

PERFECT 7

**Weekly
Current Affairs**

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



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Essential for Food Security

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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7

Weekly
Current Affairs

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS

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

7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01 Technological Intervention in Agriculture : Essential for Food Security

Why in News?

- ♦ As India still grapples with the ongoing agrarian crisis, a ray of hope emerges with agriculture technologies like crop sensors, ultrasound for livestock, monitoring and controlling crop irrigation system via smartphone, use of mobile technology and cameras among others are taking the reins. For a nation that has maximum livelihood in agriculture, government policies and acceptance of new technology will show great results.

Background

- ♦ India is the second largest producer of food after China. Contribution of Agriculture to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 17 percent while 70 percent of the rural household depends on agriculture in India. The farmer being the smallest businessman highlights the plight of farmers as they need better access to education and technology in order to be self-reliant.



- ♦ Modern agriculture is driven by continuous improvements in digital tools and data as well as collaborations among farmers and researchers across the public and private sectors.
- ♦ During the Green Revolution in the 1960s, India could achieve self-sufficiency in food grain production by using modern methods of agriculture like better quality of seeds, proper irrigation, chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
- ♦ As time passed, more technological advances appeared

in agriculture. The tractor was introduced, followed by new tillage and harvesting equipment, irrigation and air seeding technology, all leading to higher yields and improved quality of the food and fibre that was grown.

- ♦ It is possible for farmers to utilise scientific data and technology to improve crop yields and keep themselves up-to-date with cutting edge methods of farming.

Modern Technologies and Agriculture

- ♦ **Artificial Intelligence:** For the growth of agriculture, it is

essential to identify factors that can contribute to better yield and place of harvest. With AI tools entering the new technology space in agriculture, it becomes possible to reach solutions based data that indicates weather conditions, type of harvest a crop would need, the type of soil most suitable, etc.

- ◆ Government schemes like PradhanMantriFasalBimaYojana (PMFBY) will be welcoming AI technology to reduce the time consumption in settling claims of the farmers. The government also signed anMoU with IBM to monitor the agriculture sector with AI.

- ◆ **Mobile Applications:** When smartphones became a regular commodity for Indians, the deep penetration of digitalization was felt across the country. As more and more activities moved to the smartphone, the new technology boosted the potential of applications for agricultural purposes as well.

- ◆ The government has majorly focused on backing the use of technology in agriculture with E-Nam (National Agriculture Market) an electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities. There have been individual initiatives taken by some states that benefit farmers.

- ◆ For example, Punjab introduced 'Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC) that sensitizes farmers on crop residue burning and measuring air quality. It has 3 applications under it- i-Khet Machine, e-PeHal, and e-Prevent.

- ◆ **Ultrasounds for Livestock:** Ultrasound is not only for checking on baby animals in the womb. It also can be used to discover what quality of meat might be found in an animal before it goes to the market.

- ◆ The testing of DNA helps producers to identify animals with good pedigrees and other desirable qualities. This information can also be used to help the farmer to improve the quality of his herds.

- ◆ **Equipment Telematics:** It allows mechanical devices such as tractors to warn mechanics that a failure is likely to occur soon. Intra-tractor communication can be used as a rudimentary 'farm swarm' platform.

- ◆ **Livestock Biometrics:** Collars with Global Positioning System (GPS), Radio-frequency identification (RFID) and biometrics can automatically identify and relay vital information about the livestock in the real time.

- ◆ **Crop Sensors:** Instead of prescribing field fertilisation before application, high-resolution crop sensors inform application equipment of correct amounts needed. Optical sensors or drones are able to identify crop health across the field (like using infra-red light). Optical sensors are able to see how much fertiliser a plant may need, based on the amount of light reflected back to the sensor. Further, these sensors would enable a real time understanding of current farm, forest or body of water conditions.

- ◆ **In vitro Meat:** It is also known as cultured meat or tube steak; it is a flesh product that has never been part of a complete living animal. Several current research projects are having successfully grown in vitro meat experimentally. It has become scientifically viable in 2017 and is expected to enter the mainstream in 2024.

- ◆ **Precision Farming:** Farming management based on observing and responding to intra-field variations. With satellite imagery and advanced sensors, farmers can optimise returns on inputs while preserving resources at ever larger scales. Further understanding crop variability, geo-located weather data and precise sensors should allow improved automated decision making and complementary planting techniques.

Technology and Farm-Output Relationship

There are three important things which need to be taken care of so that the farmers can maximize the value of their produce:

- ◆ **Right Inputs and Advisory:** This is one of the most important aspects when it comes to increasing the productivity of farms. The problem that farmers face is the lack of enough knowledge about various resources available related to farming and the right advice on the way to use them. Today numerous start-ups are providing services like mapping of soil quality using imagery technology. This technology helps

farmers in understanding the quality of the soil and thus enables them to use the correct fertilizer and seeds. Some companies are also providing services like infestation prediction, weather forecasts, water availability, auto sprinkling systems, and much other advanced technology which can help in testing the soil.

- ◆ **An Affordable and Organized form of Credit:** Farmers generally arrange credit for their farm inputs from unorganized sources. Because of higher rate of interest, they have to sell their entire stock after harvest to the creditor at a lower price. This is a major problem for farmers around the nation. To solve this out, numerous financing players are working on data insights. With the development in agri-tech space, there are many organized credit facilities that are making their way into the value chain. The government has come up with many schemes to aid the farmers financially. Farmers are also getting trained in different methods of farming like the zero budget farming which can help them extensively.
- ◆ **Right Liquidation Channels at Right Prices, Post-harvest:** The post-harvest period is one period where the farmer suffers the maximum losses. First of all, the

farmers do not have adequate channels to sell their crops immediately at a good price. Because of this, they have to store the stock and because of unavailability of proper facilities, the stock often gets damaged, leading to huge losses for the farmers.

What can be Done?

- ◆ Fostering Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), using genetic engineering is another way of contributing to food and nutrition benefits while boosting agricultural production besides reducing a post-harvest loss.
- ◆ Synchronized efforts should be made for conservation practices such as crop diversification, zero soil tillage.
- ◆ An increase in the availability of nano nutrients to boost crop production will be an added advantage.
- ◆ There should be a proper implication of digital technologies to directly sell the produce (E-Commerce) so that farmers can sell their product directly to the consumer. The time demands to actively activate social safety nets (in form of cash or in-kind transfers) to protect the worst affected and most vulnerable ones to keep up their production.

Way Forward

- ◆ Modern farms and agricultural operations work far differently than those a few decades

ago, primarily because of advancements in technology, including sensors, devices, machines, and information technology. Today's agriculture routinely uses sophisticated technologies such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and GPS technology. These advanced devices and precision agriculture and robotic systems allow businesses to be more profitable, efficient, safer, and more environmentally friendly.

- ◆ The scale of population growth in India and increasing urbanization leading to reduction in agricultural land call for technological innovation to solve the crisis. Previously too, the introduction of high-yielding variety seeds saved the population from food crisis and current time to call for technologically advanced agricultural production. 📖📖📖

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Major crops - cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems - storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Q. Technological intervention in agriculture is essential for both in terms of food security and towards advancement in agricultural techniques. In the light of the given statement, discuss the role and scope of emerging technologies in Indian agriculture.

02

China's 'Wolf-Warrior Diplomacy': An Interpretation

Why in News?

- China's image suffered during the crisis due to its bungled handling of the outbreak at the early stage. Many blame China for initially covering up the human-to-human transmission of the virus and not sharing complete information with the international community.
- In order to push back and save its face, China has chosen the policy of "offense is the best defence". In the name of fighting for national honour and thwarting insults, Chinese diplomats have resorted to insulting countries and raising controversies to keep the lid on the covid crisis accountability.
- Instead of long, verbose statements, these Chinese officials are taking to Twitter and other social media platforms to hit back directly at any criticism of China or the ruling Communist Party (CCP).

Wolf Warrior: Terminology

- 'Wolf Warrior' and 'Wolf Warrior II' are Chinese action blockbusters that highlight agents of Chinese special operation forces. They have boosted national pride and patriotism among Chinese viewers. "Wolf-warrior diplomacy," named after these movies, describes offensives by Chinese diplomat to defend China's national interests, often in confrontational ways.

Programming the Wolves

- Many of these 'Wolf Warriors' have known no other reality than a rising China, and are frustrated with policies based on Deng Xiaoping's sage advice to bide your time and hide your light. Anyone who has spent any time

China's Expanding Antidemocratic Influence

China uses a wide variety of methods to influence other countries, often taking advantage of their institutional weaknesses. This is how Beijing does it.

Technology/Surveillance

In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Chinese tech giant Huawei installed nearly 1,000 cameras to monitor events in public spaces under the "Safe City Agreement."

Media Campaigns

In some countries, Chinese diplomats have published misleading op-eds that push a pro-China narrative.

Debt Diplomacy

China provides cash-strapped, infrastructurally weak countries with funds in a way that creates political dependency.



with younger Chinese diplomats would have heard stories of how they have been criticized by the public for being 'soft.' This is not only a talking point that they use to justify their actions. A new generation of Chinese diplomats believe that their time is now, and want China's light to shine brightly, even dazzlingly.

- Generational and institutional anxieties reinforce each other. The Chinese Foreign Ministry is not high in China's decision-making hierarchy. Until former Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi was appointed to the Politburo in 2017, no Chinese Foreign Ministry official had reached a really senior position in China's hierarchy since former Foreign Minister Qian Qichen retired as Vice-Premier in 2003. The current Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, is State Councilor – below Politburo or Vice-Premier Status.

- In 2019, President Xi Jinping reportedly told Chinese diplomats to show more "fighting spirit." The concentration of power that has occurred on his watch, his insistence on CCP control of thought and deed, and his use of the CCP's

disciplinary apparatus and the anti-corruption campaign to enforce his will have together amplified his wishes – perhaps even beyond what he intended. All of this has certainly added to the anxieties, personal and institutional, in the Foreign Ministry. Taking a hard line is safe.

Interpreting China's Wolf Warrior Diplomacy

- This new approach did not occur suddenly. This new approach seems popular inside China and reinforces a presumed transition of Chinese diplomacy from conservative, passive, and low-key to assertive, proactive, and high-profile.
- Since 2010, when China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) overtook Japan's as the world's second largest, the Chinese have become more confident and China's foreign policy has become more assertive, gradually departing from Deng Xiaoping's taoguangyanghui dictum. As the Communist Party continues to promote "four confidences"— in our chosen path, in our political system, in our guiding theories, and in our culture

— nationalism has been on the rise. “Wolf-warrior diplomacy” is an extension of soaring nationalism at home.

- ◆ In recent years, President Xi Jinping has advocated “a fighting spirit” on several occasions, whether speaking to soldiers or party officials. This has apparently raised the morale of Chinese officials and diplomats, and encouraged a more assertive style. Wolf-warrior diplomacy” is evidenced not only in combative words but aggressive actions.
- ◆ From China’s perspective, wolf-warrior diplomacy is a direct response to “unfair” approaches by other countries, especially the US, toward China and the Chinese people. For example, earlier this year, the United States and China were engaged in a race to expel journalists, starting after the publication of an op-ed entitled “China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia” in The Wall Street Journal (WSJ). When the WSJ refused to apologize, China expelled three of its journalists. Shortly afterwards, the US State Department declared five Chinese media outlets “foreign missions,” requiring them to register personnel and property with the US government and cut the number of Chinese nationals working there. In retaliation, China expelled more American journalists.
- ◆ Wolf-warrior diplomacy is part of the Chinese government’s endeavor to “tell the China story.” The latest diplomatic offensive is also part of the official effort to project China as a great power

leading the global fight against the COVID-19.

- ◆ Chinese society has become more diverse, Chinese diplomats are not monolithic. There is no consensus within the Chinese foreign policy establishment on whether confrontational diplomacy is desirable, and not all Chinese diplomats are wolf-warriors. Therefore, it is too early to tell whether “wolf-warrior diplomacy” represents the culmination of Chinese diplomacy’s transition. As China faces growing external criticisms and demands for reparations over the coronavirus, it is not inconceivable that Chinese leaders may rein in confrontational diplomacy to create an environment conducive to domestic reconstruction.

India and China’s Wolf Warrior Diplomacy

- ◆ China has consistently undermined the ‘One-India Policy’ by way of border conflicts, trade deficit and denting New Delhi’s interests in international organisations due to its “wolf warrior diplomacy”.
- ◆ China’s record of animosity towards India reflects its wolf warrior diplomacy. It has consistently undermined India’s vital interests in international organizations, territorial sovereignty, border conflict, counter global terrorism, expanded maritime policies in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea and huge trade deficit.

Way Forward

- ◆ Wolf-warrior diplomacy is already hurting China’s foreign policy, since

it has generated pushback, such as Australia’s calls for an independent probe into the coronavirus’ origins. China’s soft power is weak globally; a belligerent approach will further damage China’s global image.

- ◆ As a nation proud of its glorious ancient civilization, China should remain humble, benevolent, and magnanimous. It should also admit its botched handling of the coronavirus at the outset and hold relevant officials accountable. The Chinese government should improve the mechanism that encourages, not impedes, local officials to report such public health alerts.
- ◆ Due to political, ideological, and cultural differences, Western suspicions about the Chinese government and anxiety about China’s rise will not disappear anytime soon, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated such distrust and apprehension. A more powerful China should be more confident and receptive to constructive criticism. There’s clearly a split about how China should conduct its diplomacy. It might only be a tactical split, but at the moment, the ‘wolves’ seem to have the ascendancy.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood- relations.

Q. “Wolf Warrior” diplomacy is a sign of China’s defensive approach and insecurity at the time of COVID-19 crisis. Critically comment.

03

India - Australia : Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Why in News?

- ♦ India and Australia on 4th June 2020 elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and upgraded their 2+2 foreign affairs and defence dialogue to the ministerial level during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Scott Morrison.
- ♦ The two sides also unveiled a “shared vision for maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific” and signed seven agreements focused on crucial areas such as defence and rare earth minerals.
- ♦ The virtual summit was arranged after Morrison was forced to put off a planned visit to India twice – first in January because of the devastating bushfires in Australia and then in May because of the COVID-19 crisis.

Background

- ♦ While domestic issues have rightly taken priority during this crisis, the fact that the two Prime Ministers have invested in the Leaders’ Virtual Summit speaks volumes to the growing trust and significance in the relationship.
- ♦ Converging economic and strategic interests underpins both this connection at the highest levels of government, and the sizeable uptick in economic, defence and diplomatic activity over recent years.
- ♦ Trade shocks and heightened risks in accessing critical products have led many to reappraise the resilience of their international economic ties. Initial community

and government responses, in both Australia and India, have included widespread calls for greater security in supply chains, a spreading of risk across trading markets, and greater self-sufficiency in essential production.

- ♦ As a medium-sized open economy, Australia’s prosperity is dependent on being connected into the corridors of regional and global growth. As structurally one of the fastest growing large economies in the world, India is no exception, and Australia must further invest in India’s economy. Not only is it vital for Australian industry to closely examine India’s recent privatisation, deregulation and foreign investment announcements, but also work to jointly implement India’s upcoming Australia Economic Strategy.
- ♦ Strategically, Australia’s advocacy of the Indo-Pacific concept centrally embraces the importance of India to the region. The Indo-Pacific construct not only recognises India’s growing economic and strategic weight, but also aims to support India’s further integration into the regional architecture.
- ♦ Creating institutions that strengthen the Indo-Pacific require greater Indian membership in the rules-based regional architecture. Therefore, just as it is important for Australia and other partners to intensify their advocacy for India to become a member of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), India must take seriously Australian and regional calls to join Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). India’s further integration with the region will

enable it to enter a new stage in its industrialisation process, creating economic opportunities for Indians and Australians.

Pacts and Agreements

- ♦ India is comprehensively and rapidly committed to strengthening its relations with Australia. This is not only important for two nations but also for the Indo-Pacific region and the whole world.
- ♦ The new pacts, known as the ‘Australia-India Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement’ and the ‘Defence Science and Technology Implementing Arrangement’, come as military tensions increase in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes in the South China Sea, where China has been fortifying its positions on disputed islands.
- ♦ The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) will allow militaries of the two countries to use each other’s bases for repair and replenishment of supplies besides facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation.
- ♦ Among the other important agreements signed by the two sides during the virtual bilateral summit – the first such meeting for Modi – were a framework arrangement on cyber and cyber-enabled critical technology cooperation, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in mining and processing of critical and strategic minerals, an implementing arrangement on cooperation in defence science and technology to the existing MoU on defence cooperation.

- ◆ Even before the COVID-19 crisis, the two sides had been exploring the possibility of cooperation in the mining and processing of rare earth metals such as lithium, neodymium and dysprosium, of which Australia has the world's sixth largest reserves.
 - ◆ India, which imports more than 90% of the rare earth metals it needs from China, has been looking to diversify sources. In 2016, the imports from China were worth \$3.4 million.
- ◆ The two sides also signed three MoUs on cooperation in public administration and governance reforms, cooperation in vocational education and training and water resources management.

India Tightening Its Control in Indian Ocean

- ◆ India is fast inking reciprocal military logistics pacts with like-minded countries to extend its strategic and naval operational reach in the entire Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond, with an eye firmly on China's expansionist behaviour in the Indo-Pacific.
- ◆ After similar agreements with the US, France, South Korea and Singapore, it was India's turn to ink the mutual logistics support arrangement (MLSA) with Australia during the virtual summit. That's not enough. India is set to ink a military logistics pact with Japan next, while similar agreements with Russia and UK are also being negotiated. The MLSA will enable Indian warships to get refuelling from Australian tankers on the high seas, while also

availing of berthing, maintenance and storage facilities at Australian naval bases. It will, of course, be on a reciprocal basis.

- ◆ The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) inked with the US in 2016 similarly gives India refuelling facilities and access to American bases in Djibouti, Diego Garcia, Guam and Subic Bay.
- ◆ The one inked with France in 2018, in turn, also extends the Indian Navy's reach in south-western IOR due to French bases in the Reunion Islands near Madagascar and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.
- ◆ The MLSA with Australia will help us to extend the reach of Indian warships in southern IOR as well as the Western Pacific region. The region south of the Indonesian Straits is also important for India.
- ◆ China, of course, also has access to Karachi and Gwadar ports in Pakistan for turnaround facilities for its submarines and warships. It is also trying for military bases in Cambodia, Vanuatu and other countries to further consolidate its presence in the Indo-Pacific.
- ◆ Closer to India, China has six to eight warships deployed in the IOR at any given time. Furiously modernizing its naval forces, from long-range nuclear ballistic missiles and anti-ship cruise missiles to submarines and aircraft carriers, China has commissioned well over 80 warships in the last six years.

Common Concerns

- ◆ Though China apparently did not figure in the talks, it was clear that the Indo-Australian bonhomie was partly influenced by their not-so-

friendly relations with the former. India's neighbour is keeping it on tenterhooks with brazen muscle-flexing along the Line of Actual Control, while Australia has been vociferously demanding a probe into China's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

- ◆ With China throwing its weight around in the Indo-Pacific, India and Australia have come out with a shared vision for maritime cooperation and stability in the region. Their support for a rules-based maritime order carries a stern message for China: respect sovereignty and international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Way Forward

- ◆ Yet despite recent progress, there remains much work to do to realise joint ambitions for the relationship. For Australia, the task of elevating India as a top tier economic as well as strategic partner remains a work-in-progress. Strengthening the economic relationship will require not just converging interests and top-level attention, but sustained unity of purpose in both countries across the breadth of government and industry.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood- relations.

Topic: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Q. The elevation of India-Australia relationship to comprehensive strategic partnership and enhanced diplomatic dialogue, call for increased responsibilities and participation of India in the IOR and maintaining its freedom. Discuss.

04

Expansion of G7 : Changes in Current Power Dynamics

Why in News?

- ◆ The United States of America (USA) President Donald Trump's call for expansion of G7 into a G11 and inclusion of India in the comity of powerful nations is an interesting suggestion at an opportune time. The US president wants the "very outdated group" to reflect the current power dynamics and is keen on adding India, Australia, South Korea and even Russia to the mix of advanced economies.
- ◆ Trump was scheduled to hold an 'in-person' G7 summit in June before postponing it. The US president now wants to hold it in September on the sidelines of UN General Assembly, or later still in November after the presidential elections are over. The September summit is expected to focus on how to deal with China.

Background

- ◆ Trump claims the G7 is "very outdated," failing to reflect the present international situation. His comment about this group is not irrational. The seven countries were among the most advanced economies when the group was established. The G7 played a significant role in shaping pivotal decisions about the global economy and politics.
- ◆ However, the influence of this group today cannot be mentioned in the same breath. China has become the world's second largest economy since 2010. And its economic influence is larger than

any member of G7, except for the US. Other emerging countries, such as India, Brazil and Russia, have developed into forces to be reckoned with too.

- ◆ The US move also panders to India's long-standing demand for revamping of global institutions to reflect current geopolitical realities. India's GDP is higher than many G7 member nations and New Delhi may see in Trump's suggestion a validity of its position.
- ◆ The suggestion to add Russia was immediately controversial, given that the Group of Seven was born of the former Group of Eight, which included Russia. The other seven members excluded Moscow from the grouping after its unilateral seizure of Ukraine's Crimea in 2014.
- ◆ But the suggested addition of two US liberal-democratic treaty allies, Australia and South Korea, and India, an important US partner, have raised eyebrows in these capitals — mostly in a positive way.

About Group of Seven

- ◆ It comprises the US, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Canada (and the European Union), the group meets annually to discuss a range of global issues, managing to usually find a common stance.
- ◆ The European Union (EU) is sometimes considered to be a de-facto eighth member of the G7, since it holds all the rights and responsibilities of full members except to chair or host the meeting.

- ◆ As of 2018, the seven countries involved represent 58% of the global net wealth (\$317 trillion) and more than 46% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) based on nominal values, and more than 32% of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity. The European Union is an invitee to G7.
- ◆ In recent years, there have been more than a few road bumps. The Trump administration's "America First" agenda made it difficult for the countries to release the sorts of statements they had in the past, particularly when it came to the issues of climate change and free trade, where the US is an outlier.

India at High Table

- ◆ Recently, India elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the two year term. And expansion of G7 appears in line with New Delhi's thinking that India deserves a place at the global decision-making bodies.
- ◆ Though India has taken part in G7 summits before and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was an invitee at the Camp David this year, the suggestion for formalising India's inclusion is new. It ties with the larger US policy of aiding the rise of India as a democratic counterbalance to a hegemonic China. It is also a not-so-subtle gesture to India in the middle of New Delhi's yet another border standoff with an aggressive Beijing in the high Himalayas.
- ◆ The US is evidently taking a more overt position on India-China border dispute and expressing vocal support for India. This is a clear departure from the US policy

during the last major Sino-Indian scuffle at Doklam when it was essentially a behind-the-scenes manoeuvre.

Chinese Angle

- ◆ The US has recently released a new vision document on China in which it has accused that country of exploiting the rule-based world order and attempting to re-shape the international system which would favour the interests and ideology of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP).
- ◆ The report titled, 'United States Strategic Approach to the People's Republic of China', has been released by the White House and it has declared that it is "responding to the CCP's direct challenge by acknowledging that the two major powers are in a "strategic competition and protecting" their "interests appropriately".
- ◆ Beijing has been quite critical of Washington in recent weeks, especially with the US threatening it with sanctions.

Strategic Global Expansion

- ◆ It appears very tempting as India would be placed in the same league as the developed countries and will join the privileged elite club. However, this is not generosity but a compulsion for the West. India is already a member of G20, a body responsible for global governance. The G7 was expanded to the G20 when the West realised after repeated recessions that the

global financial governance was not possible without including countries such as China, India, Turkey, South Africa, Australia and so on. The current American push for a new organisation is an attempt to isolate China and split the G20 which is responsible for 90 per cent of financial governance.

- ◆ The issues of global governance cannot be resolved by excluding countries like China and Russia which exert high influence on their neighbouring countries. India already has strong bilateral relations with all the G7 nations. While India should have no objection in joining the new club, it should not be pitted against China or Russia. Moreover, it is better for India to wait and watch for the time being.
- ◆ The G7 has been a western club with Japan that comprises major economies accounting for over 60% of global GDP. However, over time most of these economies have been declining and their strategic outreach somewhat decimated. Trump has been at loggerheads with virtually all of them and trans-Atlantic partnership under strain. Now that China has become US's biggest punching bag at least until the elections Trump would want to have an expanded G7 +4.
- ◆ Hence recognizing the strategic importance and imperatives for the US's Asia project especially

in the context of Indo-Pacific he has proposed, as a host of next Summit, to invite Australia, India, Russia and South Korea. There might be a couple of other additions depending on his ever-evolving predilection. Now at the G11 one will have all Quad or Quad+ members who might see a definitive and concrete move forward.

- ◆ But more countries mean a broader agenda. India, for instance, may take a different stand from the other participating countries on issues related to trade, where New Delhi continues to be reticent about full-scale liberalization.

Way Forward

- ◆ The US President Trump's decision to postpone G7 summit calling it out dated and attempts to expand the grouping to include other countries like India, Russia, Australia and South Korea reflects American desire to wrest back the global leadership initiative from China as the US slowly begins to crawl back towards normalcy after the COVID-19 debacle. 📄📄📄

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Q. Inclusion of India into G7 is surely the acceptance of India's global rise and international stature, but pitting India as a counter balance to China is not beneficial to India in particular and to the group in general. Discuss.

05

Treatment of Non-Communicable Diseases during COVID-19

Why in News?

- ◆ According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) survey, prevention and treatment services for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have been severely disrupted since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

About Non-communicable Disease

- ◆ A non-communicable disease is a noninfectious health condition that cannot be spread from person to person. It also lasts for a long period of time. This is also known as a chronic disease. A combination of genetic, physiological, lifestyle, and environmental factors can cause these diseases. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease, are collectively responsible for almost 70% of all deaths worldwide.

Key Highlights of the Survey

- ◆ NCDs are recognised as the world's biggest killer and cause of disability, constituting a global health crisis that requires an urgent policy response. NCDs are responsible for 71% of deaths globally, which represents over 41 million people killed by them every year. 15 million of these people are under the age of 70, including 8.5 million people in lower and lower-middle income countries (LMICs).
- ◆ Evidence from science, healthcare professionals, and government guidelines on self-isolation from the COVID-19 pandemic shows many intersections between COVID-19 and NCDs. People who are over 60 years of age and people living with noncommunicable diseases (PLWNCDs) and conditions including hypertension and obesity, have a

substantially higher risk of becoming severely ill or dying from the virus.

- ◆ The main finding is that health services have been partially or completely disrupted in many countries. More than half (53%) of the countries surveyed have partially or completely disrupted services for hypertension treatment; 49% for treatment for diabetes and diabetes-related complications; 42% for cancer treatment, and 31% for cardiovascular emergencies.
- ◆ Rehabilitation services have been disrupted in almost two-thirds (63%) of countries, even though rehabilitation is key to a healthy recovery following severe illness from COVID-19.
- ◆ Screening campaigns - for breast and cervical cancer, for example - were also postponed in more than half of countries.
- ◆ Data from hospitals in the U.S. and the U.K. treating those with severe COVID-19 disease indicate that obesity is emerging as one of the biggest risk factors, particularly among younger patients. They are relating it directly to the BMI (Body Mass Index).

Rising Concerns

- ◆ The epidemic of NCDs poses devastating health consequences for individuals, families and communities, and threatens to overwhelm health systems. The socio-economic costs associated with NCDs make the prevention and control of these diseases a major development imperative for the 21st century.
- ◆ While it may be argued that NCDs are the result of a combination of

genetic and physiological factors, there is no doubt that deliberate lifestyle choices (tobacco, liquor, lack of exercise), poverty and environmental factors play a major role.

- ◆ Those at the lower end of the income scale, who live in squalid, often crime ridden communities, are the main victims. Their environment predisposes them to drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse which when combined with cheap, mostly unhealthy, diets increases their health risk substantially and decreases their longevity.
- ◆ Other predisposing factors which have ensured the spread of NCDs to a larger cross section of the population include rapid unplanned urbanisation, globalisation of unhealthy lifestyles and population ageing.
- ◆ The good news is that most of these risk factors are modifiable. The bad news is that underprivileged and uneducated communities are not only ignorant of the factors that cause ill health but cannot access or afford the health care costs related to NCDs.

Impact on Funding

- ◆ As governments reorient health systems to respond to COVID-19, PLWNCDs are experiencing disruptions in the continuity of chronic care, such as blockages in supplies of essential medicines and technologies, screening and diagnosis, and limited access to resources including health workers

and support services critical for ongoing management of NCDs. Particularly in LMICs, vast numbers of PLWNCDs are undiagnosed or cannot access treatment to control their conditions, even under normal circumstances.

- ◆ This is likely to put long-term strain on health systems. Many governments may choose to re-orient funding plans for NCDs in order to recover health system stability as a first priority, but it is difficult to know now how this will manifest in each country.
- ◆ The COVID-19 pandemic and its response also pose a challenge to mental health and wellbeing. Some governments may increase access to mental health and psychosocial support services, which could potentially affect funding to NCD programmes. On the other hand, since responses to COVID-19 such as physical distancing and self-isolation may increase exposure to some NCD risk factors (e.g. increased alcohol and tobacco use as coping mechanisms, barriers to physical activity and healthy diet), some countries may invest in promoting healthy behaviours as part of the COVID-19 recovery.
- ◆ As mentioned, it is difficult to predict how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect NCD funding and programmes, but this is likely to be influenced by governments' available resources. While the impacts on health

systems in high-income countries are unprecedented, the worst impacts are expected to be felt in lower-income countries with already severely under-resourced health systems.

Way Forward

- ◆ In light of COVID-19, tackling NCDs must be understood as fundamental to health security. Pandemic preparedness -today and in the future -depends on Universal Health Coverage, healthy populations, and a resilient, qualified, well-resourced health workforce. Governments must act urgently to mitigate the impact of NCDs both in their own right and recognising the compounding severity of other diseases like coronavirus.
- ◆ **Leadership:** Needed to prioritise health and integrate NCD prevention and control into strengthening health and economic security.
- ◆ **Community Engagement:** Involving civil society and people most affected and at risk is fundamental to effective health responses.
- ◆ **Accountability:** The emergency pandemic response has illuminated the need for robust data, monitoring, surveillance and transparency, including the causal relationship with pre-existing health conditions and risk factors.

- ◆ **Care:** The COVID-19 pandemic brings home the urgency and self-interest to all governments of delivering on the commitment to Universal Health Coverage. All countries are only as safe as the weakest health system.
- ◆ **Investment in health:** This must be an ongoing priority for governments to build stronger, resilient health systems that can better respond to health emergencies while continuing to provide essential health services to people living with NCDs and other underlying conditions.
- ◆ It is very important not only that care for people living with NCDs is included in national response and preparedness plans for COVID-19 - but that innovative ways are found to implement those plans. We must be ready to 'build back better' - strengthening health services so that they are better equipped to prevent, diagnose and provide care for NCDs in the future, in any circumstances.



General Studies Paper- II

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

Q. In the light of COVID-19 pandemic crisis highlight the impact on the treatment status for non-communicable diseases and suggest measures to rectify the need, if any.

06

MSP in India : Cause and Effect

Why in News?

- ◆ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved an increase in the minimum support prices (MSPs) for all mandated kharif crops, including paddy, pulses and cotton, for the 2020-21 marketing season.

Background

- ◆ The increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for marketing season 2020-21 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production (CoP), aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers.
- ◆ Government's strategy is one of promoting sustainable agriculture with diversified cropping pattern matching with the country's agro-climatic conditions, towards higher productivity without jeopardizing nation's bio-diversity.
- ◆ Support is in the form of MSP as well as procurement. Besides, with the intention of giving enough policy thrust to income security of the farmers. Government's production-centric approach has been replaced by income-centric approach.
- ◆ Concerted efforts were made over the last few years to realign the MSPs in favour of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals to encourage farmers shift to larger area under these crops and adopt best technologies and farm practices, to correct demand - supply imbalance. The added focus on nutri-rich nutri-cereals is to incentivize its production in the areas where rice-wheat cannot be grown without long term adverse implications for groundwater table.

Fixation of MSP

- ◆ The CACP projects three kinds of production cost for every crop, both at state and all-India average levels.
 - ◆ 'A2' covers all paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer — in cash and kind — on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation, etc.
 - ◆ 'A2+FL' includes A2 plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour.
 - ◆ 'C2' is a more comprehensive cost that factors in rentals and interest forgone on owned land and fixed capital assets, on top of A2+FL.

MSP Hike for 2020-21

- ◆ The Centre has increased the MSP of kharif crops for 2020-21 crop year in line with the principle of fixing MSPs at a level which is at 1.5 times the cost of production that was announced in 2018-19.
- ◆ The government has raised paddy MSP for both common and 'A' grade varieties by Rs 53 per quintal for the 2020-21 over the last year. Accordingly, the MSP of paddy (common grade) has been fixed at Rs 1,868 per quintal, while that of 'A' grade variety has been raised to Rs 1,888 for this year.
- ◆ Among cereals, the government increased substantially the support price of bajra by Rs 640 per quintal to Rs 2,640 per quintal for this year.
- ◆ Similarly, the support price of jowar has been increased by Rs 70 per quintal for this year. The MSP for hybrid maize has been fixed at Rs 2,620 per quintal and Maldandi variety of maize at Rs 2,640 per quintal for 2020-21.
- ◆ To encourage production of pulses, the government has increased the MSP of urad by Rs 300 per quintal to Rs 6,000 per quintal, while that

of tur rate has been raised by Rs 200 per quintal to Rs 6,000 per quintal for this year.

- ◆ In order to reduce edible oil imports, the government has increased the MSP of oilseeds crops sharply for this year.
- ◆ Soyabean (yellow) rate has been hiked by Rs 170 per quintal to Rs 3,880 for the current 2020-21 crop year, while that of sunflower seed has been raised by Rs 235 to Rs 5,885 and groundnut by Rs 185 to Rs 5,275 per quintal.
- ◆ However, the Nigerseed rate has been hiked substantially by Rs 755 per quintal to Rs 6,695 for 2020-21 and sesamum seed by Rs 370 per quintal to Rs 6,855.

Determination of Minimum Support Price

- ◆ The prices of agricultural commodities are inherently unstable, primarily due to the variation in their supply, lack of market integration and information asymmetry - a very good harvest in any year results in a sharp fall in the price of that commodity during that year which in turn will have an adverse impact on the future supply as farmers withdraw from sowing that crop in the next / following years. This then causes paucity of supply next year and hence, major price increase for consumers.
- ◆ To counter this, MSP for major agricultural products is fixed by the government, each year. MSP is a tool which gives guarantee to the farmers, prior to the sowing season, that a fair amount of price is fixed to their upcoming crop to encourage higher investment and production of agricultural commodities. The MSP is in the nature of an assured market at a minimum guaranteed price offered by the government.

- ◆ The MSP is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The CACP is a statutory body and submits separate reports recommending prices for Kharif and Rabi seasons. The Central Government after considering the report and views of the State Governments and also keeping in view the overall demand and supply situation in the country, takes the final decision.

MSP and Economy

- ◆ Hiking the MSP without investing in infrastructure is just a short-term play. While it does deliver immediate results, long-term developments to back it up are also important.
- ◆ MSP covers numerous costs such as the cost of sowing (A2) and labour (FL). These considerations are controversial with suggestions that it should be based on comprehensive costs (C2), which also include land rent costs.
- ◆ Too much of a hike on MSP either paves way for inflationary effects on the economy, with a rise in prices of food grains and vegetables, or loss to government treasury if it decides to sell at a lower price as compared to the higher MSP it bought at.
- ◆ MSP is a nationwide single price policy. However, the actual costing for production varies from place to place, more severely so in areas lacking irrigation facilities and infrastructure.

- ◆ Market prices should ideally never be below MSP. If they fall below the MSP, in concept, the farmer can always sell it to the government, which will then resell it or store as buffer. However, practically this does not always happen. The market value in many cases does fall below MSP due to lack of infrastructure and procurement apparatus on the government's end.

Government's Efforts

- ◆ In continuation with the above-mentioned measures, Government is taking holistic approach towards supporting the farmers and facilitates farming related activities in the lockdown situation due to COVID-19. Efforts are being made to facilitate marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers.
- ◆ Besides, the Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Anna data Aay Sanraks Han Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA) announced by the government in 2018 will aid in providing remunerative return to farmers for their produce. The umbrella scheme consists of three sub-schemes i.e. 'Price Support Scheme' (PSS), 'Price Deficiency Payment Scheme' (PDPS) and 'Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme' (PPSS) on a pilot basis.
- ◆ In addition, under the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' (PM-KISAN) Scheme during the lockdown period from March 2020 till date, about 8.89 crore farmer families have been benefitted and an amount of Rs. 17,793 crore has been released so far.

- ◆ In order to provide food security during the prevailing situation due to COVID-19 pandemic, the government has decided to distribute pulses to the eligible households under 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana' (PM-GKY). About 1,07,077.85 MT pulses have so far been issue/d to the States/UTs.

Way Forward

- ◆ MSP in India has long been used more as a political tool rather than as a tool for protecting farmers. For long, economists have been advising the government to scrap the system of MSPs and to go for open market economy. But at the times of crisis like COVID-19, national lockdown and then locust attack, the farmers and other agriculture and allied activities desperately need government intervention to absorb the economic shocks and to recover for it. Though surprisingly, Indian agriculture has shown resilience to this crisis, but structural changes and support for the farmers are essential demand for the economy. MSP support at this crucial standpoint is much needed for the agriculture sector. <<<>>>

General Studies Paper- III

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

Q. In the light of Covid crisis and then the locust attack, discuss the necessity of MSP in the agriculture sector. Also highlight the pros and cons for MSP system.

07

Wildlife Protection in India : Needs Strengthening

Why in News?

- A couple of cases of cruelty towards animals have come to light in the past few weeks which have enraged many and made one ponder as to whether the laws in existence are sufficient enough to protect animals. The most recent of all incidents of cruelty that have taken place this year, are that of killing of a pregnant elephant from Kerala, a pregnant cow from Himachal Pradesh and a jackal from Tamil Nadu.
- Several organisations and experts have urged the government to strengthen the laws to protect animals.

Protection against Cruelty

- There are several laws under the Constitution of India, Indian Penal Code (IPC), Prevention of cruelty to Animals, (Slaughterhouse) Rules, 2001, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Prevention of cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (PCA Act) to mention a few for the safety, protection, punishment in cases of animal cruelty. Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Sections 428 and 429 of the IPC lay out rules against animal cruelty among other Rules and Acts of Indian Constitution. Rule 3 of Slaughterhouse Rules, 2001 also states that animal sacrifice is illegal in every part of the country. In addition, certain wildlife crimes are also investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).



- The Government of India enacted Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 with the objective to effectively protect the wild life of this country and to control poaching, smuggling and illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives. The Act was amended in January 2003 and punishment and penalty for offences under the Act have been made more stringent.
- Under Section 1(5) of the Wildlife Protection Act, a captive animal is "captured, or kept or bred in captivity". Section 40 of the Act gives special status regarding possession, inheritance, or acquisition of the animal.
- Animal rights are protected under Article 51A(G) of the Constitution, which makes it a citizen's duty to protect wildlife and show compassion for living creatures.
- In the Concurrent List, both the Centre and states are given the power to prevent cruelty to animals and protect wild animals and birds.
- The overarching legal framework to act against cases of animal cruelty is the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which aims to stop the infliction of unnecessary suffering or pain on animals.
- Under this, the perpetrator will be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs 100, or with imprisonment for a term that may extend to three months, or both.
- However, since the elephant was wild, and not domesticated, the culprits are likely to be prosecuted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, another central Act which helps the cause of protection of not just animals, but also birds and plants.

Challenges

- More than a decade since the Supreme Court issued a directive for states to set up an Animal Welfare Board, states across India are still either yet to form a State Animal Welfare Board or, where formed, yet to support its

functioning with staff and budget availability.

- ♦ States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Laskhwadeep have animal welfare boards but they are not in a functioning position with one or more issues, like no officer

appointed to the board, no budget allocated, no meeting of the board conducted, no staff and other shortcomings. While, some states and Union Territories like Karnataka, Bihar and Puducherry were yet to form or reconstitute the board.

Other Laws

- Section 11 (i) of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 says that abandoning an animal, leaving it in a situation that it suffers pain due to starvation or thirst, is a punishable offence. In this case, the fine can go up to Rs. 50. If the same crime is committed within three years again, the person has to pay a fine of anything between Rs. 25 and Rs. 100 or an imprisonment of up to 3 months or both. Evidently, neither the fine nor the imprisonment is strict enough to prevent people from harming animals.
- Killing, poisoning, maiming or torturing an animal is a cognizable offence under Section 428 and Section 429 of the Indian Penal Code. The punishment for such an act is rigorous imprisonment which may extend for up to 2 years or a fine or both in this case, as well, the fine is just Rs. 10 or above, an amount so minuscule that places no value on an animal's life.
- As per the government of India, Animal Birth Control Rules 2001, no sterilised dogs can be relocated from their area. If the dog is not sterilised, the society can ask an animal welfare organization to sterilise and vaccinate it, but they cannot relocate them.
- Keeping, or confining any animal chained for long hours with a heavy chain or chord amounts to cruelty on the animal and punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to 3 months or both.
- If an owner fails to provide its pet with sufficient food, drink or shelter, he/she shall be liable for punishment according to section 11 (1) (h) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is a punishable offence. Again, the fine extends to mere Rs. 50 with a subsequent crime committed within three years of the first one to be fined with Rs. 25- Rs. 100.
- It's illegal to slaughter animals at places, like temples and streets that are not licensed to do so. The act of animal sacrifices is covered under Local Municipal Corporation Acts, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- Teasing, molesting, injuring, feeding or causing disturbance to any animal by noise or otherwise is prohibited according to the section 38(j) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Anyone found guilty of this offence may face an imprisonment of up to 3 years or a fine of up to Rs 25,000 or both.
- Section 16 (c) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 also makes it unlawful to injure, destroy wild birds or reptiles, damaging their eggs or disturbing their eggs or nests. The person found guilty can be punished with an imprisonment of 3 to 7 years and a fine of Rs 25,000.
- According to section 98 of the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, animals should be healthy and in good condition while transporting them. Any animal that's diseased, fatigued or unfit for transport should not be transported. Furthermore, pregnant and very young animals should be transported separately.

- ♦ Further, prevention of cruelty to animals came in 1960, but the penalties have not been revised for more than 50 years. Like several other countries around the world, hurting animals in India is also considered a punishable offence. But the lack of effective laws indirectly encourages the occurrence of such tragic incidents. The maximum punishment under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960 is a fine of 50 rupees or imprisonment up to three months or both.

- ♦ When compared to the West, it is apparent how urgent it is for the law to be revised. In the United States, acts of cruelty against animals are now counted in the FBI's criminal database. In Australia, the maximum penalty for animal cruelty offences is a five-year prison term and a fine of A\$50,000 (US\$36,000) for individuals and A\$250,000 for corporations.

Ending Private Ownership

- ♦ There are 2,675 captive elephants in India, according to the information received by Tamil Nadu-based animal welfare activist Antony Clement Rubin via a Right to Information response from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in November 2019
- ♦ Of these, 1,821 are in private custody and the rest are under

the care of the forest department of various states. Among the elephants in private custody, some are owned by individuals and others by institutions like temples and circuses.

- ◆ The Indian Elephant is protected under Schedule one of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which affords maximal protection. It is listed as “Endangered” in the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- ◆ Elephants are social animals, they need other elephants around them, and when they are kept isolated environments such as temples, it automatically elevates their stress hormones
- ◆ Elephants in captivity are often not allowed to have mud baths. “Mud acts like sunscreen for them, and keeps away ectoparasites. As a result, they develop skin problems.
- ◆ Other issues they face include blindness and cataract, “since

they are out in the sun all the time.” If they had their own will, they would find shade

- ◆ There are close to 500 privately-owned captive elephants in Kerala alone. The forest department does not have the resources to cater to all of them.

Remedial Measures

- ◆ While a long term policy change is the need of the hour, experts offer a variety of views for handling the gentle giants in captivity. The CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology study on captive elephant stress recommends “minimising participation in religious activities, processions” and creating opportunities “for elephants to interact with other elephants in the facility.”
- ◆ Designated care facilities and rescue centres run in a public-private collaborative partnership would be the best model to run such centers with free flow of funds, veterinary expertise and management support.

Way Forward

- ◆ The wild elephant's death is a wakeup call for the country to protect its wildlife. This can be done by protecting wildlife corridors and resolving man-animal conflict. Therefore, there is a urgent need to make or strengthen the some provisions of the existing legislations. Central Government and state governments should implement the legislation in a proper manner.
- ◆ We can no longer ignore the fact that rampant trade of wild animals for the benefit of humans resulted in outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. And if we do not act now, this won't be the last pandemic. Wild animals belong in the wild. That is their natural habitat.



General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Q. Cruelty against animals is wrong in terms of both environmental ethics and human ethics, but the lenient provisions in the Indian laws needs to be fixed in order to protect the animals. Discuss.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

Plea to Change India's Name

1. Why in News?

- Recently, Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed a plea seeking changing the country's official name to 'Bharat' or 'Hindustan', and not 'India', but said the petitioner can approach the government demanding the same.
- A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde sought to know from the petitioner, Namah, a Delhi resident, why he had moved the court when 'India' is already called 'Bharat' in the Constitution.



2. Petitioner's Argument

- The petitioner, Namah, through his counsel, said 'India' is a name of foreign origin. The name can be traced back to the Greek term 'Indica'.
- The petition seeks an amendment to Article 1 of the Constitution, which says "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States...". It wants 'India' to be struck off from the Article.
- This will ensure citizens of this country to get over the colonial past and instil a sense of pride in our nationality. It will also justify the hard fought freedom by our freedom fighters. The cry was 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'.
- The petitioner also argued that the time is ripe to recognise the country by its original and authentic name 'Bharat', especially when the cities have been renamed in accordance with Indian ethos.

3. Court's Observation

- 'Bharat' and 'India' both names are given in the Constitution. India is already called 'Bharat' in the Constitution.
- The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, disposed of the plea which claimed that such an amendment will "ensure the citizens of this country get over the colonial past".
- The apex court had also dismissed a similar petition in 2016. Then CJI T.S. Thakur orally remarked that every Indian had the right to choose between calling his country 'Bharat' or 'India' and the SC had no business to either dictate or decide for a citizen what he should call his country.

4. One India, Many Names

- One of the oldest names used in association with the Indian subcontinent was 'Meluha' that was mentioned in the texts of ancient Mesopotamia in the third millennium BCE, to refer to the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- The earliest recorded name that continues to be debated is believed to be 'Bharat', 'Bharata', or 'Bharatvarsha' that is also one of the two names prescribed by the Indian constitution.
- 'Aryavarta', as mentioned in the 'Manusmriti', referred to the land occupied by the Indo-Aryans in the space between the Himalayas in the north and the Vindhya mountain ranges in the south.
- The name 'Jambudvipa' or the 'land of the Jamun trees' has also appeared in several Vedic texts, and is still used in a few Southeast Asian countries to describe the Indian subcontinent.
- Jain literature believes that the country was called 'Nabhivarsa' before. "King Nabhi was the father of Rishabhanatha (the first tirthankara) and grandfather of Bharata".
- The name 'Hindustan' was the first instance of a nomenclature having political undertones. It was first used when the Persians occupied the Indus valley in the seventh century BCE. Hindu was the Persianised version of the Sanskrit Sindhu, or the Indus river, and was used to identify the lower Indus basin. From the first century of the Christian era, the Persian suffix, 'stan' was applied to form the name 'Hindustan'.
- At the same time, the Greeks who had acquired knowledge of 'Hind' from the Persians, transliterated it as 'Indus', and by the time the Macedonian ruler Alexander invaded India in the third century BCE, 'India' had come to be identified with the region beyond the Indus.

02

PM CARES Fund is not a Public Authority

1. Why in News?

- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has refused to disclose details on the creation and operation of the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund, telling a Right to Information (RTI) applicant that the fund is "not a public authority" under the ambit of the RTI Act, 2005.

2. Background

- The PM CARES Fund was set to accept donations and provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, and other similar emergencies.
- A few days after the launch of the Fund, Sri Harsha Kandukuri filed an RTI application, asking the PMO to provide the Fund's trust deed and all government orders, notifications and circulars relating to its creation and operation.
- The plea, filed through advocate Aditya Hooda, sought a direction to the PM CARES Fund to divulge information under the RTI Act as it is a 'public authority' within the ambit of the Act and also a direction to the trust to display on its website the details of the money received and for what purposes it has been utilised.
- Delhi High Court also rejected a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking directions to bring the PM CARES Fund under the ambit of Right to Information (RTI) Act for more transparency.



3. What is Public Authority?

- PM CARES Fund is not a Public Authority under the ambit of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, 2005.
- The relevant section of the Act defines a "public authority" as "any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted — (a) by or under the Constitution; (b) by any other law made by Parliament; (c) by any other law made by State Legislature; (d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government — and includes any (i) body owned, controlled or substantially financed; (ii) non-Government Organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government."

4. Criticism

- Any entity that is "owned", "controlled" or "substantially financed" by the government qualifies for a public authority under the RTI Act.
- The patients who have fallen victim to COVID-19 have the right to know about the fund collected for the very purpose of fighting the virus. Further, the patients who need immediate financial assistance to fight the virus, are not in a position to enforce their fundamental right of being treated and financially supported, by the use of funds collected in the PM CARES fund.
- Experts also raised concern as to why should there be any secrecy, as the website also states that persons who manage PM CARES Fund shall have no personal interest.
- There is also ambiguity regarding whether the PMNRF (Prime Minister's National Relief Fund) is subject to the RTI Act. While the Central Information Commission directed it to disclose information in 2008, a division bench of the Delhi High Court gave a split opinion on the question of whether PMNRF is a public authority under the Act.
- The reluctance of the trustees of the fund in divulging information as to the management of the fund raises a profoundly serious apprehension since the fund has been set up to fight Covid-19 which is a public cause.

03

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance 2020

1. Why in News?

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 was promulgated on June 5, 2020.
- It seeks to provide for barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the markets notified under the various state agricultural produce market laws (state APMC Acts). The Ordinance will prevail over state APMC Acts.



2. Key Highlights

- The Ordinance allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside:
 - The physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts; and
 - Other markets notified under the state APMC acts such as private market yards and market sub-yards, direct marketing collection centres, and private farmer-consumer market yards.
- Such trade can be conducted in any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers' produce including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.
- Farmers' produce means food items including cereals such as wheat and rice, oilseeds, oils, vegetables, fruits, spice, and sugarcane. It also includes (i) products of poultry, piggery, goatery, fishery, dairy, (ii) raw cotton and jute, and (iii) cattle fodder.

3. Eligibility for Trade

- The Ordinance allows farmers, farm producer organisations as well as anyone who buys farmers' produce for: (i) wholesale trade, (ii) retail, (iii) end-use, (iv) value addition, (v) processing, (vi) manufacturing, (vii) export, or (viii) consumption, to engage in such intra-state or inter-state trade.
- A person transacting with a farmer will be required to make payments to the farmer on the same day, or within three working days in certain conditions, for any transaction of scheduled farmers' produce.
- The Ordinance prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for any trade under the Ordinance.

4. Electronic Trading

- The Ordinance permits the electronic trading of farmers' produce in the specified trade area. An electronic trading and transaction platform may be set up to facilitate the direct and online buying and selling of farmers' produce through electronic devices and internet for physical delivery of the farmers' produce.
- The following entities may establish and operate such platforms: (i) companies, partnership firms, or registered societies, having permanent account number under the Income Tax Act or any other document notified by the central government, and (ii) farmer producer organisation or agricultural cooperative society.

5. Dispute Resolution Mechanism

- The parties involved in a trade-related dispute may apply to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate for relief through conciliation.
- The Magistrate will appoint a Conciliation Board and refer the dispute to the Board.
- If the dispute remains unresolved after 30 days, the parties may approach the Magistrate for settlement of the dispute.
- The parties will have a right to appeal against the decisions of the Magistrate before an Appellate Authority (Collector or Additional Collector nominated by the Collector).

6. Importance

- The Ordinance will provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels.
- It will promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of markets or deemed markets notified under various State agricultural produce market legislations.
- Besides, the Ordinance will provide a facilitative framework for electronic trading and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

04 Infrastructure Boosting in Areas along China Border

1. Why in News?

- In order to ramp up infrastructure along the China border, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to spend 10% funds of Border Area Development Programme (BADP) on border projects in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.



2. Background

- The BADP has been allocated Rs. 784 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal and the money is distributed to the border States and Union Territories (UTs) depending on various criteria such as the length of the international border and population. In 2019-20, Rs. 825 crore was granted for the scheme.

3. Approved Guidelines

- The projects for developing strategically important villages and towns in border areas that have been identified by the border guarding forces, will be given priority.
- The forces could later on be asked to conduct the Social Audit of the infrastructure created.
- Around Rs.78.4 crore has been parked for projects in areas inhabited along the 3,488 km China border.
- Out of the remaining 638.2 crore, the northeastern States- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim would get - 255.28 crore or 40% of the remaining 80% funds.
- Around 382.9 crore or 60% funds would be allocated to Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- • Construction of roads, bridges, culverts, primary schools, health infrastructure, playfields, irrigation works, mini-stadiums etc. can be undertaken within 10 km of the border from the BADP funds.

5. Border Area Development Programme (BADP)

- The Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has been implementing the BADP through the State Governments as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
- The programme aims to meet the special development needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with the essential infrastructure through convergence of Central/State/BADP/Local schemes and participatory approach.
- The States covered are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Under this programme priority is given to the areas closer to the border.

4. Building Roads and Shekatkar Committee

- In a major boost to building strategic roads along India's northern border with China, the government has accepted and implemented three important recommendations relating to border infrastructure, made by the Shekatkar Committee in 2016.
- The recommendations accepted were aimed at speeding up road construction in remote areas, providing easier access to the military and leading to socio economic development in the border areas.
- First recommendation is to outsource road construction work beyond optimal capacity of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- Second recommendation is to introduce modern construction plant, equipment and machinery. For this, the BRO's "enhanced procurement powers" for domestic and foreign procurements from have been increased from Rs 7.5 crore to Rs 100 crore.
- Third is, completing land acquisition and obtaining statutory clearances such as forest and environmental clearance will now be pre-requisites for approving the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a new road. Work can be awarded only after at least 90 per cent of the statutory clearances have been obtained.
- The Shekatkar Committee submitted a total of 99 recommendations. Details of the report and its recommendations have not been placed in the public domain as it "covers operational aspects of the armed forces, disclosure of which is not in the interest of national security," the government told Parliament in February 2019.

05 Locust Control

1. Why in News?

- An invasion by desert locusts has hit large swathes of India in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Large and aggressive swarms of these crop-devouring short-horned insects have invaded more than two dozen districts of desert areas of western India.
- They entered several districts of Rajasthan via Pakistan's Sindh province.

2. Agrarian Disaster

- This locust attack has affected about 90,000 hectares across 20 districts in Rajasthan. Favourable rain-bearing winds aided their transport towards India. This quickly growing swarm is now threatening to amplify into an agrarian disaster.
- Since the Rabi crop harvesting is over and the Kharif sowing season is yet to begin, they were unable to find any vegetation.
- According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the destructive power of a typical locust swarm can be enormous. The size of these swarms can vary - from less than one square kilometre to several hundred square kilometres.
- If not controlled, desert locusts can damage food supplies and cause famine. Some 45 million sq km of land in 90 countries are potentially prone or under the threat of invasion by the desert locust, according to the FAO.



3. Mitigating the Disaster

- The locust problem is not confined to India alone, but most of Africa, West Asia, Iran and even parts of Australia.
- Historically, locust control has involved spraying of organo-phosphate pesticides on the night resting places of the locusts.
- The Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, advised farmers to spray chemicals like lambdacyhalothrin, deltamethrin, fipronil, chlorpyrifos, or malathion to control the swarms.
 - However, the Centre had banned the use of chlorpyrifos and deltamethrin. Malathion is also included in the list of banned chemicals but has been subsequently allowed for locust control.
- Special mounted guns are used to spray the chemicals on the resting places.
- Drones are also being used this year.
- In Uttar Pradesh, local villagers have been asked to make noise by beating 'thalis' and bursting crackers.

4. About Desert Locusts

- Desert locusts (*Schistocerca gregaria*), which belong to the family of grasshoppers, normally live and breed in semi-arid/desert regions. For laying eggs, they require bare ground, which is rarely found in areas with dense vegetation. So, they are more likely to breed in Rajasthan than in the Indo-Gangetic plains or Godavari and Cauvery delta.
- While green vegetation is good for hopper development – the stage between the nymph that has hatched and before its turning into a winged adult moth – such cover isn't widespread enough in deserts to allow growth of large locust populations.
- Locusts aren't dangerous as long as they are individual hoppers/moths or small isolated groups of insects, in what is called the "solitary phase". It is when their population grows to large numbers – the resultant crowding induces behavioral changes and transformation from the "solitary" to "gregarious" phase – that they start forming swarms.
- A single swarm contains up to 40-80 million adults in one square km and these can travel up to 150 km in one day.
- The main locust breeding areas in the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Oman, Southern Iran and Pakistan's Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

06

Visiting Forces Agreement

1. Why in News?

- On June 1, the government of the Philippines notified the United States (U.S.) Embassy in Manila that it froze a February decision to withdraw from the Philippines-United States Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).
- The agreement between the two countries eases the ability for the U.S. to send military forces to the Philippines and supports the Mutual Defence Treaty the U.S. and Philippine governments signed in 1951.
- The U.S. Navy and Air Force maintained two large bases – Naval Station Subic Bay and Clark Air Base – near the volcano Mount Pinatubo.

2. Resetting Philippines-US Defence Ties

- The termination of the VFA would not put an end to the U.S.-Philippines alliance, which is governed by the 1951 Mutual Defence Treaty.
- But the VFA — the latest iteration of which was initially ratified in 1999 — plays a fundamental role in normal military activities within the confines of the alliance.
- Without a VFA, the temporary presence of U.S. forces in the Philippines and, importantly, the implementation of the 2014 Enhanced Defence Cooperation Act (EDCA), would be impossible.
- The U.S.-Philippines alliance has seen its share of doldrums in the past. Most notably, after the Cold War, the Philippines in the early 1990s moved to end the permanent U.S. presence in the country. The 1999 VFA allowed the alliance to find a new footing.
- In 2018, the Philippines had begun calling for a review of the 1951 Mutual Defence Treaty, the bedrock of its seven-decade-long alliance with its former colonizer. The VFA, which came into force in 1999, is anchored on this mother treaty.



5. Tensions in South-China Sea

- Beijing's establishment of two research stations, naming of 80 features (most of them underwater), and the creation of two new administrative districts, including one to govern the Spratlys, have stirred ripples in an already tense sea as the world reels from a pandemic.
- Concerns about China's increasing interference in the marine economic activities of smaller claimants and the growing presence of its maritime militia are building, as is apprehension over the prospect of China declaring an Air Defense Identification Zone over the contested sea.
- For Manila, all these factors highlight the urgency of updating its defense alliance with Washington.

3. The U-Turn

- Manila wants a reset in the defence relationship, but COVID-19, domestic unrest, and a potentially polarizing November election may leave Washington too distracted to pay due attention to alliance issues.
- An extra six months may make all the difference in giving both sides a chance to properly re-evaluate what role the U.S.-Philippine alliance can play in the current geopolitical environment. The termination procedure within the VFA establishes a 180-day period from announcement of intent to withdraw to when that withdrawal becomes official.
- But later by June 3, Philippines announced the suspension of abrogation of VFA "in light of political and other developments in the region."

4. Suspension of Abrogation

- The present decision to suspend the abrogation comes amid two important developments, one regional and one global.
- First, Manila has witnessed a series of provocations by China in the South China Sea, where it is a claimant state. The U.S. Navy has been present in the region and vocally supported these countries against Chinese assertiveness.
- Separately, the implications of the global COVID-19 pandemic may be weighing on Manila. The Philippines has one of the region's least well-equipped militaries and, as room for manoeuvre for militaries becomes constrained amid the pandemic, continued U.S.-Philippine cooperation may allow for improved capacity to respond to various contingencies.

07

Global Economic Prospects June 2020

1. Why in News?

- “Global Economic Prospects” is a report published by World Bank twice a year in January and June. It reflects the state of global economy with special focus of emerging and developing economies.



2. Macroeconomic Implications of COVID-19

- The global economy is expected to shrink 5.2% in 2020.
- Owing to the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak, advanced economies will see growth falling 7% in 2020, while emerging economies as a group, which includes India, will see a growth decline of 2.5% this year.
- Growth is forecasted to decline 7.2 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 4.7 per cent in Europe and Central Asia, 4.2 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa, 2.8 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa (the deepest on record), 2.7 per cent in South Asia and 0.5 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific (the lowest rate since 1967).
- The United States economy is forecast to contract 6.1 per cent this year, while euro zone output is expected to shrink around 9.1 per cent. Japan's economy is anticipated to retreat 6.1 per cent.
- Current estimates show that 60 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty in 2020 (and) these estimates are likely to rise further.
- Demand for metals and transport-related commodities such as rubber and platinum used for vehicle parts has also tumbled.
- While agriculture markets are well supplied globally, trade restrictions and supply chain disruptions could yet raise food security issues in some places.

3. Impact on South Asia

- GDP in the region is projected to contract by 2.7% in 2020 as pandemic mitigation measures hinder consumption and services and uncertainty about the course of the pandemic chill private investment.
- In India, growth is estimated to have slowed to 4.2% in FY 2019/20, which ended in March 2020. Output is projected to contract by 3.2% in FY 2020/21.
- The International Monetary Fund has slashed its 2010-21 growth projection for India to 1.9% from 5.8% estimated in January. Barclays said it saw 0% growth, while the World Bank cut India's growth forecast to 1.5-2.8% from 6.1% earlier.
- Pakistan (-2.6% in FY 2019/20) and Afghanistan (-5.5% in 2020) are both projected to experience contractions, as mitigation measures are anticipated to weigh heavily on private consumption. Key labour-intensive export sectors are expected to contract sharply and recover only slowly.
- Growth in Bangladesh (1.6% in FY 2019/20) and Nepal (1.8% in FY 2019/20) is expected to decelerate markedly in 2020 due to pandemic-related disruptions including mitigation measures and sharp falls in exports and remittance inflows. Nepal and Maldives will be hard hit by a drop in tourism.

4. Prescription

- In the face of this disquieting outlook, the immediate priority for policymakers is to address the health crisis and contain the short-term economic damage. Over the longer term, authorities need to undertake comprehensive reform programs to improve the fundamental drivers of economic growth once the crisis lifts.
- Policies to rebuild both in the short and long-term entail strengthening health services and putting in place targeted stimulus measures to help reignite growth.
- Low oil prices are likely to provide, at best, temporary initial support to growth once restrictions to economic activity are lifted. Low oil prices offer an opportunity to oil producers to diversify their economies. In addition, the recent oil price plunge may provide further momentum to undertake energy subsidy reforms and deepen them once the immediate health crisis subsides.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 Plea to Change India's Name

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 3 empowers the parliament to create new states and alter the areas, boundaries or names of existing States and India itself by making suitable law.
2. 'Bharat' and 'India' both names are given in the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 3 empowers the parliament to create new states and alter the areas, boundaries or names of existing States by making suitable law.

Statement 2 is correct. 'Bharat' and 'India' both names are given in the Constitution.



02 PM CARES Fund is not a Public Authority

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

1. PM CARES Fund is a public authority under the ambit of the RTI Act, 2005.
2. Any entity that is "owned", "controlled" or "substantially financed" by the government qualifies for a public authority under the RTI Act.

3. PM CARES Fund was set to accept donations and provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, and other similar emergencies.

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: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has refused to disclose details on the creation and operation of the PM CARES Fund, telling a Right to Information (RTI) applicant that the fund is "not a public authority" under the ambit of the RTI Act, 2005.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The relevant section of the Act defines a "public authority" as "any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted — (a) by or under the Constitution; (b) by any other law made by Parliament; (c) by any other law made by State Legislature; (d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government — and includes any (i) body owned, controlled or substantially financed; (ii) non Government Organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government."



03 The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce

Q. With reference to the 'Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020', consider the following statements:

1. It has been promulgated to provide for barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the markets notified under the various state agricultural produce market laws.
2. It also permits the electronic trading of farmers' produce in the specified trade area.

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. It seeks to provide for barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the markets notified under the various state agricultural produce market laws (state APMC Acts).

The Ordinance permits the electronic trading of farmers' produce in the specified trade area. An electronic trading and transaction platform may be set up to facilitate the direct and online buying and selling of farmers' produce through electronic devices and internet for physical delivery of the farmers' produce.



04 Infrastructure Boosting in Areas along China Border

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Border Area Development Programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Defence.
2. The programme aims to meet the special development needs of the people living in remote areas and saturate the border areas with the essential infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has been implementing the BADP through the State Governments as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.

Statement 2 is correct. The programme aims to meet the special development needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and

to saturate the border areas with the essential infrastructure through convergence of Central/State/BADP/Local schemes and participatory approach.



05 Locust Control

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'desert locusts':

1. Desert locusts normally live and breed in tropical regions.
2. The main locust breeding areas in the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Oman, Southern Iran and Pakistan's Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces and western Rajasthan.

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. Desert locusts normally live and breed in semi-arid/desert regions. For laying eggs, they require bare ground, which is rarely found in areas with dense vegetation. The main locust breeding areas in the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Oman, Southern Iran and Pakistan's Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.



06 Visiting Forces Agreement

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Visiting Forces Agreement':

1. It spells out the rules, guidelines and legal status of the U.S. military when operating in the Japan.
2. It is governed by the 1951 Mutual Defence Treaty between India and Japan.

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. It enables the U.S. to send military forces to the Philippines.

The agreement between the two countries eases the ability for the U.S. to send military forces to the Philippines and supports the Mutual Defence Treaty the U.S. and Philippine governments signed in 1951.

The U.S. Navy and Air Force maintained two large bases – Naval Station Subic Bay and Clark Air Base – near the volcano Mount Pinatubo.



07 Global Economic Prospects June 2020

Q. With reference to the 'Global Economic Prospects June 2020', consider the following statements:

1. It has been released by the International Monetary Fund twice a year in January and June.
2. Indian economy is expected to contract by 3.2% in Fy 2020/21.

3. The global economy is expected to shrink 5.2% in 2020.

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: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. "Global Economic Prospects" is a report published by World Bank twice a year in January and June. It reflects the state of global economy with special focus of emerging and developing economies.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The world economy, as a whole, is set to witness its deepest recession since World War II, with a forecasted contraction of 5.2% this year.

The Indian economy is expected to contract by 3.2% in this fiscal year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions.



7 IMPORTANT NEWS

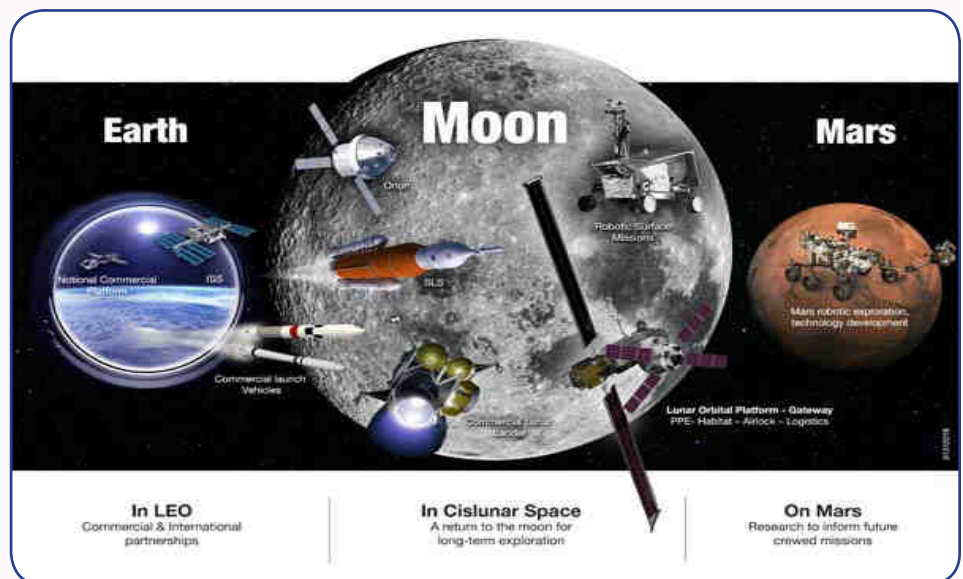
01

NASA's Gateway Lunar Orbiting Outpost

- ◆ NASA has described the Gateway as key to the new era of lunar explorations both in the orbit and on the surface of the Moon. One of the most unique features of the Gateway is that it can be moved to other orbits around the Moon to conduct more research. The Gateway is being built by both international and commercial partners and will support exploration on and near the Moon and later to Mars as well.

What is the Gateway Lunar Orbit outpost?

- ◆ Essentially, the Gateway is a small spaceship that will orbit the Moon, meant for astronaut missions to the Moon and later, for expeditions to Mars. It will act as a temporary office and living quarters for astronauts, distanced at about 250,000 miles from Earth. The spaceship will have living quarters, laboratories for science and research and docking ports for visiting spacecraft.
- ◆ Further, astronauts will use the Gateway at least once per year and not stay around the year like they do on the International Space



Station (ISS). Compared to the ISS, the Gateway is much smaller (the size of a studio apartment), while the ISS is about the size of a six-bedroom house. Once docked to the Gateway, astronauts will be able to stay there for three months at a time, conduct science experiments and take trips to the surface of the Moon.

- ◆ As per information on NASA's website, the Gateway will act as an airport, where spacecraft bound for the lunar surface of Mars can refuel or replace parts and resupply things like food and oxygen, allowing astronauts to take multiple trips to the Lunar surface

and exploration of new locations across the Moon.

- ◆ Significantly, NASA agency wants to use the Gateway as a science platform to look back at the Earth, observe the Sun, and get unobstructed views of the vast universe. By studying the geology of the Earth, the Moon, and Mars – the three planetary bodies we know the most about – and the ways in which they are similar and different from each other, we can learn important things about how planets and planetary systems form.
- ◆ As of now, NASA has targetted the completion of the Gateway for 2026, while work on the spaceship is already underway. 

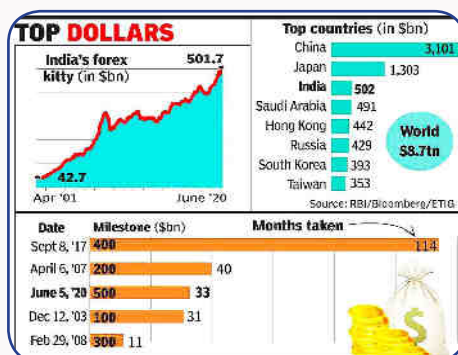
02

Forex Reserves Crossed \$500 bn for 1st Time

- India's foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$500 billion mark for the first time ever.

What are Forex Reserves?

- Forex reserves are external assets in the form of gold, special drawing rights (SDRs) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and foreign currency assets (capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings) accumulated by India and controlled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The IMF says official foreign exchange reserves are held in support of a range of objectives like supporting and maintaining confidence in the policies for monetary and exchange rate management including the capacity to intervene in support of the national or union currency. It will also limit external vulnerability by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis or when access to borrowing is curtailed.



Reasons Behind

- The major reason for the rise in forex reserves is the rise in investment in foreign portfolio investors in Indian stocks and FDIs. Foreign investors had acquired stakes in several Indian companies in the last two months. According to the data released by RBI, while the FDI inflow stood at \$4 billion in March, it amounted to \$2.1 billion in April.
- After pulling out Rs 60,000 crore each from debt and equity segments in March, FPIs, who expect a turnaround in the economy later this financial year, have now returned to the Indian

markets and bought stocks worth over \$2.75 billion in the first week of June.

- On the other hand, the fall in crude oil prices has brought down the oil import bill, saving precious foreign exchange. Similarly, overseas remittances and foreign travels have fallen steeply – down 61 per cent in April from \$12.87 billion. The months of May and June are expected to show further decline in dollar outflows.

Significance

- The rising forex reserves give a lot of comfort to the government and the Reserve Bank of India in managing India's external and internal financial issues at a time when the economic growth is set to contract by 1.5 per cent in 2020-21. It's a big cushion in the event of any crisis on the economic front and enough to cover the import bill of the country for a year. The rising reserves have also helped the rupee to strengthen against the dollar.

03

World Day Against Child Labour 2020

- The World Day against Child Labour, held every year on June 12, is intended to foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms. The theme of this year is, "COVID-19 - protect children from child labour now, more than ever". The occasion was originally launched by the ILO in 2002 to create awareness about the global extent of child labour and the actions and efforts that are needed to eliminate it.
- International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are developing a simulation model to look at the



impact of COVID-19 on child labour globally.

Scale of the Problem

- According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are about 152 million children globally who are engaged in child labour, 72 million of whom are in hazardous work. Further, the covid crisis can push millions of vulnerable children into child labour.

- ♦ Africa ranks highest among regions both in the percentage of children in child labour — one-fifth — and the absolute number of children in child labour — 72 million. Asia and the Pacific ranks second highest in both these measures — 7% of all children and 62 million in absolute terms are in child labour in this region.
- ♦ According to UN data, Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions

together account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide. The remaining child labour population is divided among the Americas (11 million), Europe and Central Asia (6 million), and the Arab States (1 million). In terms of incidence, 5% of children are in child labour in the Americas, 4% in Europe and Central Asia, and 3% in the Arab States.

Child Labour in India

- ♦ As per the last census, there are over 10 million child labourers in India. Many of these children are kept confined to workplace by employers. The ILO and UNICEF have stated that the COVID-19 crisis is risking millions of children being pushed into child labour, which could lead to the first rise in rate after two decades of progress.



04

Assam Gas Leak

- ♦ Recently, the Baghjan oil field in Upper Assam's Tinsukia district, operated by Oil India Limited, burst into flames. Since the morning of May 27, natural gas has been continuously flowing out of a gas well in Assam following a blowout — or a sudden, uncontrolled release of gas/oil. With authorities unable to control it, experts from a Singapore firm reached Assam. Meanwhile, people from surrounding villages have been evacuated, while a variety of fish and an endangered Gangetic dolphin have died.

to 'kicks' or changes in pressure. If these are not controlled in time, the 'kicks' can turn into a sudden blowout. Further, experts have cited many possible reasons behind blowouts, from simple lack of attention, poor workmanship, bad maintenance, old age, sabotage to morpho-tectonic factors.

About Oil Rig

- ♦ The Baghjan 5 well is a purely gas-producing well in Tinsukia district, and is at an aerial distance of 900 metres from the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. It was drilled by Oil India Limited (OIL) in 2006. It produces around 80,000 standard cubic metres per day (SCMD) of gas from a depth of 3,870 metres. As

per officials, the current discharge is at 90,000 SCMD at a pressure of 4,200 PSI, far higher than the normal producing pressure of around 2,700 PSI.

Impact

- ♦ As many as 1,610 families with 2,500-3,000 people have been evacuated to relief camps. There are reports of deaths of a river dolphin, and a variety of fish.
- ♦ As per Assam Pollution Control Board chairman, the gas — which is a mix of propane, methane, propylene and other gases — is flowing with the wind, towards the northeast. That is a radius up to 5 km and condensate is mostly falling on bamboo, tea gardens, banana trees and betel nut trees.
- ♦ As the well is close to the Maguri-Motapung wetland — an Important Bird Area notified by the Bombay Natural History Society. The park is famous for its birds, butterflies, wild cats, and feral horses. The impact is visible in the sense that you can see traces of condensate on the water bodies, the numbers of birds have decreased.



05

NIRF India Rankings 2020

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development has released “India Rankings 2020” of Institutions of Higher Education in various categories on the basis of their performance on five broad categories of parameters. This is the fifth consecutive edition of India Rankings of the institutions of higher education in India. In 2020, an addition to nine rankings ie one domain “Dental” has been introduced for the first time bringing the total tally to 10 categories / subject domains.
- The ranking framework evaluates institutions on five broad generic groups of parameters, i.e. Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practice (RP), Graduation Outcomes (GO), Outreach and Inclusivity (OI) and Perception (PR). Ranks are assigned based on total sum of marks assigned for each of these five broad groups of parameters.

NIRF India Ranking 2020	
Overall Category	Colleges Category
■ IIT Madras,	■ Miranda House DU,
■ IISc Bangalore,	■ LSR for Women DU,
■ IIT Delhi	■ Hindu College DU
University Category	Medical Discipline
■ IISc Bangalore,	■ AIIMS, New Delhi,
■ JNU New Delhi,	■ PGIMER Chandigarh,
■ BHU Varanasi	■ Christian Medical College, Bangalore
Engineering Category	Law Discipline
■ IIT Madras,	■ National Law School of India University, Bengaluru,
■ IIT Delhi,	■ NLU New Delhi,
■ IIT Bombay	■ Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad
Management Category	
■ IIM Ahmedabad,	
■ IIM Bangalore,	
■ IIM Calcutta	

Key Highlights

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras is still the country's best in the field of higher education. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, stands at the second place, followed by IIT-Delhi.
- Under the universities category in the NIRF 2020, IISc topped the list, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University and Benares Hindu University. On the other hand, the best colleges are all part of Delhi University; Miranda House snagged the first rank, followed by Lady Shri Ram College for Women and Hindu College.

- The three best engineering institutions are all IITs, with IIT Madras and IIT Delhi followed by IIT Bombay. The Indian Institutes of Management, at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata, took the top positions in the management category. National Law School of India University is the country's best institution for studying law, while IIT Khargpur is the best place to study architecture.
- With regard to medical education, All India Institute of Medical Education stands in first place, followed by Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and Christian Medical College, Vellore. The pharmacy category was topped by Jamia Hamdard University, while the newly introduced dental category had the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences in first place.

06

India's First Gas Exchange

- India's first gas exchange — the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) — was launched by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The exchange is expected to facilitate transparent price discovery in natural gas, and facilitate the growth of the share of natural gas in India's energy basket.

Key Highlights

- The IGX is a digital trading platform that will allow buyers and sellers of natural gas to trade both in the spot market and in the forward market for imported natural gas across three hubs — Dahej and Hazira in Gujarat, and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- Imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be regassified and sold to buyers through the exchange, removing the requirement for buyers and sellers to find each other.
- The exchange also allows much shorter contracts — for delivery on the next day, and up to a month — while



ordinarily contracts for natural gas supply are as long as six months to a year. This, experts say, will allow buyers and sellers greater flexibility.

Significance

- ◆ IGX will play an instrumental role in transforming India's gas markets,

positioning India as a sustainable economy and enhancing industry's competitiveness. The competitive price discovery will facilitate availability of gas at lower prices for cross-spectrum of industries across India, stimulate demand and facilitate

greater investments in domestic gas exploration.

- ◆ IGX will drive industrial competitiveness, sustainability, spur investments in the gas value chain, deliver efficient utilisation of the pipeline infrastructure as well as ensure revival of gas-based power plants. 

07

Nature Index 2020

- ◆ The Nature Research journal of science has released the Nature Index 2020.

Global Rankings

- ◆ The top five countries in the index are United States of America, China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan respectively.

India's Position

- ◆ The overall ranking of India is 12th in the index.
- ◆ Three of the autonomous institutions of the Department of Science & Technology, have found their place among top 30 Indian Institutions including universities, IITs, IISERs, and Research Institutions and Labs. These are the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata at 7th position, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore at 14th position and S. N. Bose National

Institution	Count	Share
1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	158	95.95
2. Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	209	81.28
3. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)	214	63.38
4. Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI)	196	57.17
5. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)	113	50.37
6. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)	78	45.01
7. Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata (IISER Kolkata)	66	43.35
8. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati)	68	37.45
9. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)	145	34.31
10. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)	57	29.95

Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata at 30th position.

- ◆ Globally the top-rated Indian institutions in this list are Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a group of 39 institutions at the 160th position and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore at the 184th position.

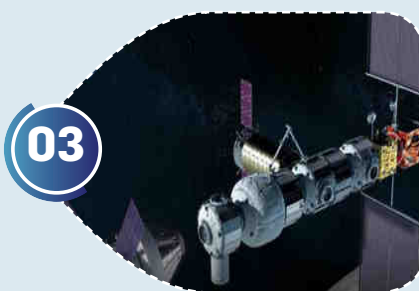
About Index

- ◆ The Nature Index is a database of author affiliations and

institutional relationships. The index tracks contributions to research articles published in 82 high-quality natural science journals, chosen by an independent group of researchers. The Index provides a close to real-time proxy of high-quality research output and collaboration at the institutional, national and regional level. 

7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



01

03

05

01

India-China clash in Ladakh underlines the scale of the problem and the challenge ahead for New Delhi in its dealings with Beijing. What India must do in face of the Chinese challenge. Discuss.

02

India has launched its first gas exchange. How will this exchange work? Also discuss its significance.

03

What is NASA's Gateway Lunar Orbit outpost? Also discuss its importance for the lunar explorations.

04

"Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan should not make India turn away from international trade." Do you agree? Give suitable examples.

05

Discuss the Juneteenth Day and its significance in the history of United States.

06

What is Blue Dot Network (BDN)? Discuss why India needs to quickly join this network to promote 'high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructural development.

07

What do you understand by 'bad bank'? Discuss why India should have a new bad bank.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)



01



03



05

01 Which state is planning to establish a monkey park on the uninhabited islands in the Sharavathi backwaters region?

Karnataka

02 What is the rank of India on Institute for Management Development (IMD's) World Competitiveness Index?

43rd

03 Which country has joined international and multi-stakeholder initiative Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) on artificial intelligence as its founder member?

India

04 Which planet's moon is drifting away from the planet?

Saturn's Largest Moon Titan

05 What is the name of the summer capital of Uttarakhand?

Gairsain in Chamoli District

06 What is the theme of 'World Ocean Day 2020'?

"Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean"

07 Which state has launched the 'Spandan Campaign' to contain incidents of suicide and fratricide involving police personnel?

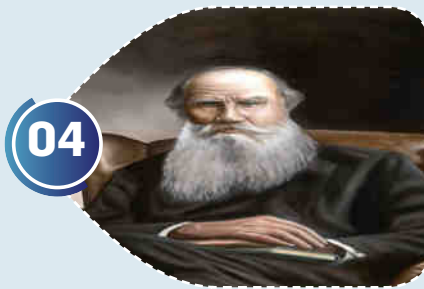
Chhattisgarh

7

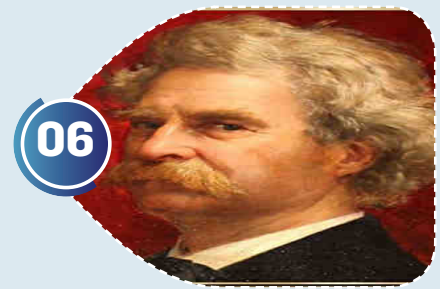
IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



02



04



06

01

"Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime."

Aristotle

02

"Rarest of all human quality is consistency."

Jeremy Bentham

03

"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

Benjamin Franklin

04

"Wrong does not cease to be wrong because the majority share in it."

Leo Tolstoy

05

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

Martin Luther King

06

"It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare."

Mark Twain

07

"Everything comes to us that belong to us if we create the capacity to receive it."

Rabindranath Tagore

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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