO's International Labour Standards Department, Karen Curtis, wrote: "Please allow me to assure you that the ILO Director-General has immediately intervened, expressing his deep concern at these recent events and appealing to the Prime Minister.
- ILO also urged PM to send a clear message to Central and State governments to uphold the country's international commitments and encourage engagement in effective social dialogue".

4. Changes in Labour Laws

- Certain states in India are moving towards relaxing labour laws with a view to revitalise the economy from the impact of COVID-19.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed an Ordinance exempting firms from almost all labour laws for the next three years.
- The Gujarat government has announced that it will follow in UP's footsteps and allow new companies setting up shops over the next 1,200 days to be exempt from major labour laws.
- The Madhya Pradesh government has notified changes in labour laws to do away with the need to avail multiple licences for hiring contract workers and setting up factories. It has exempted firms from various welfare provisions under the Factories Act, 1948, along with replacing inspections with third-party certification and giving exemptions from industrial relations laws.

5. Wide Representation

- There are total 12 central trade unions in the country.
- The unions that sent the representation to the ILO were the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, the All-India United Trade Union Centre, the Trade Union Coordination Committee, the Self Employed Women's Association, the All-India Central Council of Trade Unions, the Labour Progressive Federation and the United Trade Union Congress.

04

Sweet Revolution and Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

1. Context

- Government is promoting beekeeping as part of its aim to double farmers' income and it has allocated 500 crore rupees towards beekeeping under the 'Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan'.
- The United Nations designated 20 May as World Bee Day to draw attention to the essential roles bees and other pollinators play in keeping the people and planet healthy.



2. Beekeeping and Honey Mission

- India is among the world's top five honey producers and compared to 2005-06 honey production in the country has risen by 242 % and exports shot by 265 %.
- Beekeeping will be an important factor in achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2024.
- National Bee Board has created four modules to impart training as part of the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission and 30 lakh farmers have been trained in beekeeping. They are also being financially supported by the Central Government.
- In 2017, government has launched Honey Mission as part of sweet revolution. It was launched with a target to distribute 1.3 lakh bee-boxes.

3. Beekeeping Development Committee under EAC-PM

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister set up a Beekeeping Development Committee (BDC) under the Chairmanship of Professor Bibek Debroy.
- BDC was constituted with the objective of identifying ways of advancing beekeeping in India that can help in improving agricultural productivity, enhancing employment generation, augmenting nutritional security and sustaining biodiversity.
- BDC has released its report on 26 June 2019. Some of the recommendations in the report are:
 - Recognizing honeybees as inputs to agriculture and considering landless Beekeepers as farmers.
 - Institutionalizing the National Bee Board and rechristening it as the Honey and Pollinators Board of India under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
 - Such a body would engage in advancing beekeeping through multiple mechanisms such as setting up of new Integrated Bee Development Centres, strengthening the existing ones, creating a honey price stabilization fund and collection of data on important aspects of apiculture.
 - Recognition of apiculture as a subject for advanced research under the aegis of Indian Council for Agricultural Research.
 - Development of national and regional infrastructure for storage, processing and marketing of honey and other bee products.

4. Go Local with Bees

- Pollinators, especially bees, are a vital part of our ecosystem, responsible for the food security of not just humans but all living beings.
- The government needs to take steps for the protection of indigenous bees before it is too late.
- Pollinators are declining worldwide due to multiple factors—use of pesticides, deforestation, commercial agriculture and unsustainable practices like honey-hunting.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization statement in 2016 that categorized "pollination services" as an agricultural input was a game changer. It said that improving diversity and density of pollinators had a direct, positive effect on crop yields, and outlined its importance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- But the focus of policy is on the hybrid bee—*Apis mellifera*. While being an excellent honey producer, the *Apis mellifera* is an expensive bee to procure and maintain, prefers monoculture and hence requires frequent migration to meet its nectar and pollen requirements.
- Indigenous bees on the other hand—*Apis cerana indica* specifically—are excellent pollinators, and work on all kinds of flora as well as agro-climatic conditions as they are native to the area. These aspects make indigenous bees extremely small-farmer-friendly.

05

Magnetic Field Weakening

1. Why in News?

- The magnetic field of the Earth between Africa and South America is weakening, causing problems for satellites and spacecraft.
- The data gathered by the European Space Agency's (ESA) swarm of satellites reveals that the area of the anomaly dropped in strength by over 8 per cent between 1970 and 2020.
- The ESA has termed the phenomenon of this change of geomagnetic field or the surface magnetic field as 'South Atlantic Anomaly' (SAA).
- SAA is a region of reduced magnetic intensity where the inner radiation belt makes its closest approach to the Earth's surface. Satellites in low-Earth orbit pass through the SAA periodically, exposing them to several minutes of strong radiation each time, creating problems for scientific instruments, human safety, and single event upsets.



2. Earth's Magnetic Field

- The magnetic field of Earth, also known as the geomagnetic field, extends from the Earth's outer core and exerts a force on the charged particles coming from the Sun, protecting us from the cosmic radiations.
- Earth's magnetic field, which exists due to metal and liquid outer core about 3,000 km below the surface, creates electric currents that generate and change our electromagnetic fields.
- The rotation of the Earth creates movements inside the liquid outer core which gives rise to the geomagnetic field.

3. Importance of Earth's Magnetic Field

- It protects from the cosmic radiations and solar winds that are harmful to us.
- The surface magnetic field, which spans around tens and thousands of kilometers away from the Earth, aids the communication of satellites and spacecraft.
- A compass works the way it does because of the Earth's magnetic field.
- The geomagnetic field forms the planet's magnetosphere.

4. Possible Reasons of Weakening of Magnetic Field

- A team from Leeds University said the drift of the North Pole is explained by the competition of two magnetic "blobs" on the edge of the Earth's outer core. Changes in the flow of molten material in the Earth's interior have changed the strength of the negative magnetic flux.
- This change in the pattern of flow has weakened the patch under Canada and ever so slightly increased the strength of the patch under Siberia. This is why the North Pole has left its historic position over the Canadian Arctic and crossed over the International Date Line.
- Another possible reason, as per the ESA, could be that the Earth's magnetic field is reversing i.e. the North and the South Poles may be switching. Such geomagnetic reversals happen roughly every 2,50,000 years and given the last one took place 7,80,000 years ago, it was long overdue.

5. Effects of Weakening of Earth's Magnetic Field

- The magnetic field of Earth protects the life of Earth from the harmful cosmic radiation and charged particles emitted from the Sun.
- Birds, turtles and other creatures also use the magnetic field of Earth to navigate.
- In effect, the navigation systems and mapping functions in smartphones may be affected.
- If a reversal takes place, the repercussions could be significant and could cause major issues for telecommunications and satellite systems. Certain mobile phones and satellites may stop working.

06

Tianwen-1 : China's Mars Mission

1. Why in News?

- In July 2020, China will launch its first Mars mission, the 'Tianwen-1', which is expected to land on the Red Planet's surface in the first quarter of 2021.
- The success of the mission will make China the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR and the United States.



2. About Tianwen-1

- Named after the ancient Chinese poem 'Questions to Heaven', the Tianwen-1, an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover will search the Martian surface for water, ice, investigate soil characteristics, and study the atmosphere, among completing other objectives.
- The Tianwen-1 mission will carry 13 payloads (seven orbiters and six rovers) that will explore the planet.
- The Tianwen-1 orbiter will be equipped with a high-resolution camera comparable to HiRISE on board NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. It also carries a medium-resolution camera, subsurface radar, mineralogy spectrometer, neutral and energetic particle analyzers and a magnetometer. The orbiter will also play a relay role for the mission rover.
- The roughly 240-kilogram solar-powered rover is nearly twice the mass of China's Yutu lunar rovers. It will carry a ground-penetrating radar, multispectral camera, a Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy instrument and payloads for detecting the climate and magnetic environment. The rover has a mission design lifetime of three Earth months. The rover will receive a name through a public vote closer to launch.
- The Chinese mission will be the first to place a ground-penetrating radar on the Martian surface, which will be able to study local geology, as well as rock, ice, and dirt distribution.
- It is expected to take off around the same time when NASA is launching its own Mars Mission - 'Perseverance' which aims to collect Martian samples and bring them back to Earth in two part campaign.
- The Tianwen-1 mission will join NASA's 'Perseverance' Mars 2020 rover and the United Arab Emirates' Hope Mars orbiter.
- China's previous 'Yinghuo-1' Mars mission, which had piggybacked on a Russian spacecraft, had failed after it could not leave the Earth's orbit and disintegrated over the Pacific Ocean in 2012.

3. Previous Mars Missions

- The USSR in 1971 became the first country to carry out a Mars landing— its 'Mars 3' lander being able to transmit data for 20 seconds from the Martian surface before failing. The country made its second Mars landing two years later in 1973.
- The second country to reach Mars's surface, the US, holds the record for the most number of Mars landings. Since 1976, it has achieved 8 successful Mars landings, the latest being the 'InSight' in 2019 (launched in 2018).
- India and the European Space Agency have been able to place their spacecraft in Mars's orbit. India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or 'Mangalyaan' was able to do so in September 2014, almost a year after its launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh.

4. Why Mars Exploration?

- After the Moon, the most number of space missions in the Solar System have been to Mars. Despite being starkly different in many ways, the Red Planet has several Earth-like features— such as clouds, polar ice caps, canyons, volcanoes, and seasonal weather patterns.
- For ages, scientists have wondered whether Mars can support life. In the past few years, Mars missions have been able to discover the possible presence of liquid water on the planet, either in the subsurface today or at some point in its past.
- This has made space explorers more curious about whether the planet can sustain life. Newer NASA missions have since transitioned from their earlier strategy of "Follow the Water" to "Seek Signs of Life".

07 UMANG App

1. Why in News?

- The government had recently allowed salaried employees to withdraw Provident Fund (PF) contribution up to a certain amount in order to tide over the financial crunch that they may be facing during the COVID-19 crisis.

2. About UMANG App

- UMANG, also known as Unified Mobile Application, is an all-in-one app launched by the government to encourage more people to adopt digital payment transactions in the country.
- The Umang app is a unified application that can be used to avail a number of pan India e-government services such as filing income tax, making Aadhar and provident fund queries, booking a gas cylinder, Passport Seva, among others.
- This platform provides people access to more than 100 services, from both the state and central government.
- With Umang, the government aims to promote e-governance and adopt a new-age governance policy as part of government's 'Digital India' initiative.
- Umang has been developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

3. UMANG App: Services

- **EPFO Services:** Umang app allows users to access EPFO services such as employee centric services and general services. Users will be able to make claims and track their status.
- **LPG Services:** The Umang app can be used to book cylinders online, ask for refills, subsidies, surrender connections, ask for mechanic services, etc. The services can be availed on Bharat Gas, HP Gas and Indene Gas.
- **Tax Payments:** The best part about the Umang app is that it also allows users to make payments towards income tax. Tax payers will be able to use Challan 280 or even check the status of their tax application.
- **Passport Seva:** Customers can use the Umang app to access various Passport Seva related services such as locating a center, calculating the fee payments, tracking the status of a passport application and checking appointment availability, among others.
- **Pension:** All pensioners can access services offered by the Department of Pension & Pensioner's Welfare. All facilities such as the pension application process, grievances, and other retirement benefits can be availed through the Pension Portal on the app.
- **e-Pathshala:** This is an initiative of the government of India and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Students will have access to e-books, educational audios, and videos, periodicals, learning outcomes, curricular resources, etc. The service can also be used by teachers to get access to educational content and teaching instructions. Parents can also use the portal for the same.
- **CBSE:** Students can use this e-governance app to check their results and also locate exam centers. Results can be obtained for 10th/12th, CTET, NET and JEE exams using the Umang app, at the click of a button.
- **e-Dhara Land Records:** Users from Gujarat will be able to check their land records using the Umang app with respect to district taluka and villages.
- **Digi Seva:** The app also allows users to apply for jobs and create their profiles for the same purpose using this platform. Users can apply for all jobs posted by government organizations.
- **Crop Insurance:** All farmers can use this tool to calculate the insurance premium and the total sum insured for their produce as per the various schemes that are made available to them by the government of India.
- **Pharma Sahi Daam:** This allows the app user to look for prices using a search tool for medicines.
- **Driving License:** Users will also be able to use the Parivahan Sewa -Sarathi and Vahan - to take a look at vehicle registration certificates and download the same.



4. India Meteorological Department Services

- The following 7 services have been on-boarded on UMANG App:
 - **Current Weather** - Current temperature, humidity, wind speed, direction for 150 cities updated 8 times a day. Information on sunrise/ sunset and moonrise/ moonset is also given.
 - **Nowcast-** Three hourly warnings of localized weather phenomena and their intensity issued for about 800 stations, and districts of India by State Meteorological Centers of IMD.
 - **City Forecast** – Past 24 hours and 7 day forecast of weather conditions around 450 cities in India are given.
 - **Rainfall Information-** All India district Rainfall information daily, weekly, monthly and cumulative series are available.
 - **Tourism Forecast-** Past 24 hours and 7 day forecast of weather conditions of around 100 Tourist cities in India are provided.
 - **Warnings-** The alert issued to warn citizens of approaching dangerous weather. It is colour coded in Red, Orange and Yellow are the alert levels with Red as the most severe category.
 - **Cyclone-** Cyclone warnings and alerts provides the track of cyclonic storms along with likely time and point of crossing of coast.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 China's Security Law for Hong Kong

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Hong Kong is governed by a mini-constitution called the 'Basic Law' — which affirms the principle of “one country, two systems”.
2. Under the 'Basic Law', China had promised to honour Hong Kong's liberal policies, system of governance, independent judiciary, and individual freedoms for a period of 50 years from 1997.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. A former British colony, Hong Kong was handed over to mainland China in 1997, becoming one of its Special Administrative Regions. It is governed by a mini-constitution called the 'Basic Law' — which affirms the principle of “one country, two systems”.

The constitutional document is a product of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration— under which China promised to honour Hong Kong's liberal policies, system of governance, independent judiciary, and individual freedoms for a period of 50 years from 1997.



02 Open Skies Treaty

Q. With reference to the 'Open Sky Treaty', consider the following statements:

1. The United States (US) has decided to quit the Open Skies Treaty.
2. The treaty was signed in 1992 to promote openness and transparency in civil aviation matters.
3. Currently, it has 35 signatories along with one non-ratifying member (Kyrgyzstan).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The United States (US) has announced that it will exit the OST due to continuous violation of the treaty by Russia and changes in the security environment.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The treaty was signed in 1992 by the then members of NATO and Warsaw Pact and became effective in 2002. Thirty-five countries are parties to the treaty including US, Russia, and other European and Eurasian countries. The idea was to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities by "mutual aerial observation".

Statement 3 is correct. Currently, it has 35 signatories along with one non-ratifying member (Kyrgyzstan).



03 ILO and Indian Labour Laws

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. To lure investment and make operations of business viable amid the COVID-19 pandemic, some states of India has changed some labour laws.
2. Any changes in labour laws require the prior permission of International Labour Organisation.
3. India is a signatory of ILO convention 144, which calls for tripartite consultations among government, employers and workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. To lure investment and make operations of business viable amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have announced sweeping changes in labour laws, either through the ordinance route or through executive orders, including scrapping of some provisions of the relevant laws for three years or more.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India has inked many conventions with ILO which commensurate with the existing legal system and laws of the land. A country can ratify a convention with ILO after putting in place all provisions mandated in its laws and legal framework. Thus, a change in labour laws or suspending those may lead to violation of these conventions, which are also international commitments by ratifying nations.

Statement 3 is correct. India is a signatory of ILO convention 144, which calls for tripartite consultations among government, employers and workers. 

04 Sweet Revolution and Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

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

1. In 2017, government has launched honey mission with a target to distribute 1.3 lakh bee-boxes across the country.
2. India is among the world's top five honey producers.

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. Honey Mission was launched in August 2017 in line with Prime Minister's call of 'Sweet Revolution' in 2016. It was launched with a target to distribute 1.3 lakh bee-boxes before November 2018 across the country.

Under this mission, the KVIC has provided beekeepers practical training about examination of honeybee colonies, acquaintance with apicultural equipments, identification and management of bee enemies and diseases etc.

India is among the world's top five honey producers and compared to 2005-06 honey production in the country has risen by 242 % and exports shot by 265 %. 

05 Magnetic Field Weakening

Q. Consider the following statements with respect of 'magnetic field weakening':

1. The magnetic field of Earth, also known as the geomagnetic field, extends from the Earth's outer core and exerts a force on the charged particles coming from the Sun.
2. The geomagnetic field forms the planet's magnetosphere.
3. The weakening of the Earth's magnetic field is causing issues for satellites and spacecraft.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All statements are correct. The magnetic field of Earth, also known as the geomagnetic field, extends from the Earth's outer core and exerts a force on the charged particles coming from the Sun. Earth's magnetic field, which exists due to metal and liquid outer core about 3,000 km below the surface, creates electric currents that generate and change our electromagnetic fields.

The geomagnetic field forms the planet's magnetosphere. A magnetosphere is the region around a planet dominated by the planet's magnetic field.

The weakening of the Earth's magnetic field is causing issues for satellites and spacecraft. The telecommunication and satellite systems also rely on the geomagnetic field. Therefore, computers, mobile phones and other devices could also face difficulties.



06 Tianwen-1 : China's Mars Mission

Q. With reference to the 'Tianwen-1', consider the following statements:

1. It is the first Mars mission of Japan.
2. The success of the mission will make Japan the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR and the United States.

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. In July 2020, China will launch its first Mars mission, the 'Tianwen-1', which is expected to land on the Red Planet's surface in the first quarter of 2021.

The success of the mission will make China the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR and the United States.



07 UMANG App

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'UMANG App':

1. The UmangApp is unified applications that can be used to avail a number of pan India e-government services.
2. To further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, MeitY has brought the India Meteorological Department (IMD) services on the UMANG App.

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 Umang app is a unified application that can be used to avail a number of pan India e-government services such as filing income tax, making Aadhar and provident fund queries, booking a gas cylinder, Passport Seva, among others.

MeitY has taken various initiatives in recent past to ease of lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of Government services. To further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, MeitY has brought the India Meteorological Department (IMD) services on the "UMANG App".



7 IMPORTANT NEWS

01

Three Asteroids Passing by Earth in June 2020

- ◆ NASA's Near-Earth Object (NEO) web-site at the Centre for Near Earth Object Studies (CNEOS) reveals that a number of large space rocks hurtling through the solar system will be fast approaching the Earth this month - starting from June 6. Though they are not necessarily currently near the Earth, but they can potentially approach the Earth relatively closely. NASA says that an object larger than about 150 metres, which can approach Earth within 7.4 million kilometers, is considered potentially dangerous.

ASTEROID 2002 NN4

- ◆ NASA JPL has classified 2002 NN4 as a "Potentially Hazardous Asteroid."

Asteroid 163348 (2002 NN4) was the first of the large asteroids that breached the Minimum Orbit Intersection Distance (MOID) of 0.05 AU (7.48 million kilometres). has a diameter of 570 metres—as big as the length of almost five football fields. The asteroid 2002 NN4 is referred to as particularly deadly, since at its broadest part, it has a diameter of 570 metres – as big as the length of almost five football pitches put together, or Dubai's Entisar Tower, slated to be the fourth tallest building in the world.

ASTEROID 2013 XA22

- ◆ Following the monster 2002 NN4's close-Earth approach, the next in line was asteroid 2013 XA22, which

breached the MOID on June 8. Its approach was significantly closer than that of the 2002 NN4, came to 0.019 AU (2.93 million kilometres) of Earth. Asteroid 2013 XA22 is a far smaller space rock – it has peak diameter of 160 metres.

ASTEROID 2010 NY65

- ◆ The asteroid 441987 (2010 NY65) will cross Earth on June 24 and is estimated to breach the MOID at 0.025 AU (3.76 million kilometres) from Earth. It has a peak size of 310 metres in its diameter. With a relative velocity of 46,400 kmph, 2010 NY65 will have the highest among the three large asteroids set to come the closest to Earth during this month.



02

Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2020

- ◆ The Asia University Rankings 2020 has been released by British ranking agency Times Higher Education (THE).

Key Highlights

- ◆ Eight Indian universities found place among the best 100 universities in Asia, with some of them performing significantly better this year.

- ◆ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru was ranked the best Indian university with Asian rank of 36, but it was seven notches below its 2019 ranking.

- ◆ IIT Ropar, a second generation IIT, was ranked 47 among all top varsities in the continent. It was not ranked last year.

IIT Indore bagged the 55th position.

- ◆ THE survey showed IIT Delhi climbed 24 places this year to be placed at 67th rank and IIT Kharagpur climbed 17 positions to get an Asia rank of 59.
- ◆ The four other Indian universities ranked in the top 100, marking India's best performance since

2016, are: Institute of Chemical Technology (92nd), IIT Indore (55th), IIT Bombay (69th) and IIT Roorkee (83rd).

- ◆ With 56 universities in the 2020 ranking, India is the third most represented country or region behind Japan (110) and mainland China (81). Tsinghua University (1st) ranks highest overall in the table.
- ◆ According to the ranking, many IITs, including those at Mumbai, Delhi, Kharagpur and Chennai are making general improvements across teaching, research and industry metrics compared to 2019. At the same time they are seeing a

downward trend in citation scores and continued stagnation when it comes to internationalization with only IIT Bombay and IIT Madras seeing improvement.

- ◆ Across Asia, Tsinghua University and Peking University (both in China), National University of Singapore, University Hong Kong, and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology are the top five universities, respectively.

About Ranking

- ◆ The Asia University Rankings use the same 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators to provide

the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons, trusted by students, academics, university leaders, industry and governments. However, the weightings are specially recalibrated to reflect the priorities of Asian institutions.

- ◆ The performance indicators are grouped into five areas: teaching (the learning environment); research (volume, income and reputation); citations (research influence); international outlook (staff, students and research); and industry income (knowledge transfer).



03

Environment Performance Index 2020

- ◆ The 12th edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020) has been released by the Yale University.

Key Findings

- ◆ India secured 168 rank in the latest edition of the EPI Index. India scored 27.6 out of 100 and its performance was worse than all South Asian countries, except Afghanistan.
- ◆ The global index considered 32 indicators of environmental performance, giving a snapshot of

the 10-year trends in environmental performance at the national and global levels.

- ◆ The 11 countries lagging behind India were — Burundi, Haiti, Chad, Solomon Islands, Madagascar, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Liberia.
- ◆ India scored below the regional average score on all five key parameters on environmental health, including air quality, sanitation and drinking water, heavy metals and waste management.

- ◆ Among South Asian countries, India was at second position (rank 106) after Pakistan on 'climate change'. Pakistan's score (50.6) was the highest under the category. A ten-year comparison progress report in the index showed that India slipped on climate-related parameters.

- ◆ The performance on climate change was assessed based on eight indicators — adjusted emission growth rates; composed of growth rates of four greenhouse gases and one pollutant; growth rate in carbon dioxide emissions from land cover; greenhouse gas intensity growth rate; and greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

- ◆ The report indicated that black carbon, carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse emissions per capita increased in 10 years. Its overall score under climate change has dipped 2.9 points.



Country Profile

INDIA

Region: Southern Asia



2020 EPI Country Rank (out of 180)

168

2020 EPI Score (0=worst, 100=best)

27.6

GDP [PPP 2011\$ billions]

9,317.1

GDP per capita [US\$]

6,888

Population [millions]

1,352.6

Urbanization [%]

34.93

04

SpaceX Crew Dragon

- ◆ SpaceX's Crew Dragon has landed two NASA astronauts at the International Space Station, marking the first human spaceflight with private collaboration. It was the first time that astronauts used a spaceship built and launched by a private company, and the event is being widely seen as the beginning of a new era in space exploration. The mission was called Demo-2, in keeping with the fact that it was still only a 'test flight', which if successful, would lead to more missions in the coming months.

Private Participation So Far

- ◆ The involvement of private industry in the space sector is nothing new. World over, more and more work of space agencies is being done in collaboration with private companies. There are literally hundreds of private entities building commercial satellites for their clients. Launch services are still a somewhat restricted



zone, considering that it requires elaborate facilities and deep pockets, but here too, there are several players apart from SpaceX and Boeing. Many, like Virgin Galactic of businessman Richard Branson, have been already made space flights and hope very soon to start offering passenger rides to space whoever can afford to pay. In fact, last year, a spacecraft built by Scaled Composites, a US company, even took a human being for a very short ride into space, becoming the first private spacecraft to do so.

About Crew Dragon

- ◆ Crew Dragon with its trunk stands just under 27 feet tall and 13 feet around. The spacecraft includes its own system of small rocket engines for directional control in space and a launch abort system in the event of an emergency.
- ◆ The spacecraft is designed to carry seven people. It has a system of controls that is focused around touch screens, although NASA notes that Crew Dragon has a "robust fault tolerance built into the system."



05

Inclusion of 23 additional Minor Forest Produce Items in MSP List

- ◆ Ministry of Tribal Affairs has announced Inclusion of 23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items and stipulation of their Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price

(MSP) and development of value chain of MFP". This decision enhancing the coverage from 50 to 73 items comes in view of the exceptional and very difficult circumstances currently prevailing in the country on account of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the potential of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs scheme to offer the much

needed support to the tribal MFP gatherers.

- ◆ The increase across various items of Minor Forest Produce ranged from 16% to 66%. (in some cases such as Giloe, the increase has been up to 190%). The increase is also expected to provide an immediate and much needed momentum to procurement of

Minor Tribal Produce across all States. 14 of the newly added items, otherwise agricultural produce, are not commercially grown in the North Eastern part of India but are found to grow in the wild in forests. Hence, the Ministry has favourably considered to include these specific items as MFP items for the North-East.

- ◆ Further following 9 items available in forest areas across India have also been included in this notification with Minimum Support Price: Van Tulsi seeds (*Ocimum gratissimum*); Van Jeera

(*Vernonia anthelmintica*); Tamarind Seed (*Tamarindus indica*); Bamboo Brooms (*Thysanolaena maxima*); Dry Anola (*Phyllanthus emblica*) (Dry); KachriBaheda (*Terminalia bellerica*); KachriHarra (*Terminalia chebula*) and Seed lac (*Kerria lacca*).

- ◆ The Ministry has provided flexibility to States to fix MSP upto 10% higher or lower than MSP declared by the Government. This notification is aimed to address several issues of exploitation by local traders, ensuring fair returns on their produce.

Background

- ◆ The Central Government had introduced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for a select list of MFP through "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support price and development of Value Chain of MFP" Scheme in 2011 to provide a social safety net to these underprivileged forest dwellers, and to aid in their empowerment.



06

Kohala Hydropower Project

- ◆ China under the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will set up a 1,124-megawatt power project in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir despite India's objection to it.

About Project

- ◆ The project will be built on the Jhelum River and aims at annually providing more than five billion units of clean and low-cost electricity for consumers in

Pakistan. The projects marks one of the largest investments of USD 2.4 billion in an independent power producer (IPP) in the region.

India's Protest

- ◆ India protested to Pakistan awarding a mega contract to build a dam in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying carrying out of such projects in territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation was not proper. The Pakistan government has signed a

whopping Rs 442 billion contract with a joint venture of a Chinese state-run firm and a commercial arm of Pakistan's powerful military for construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam.

- ◆ India has consistently conveyed her protest and shared concerns with both China and Pakistan on all such projects in the Indian territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation.

About CPEC

- ◆ CPEC is a part of the China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. The 3,000-km-long CEPC is aimed at connecting China and Pakistan with rail, road, pipelines and optical cable fiber networks. It connects China's Xinjiang province with Pakistan Gwadar port, providing access to China to the Arabian Sea. The CPEC passes through PoK, over which India has conveyed its protests to China.



07

Data Security Guidelines by Kerala Government

- ◆ The government of Kerala has issued a set of guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information in the wake of the Sprinklr controversy.

About Sprinklr Controversy

- ◆ Even as it earns praise within India and outside for its deft handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the 'flattening' of the infection curve, the Kerala government is in the dock for allegedly breaching privacy of 1.75 lakh people under quarantine in the state by striking a deal with a US-based tech firm to handle the data compiled from them. The data, including details of their symptoms and underlying health conditions, was compiled by workers at the grassroots level using a tool developed by Sprinklr with the aim of assisting doctors and medical officials in making an informed choice about possible hospitalisation.
- ◆ The government had said it had contracted Sprinklr as an emergency measure to crunch the health data of citizens to



understand how the pandemic would behave in Kerala. However, the Opposition had dragged the government to the High Court, accusing it of having used the outbreak as a cover to allow the U.S.-based firm to "harvest and monetise" the medical information of the State's population.

What are the Guidelines?

- ◆ If any sensitive personal data is breached, explicit consent should be obtained from the data principal.
- ◆ The order has asked the officials to ensure that all the data collected and collated from Kerala on

COVID-19 containment activities should be anonymised so that unique identification of the data principal is not possible. Every citizen who has provided data will be informed that it is likely to be accessed by third party service providers.

- ◆ The data collected will be stored in encrypted form in the SDC. If data is stored in Cloud, the Cloud service provider will be approved by the Central Government and the guidelines issued for procurement of cloud by government departments should be strictly followed.



7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



01

As Nepal paints itself into a corner on Kalapani issue, India must tread carefully. Discuss.

02

"Racism is not about individuals, but about systems, institutions." Evaluate.

03

MGNREGA is a key instrument to prevent violence and suffering in rural India in the aftermath of the novel coronavirus. Discuss its importance.

04

COVID-19 has highlighted that India needs to urgently step into the domain of public healthcare system. Elaborate.

05

What are genetically modified seeds? What is the legal position of genetically modified crops in India? Discuss.

06

What do you understand by permafrost? why does its thawing pose risk to the world as well as environment? Discuss.

07

One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)



- 01** Which global institution has released Global Economic Prospects 2020?
World Bank Group
- 02** Which nation has ratified free trade agreement (FTA) with European Union?
Vietnam
- 03** Where is the Baghjan oil field located?
Assam
- 04** Which organisation has signed MoU with NCERT for e-learning content telecast for class 1-12 over all NCERT TV channels?
Rotary India
- 05** Which Union Ministry has launched '#iCommit' initiative as a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future?
Ministry of Power
- 06** Which state government has launched an online labour employment exchange for migrant workers?
Rajasthan
- 07** Which state government has launched an online waste management platform?
Andhra Pradesh

7

IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



01

"Achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, girls and boys. It is everyone's responsibility"

Ban Ki Moon



03

"Heart is a very good fertilizer; anything we plant love, fear, hate, hope, revenge, jealousy-surely grows and bears fruit. We have to decide what to harvest"

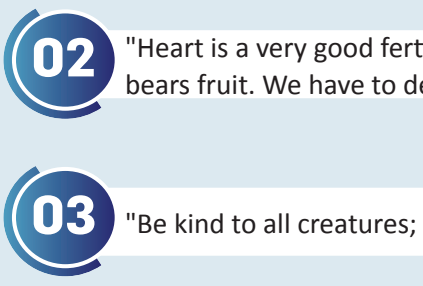
Swami Vivekanand



05

"Be kind to all creatures; this is the true religion"

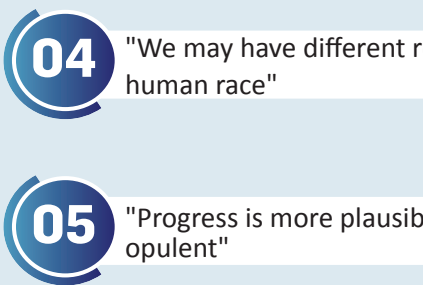
Gautam Budha



03

"We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race"

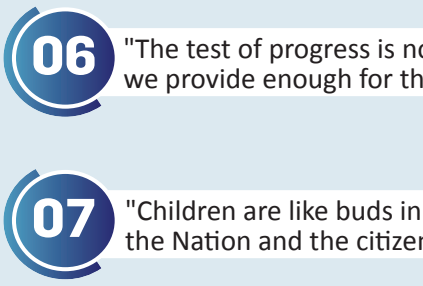
Kofi Annan



05

"Progress is more plausibly judged by the reduction of deprivation than by the further enrichment of the opulent"

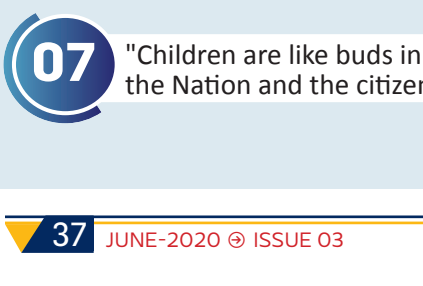
Amartya Sen



06

"The test of progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; It is whether we provide enough for those who have little"

Franklin D Roosevelt



07

"Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the Nation and the citizens of tomorrow"

Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

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

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