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PERFECT

7

Weekly Current Affairs

June 2021 | ISSUE 01



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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.

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Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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7

Contents

➤ Issues of the Week	1-15
➤ Persons of the Week	16-18
➤ Places of the Week	19-22
➤ International/National Days of the Week	23-26
➤ Brain Boosters	27-34
➤ Self Assessment (Objective Questions)	35-39
➤ Self Assessment (Subjective Questions)	40-41

OUR OTHER INITIATIVES



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Issues of the Week

GS Paper-1

- ◆ Southwest Monsoon
-

GS Paper-2

- ◆ India on UNHRC Resolution on Gaza Violence
 - ◆ It's Time to Define Limits of Sedition: Supreme Court
 - ◆ India and Maldives on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Urban Development
 - ◆ SCO Forum on People-to-People Friendship
 - ◆ PM-CARES for Children
 - ◆ The Concept of 'Anticipatory Bail'
 - ◆ Rwanda Genocide
 - ◆ Rule 6(I) of the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954
 - ◆ Monetary Assistance to Students under Mid-day Meal Scheme
 - ◆ China Expanded Influence in UN Bodies: Study
 - ◆ ECOWAS and Mali Crisis
-

GS Paper-3

- ◆ National Statistical Office data on Indian Economy
- ◆ Climate Breakthroughs Summit
- ◆ Odisha's Blackbuck Population

GS Paper-1

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

1. Southwest Monsoon

Why in News?

- ◆ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced that the southwest monsoon hit the coast of Kerala on June 3, two days behind its regular schedule.
- ◆ The normal date for the onset of the monsoon over the Kerala coast is June 1.

What does the 'Onset of Monsoon' mean?

- ◆ The onset of the monsoon over Kerala marks the beginning of the four-month, June-September southwest monsoon season over India, which brings more than 70 per cent of the country's annual rainfall.
- ◆ The onset is a big day for the Indian economy every year.

Parameters

- ◆ Generally, IMD declares its arrival only after certain well defined and measurable parameters are met.
- ◆ Specifically, the onset of the monsoon is declared after at least 60 per cent of the 14 designated meteorological stations in Kerala and Lakshadweep record at least 2.5 mm of rain for two consecutive days at any time after May 10.



- ◆ A few other conditions relating to wind and temperature must also be fulfilled in addition.

Does a Delayed Monsoon mean a Poor Monsoon?

- ◆ No, it does not. The onset is just an event that happens during the progress of monsoon over the Indian subcontinent.
- ◆ The time of the onset has no bearing on the quality or amount of rainfall during the four-month monsoon season.
- ◆ India as a whole receives about 116 cm of rain every year, out of which about 89 cm comes in the southwest monsoon season.
- ◆ The overall rain that India gets during a particular southwest monsoon season, and its regional distribution, is not influenced by the date of the onset of the monsoon in that year.

Southwest Monsoon and Indian Economy

- ◆ The southwest monsoon is one of the primary drivers of the country's economy, which is largely based on agriculture and its allied activities.
- ◆ Large parts of the country rely on the four-month rainfall season for agriculture and also for filling reservoirs.

Factors Affecting Indian Monsoon

- ◆ El Nino, La Nina, positive and negative IOD are believed to have an influence over the Indian monsoon.
- ◆ El Nino and La Nina are associated with the heating and cooling of the equatorial Pacific Ocean respectively.
- ◆ Negative and positive IOD are also linked to the heating and cooling of the Indian Ocean waters respectively.

GS Paper-2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

1. India on UNHRC Resolution on Gaza Violence

Why in News?

- ◆ India abstained on a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council proposing to set up a Commission of Inquiry into violations surrounding the latest violence in Gaza.

Key Points

- ◆ The resolution was adopted as 24 countries in the 47-member council voted in favour of it.
- ◆ The resolution proposed setting up a commission of inquiry to look into the violations during the violence as well as the “systematic” abuses in Palestinian territories and inside Israel.
- ◆ Besides India, 13 other countries abstained, including France, Japan, Netherlands, Italy, Nepal, Poland and South Korea.
- ◆ Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Russia voted in favour of the resolution, while Germany, the United Kingdom and Austria were against it.

India on Israel - Palestine Conflict

- ◆ In 1948, India was the only non-Arab-state among 13 countries that voted against the UN partition plan of Palestine in the General Assembly that led to the creation of Israel.
- ◆ In 1975, India became the first non-Arab country to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and invited it to open an

office in Delhi, which was accorded diplomatic status five years later.

- ◆ In 1988, when the PLO declared an independent state of Palestine with its capital in East Jerusalem, India granted recognition immediately.

- ◆ However, the balancing began with India's decision to normalise ties with Israel in 1992, which came against the backdrop of the break-up of the Soviet Union, and massive shifts in the geopolitics of West Asia on account of the first Gulf War in 1990.

- ◆ India voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution in October 2003 against Israel's construction of a separation wall.

- ◆ It voted for Palestine to become a full member of UNESCO in 2011, and a year later, co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that enabled Palestine to become a “non-member” observer state at the UN without voting rights.

- ◆ India also supported the installation of the Palestinian flag on the UN premises in September 2015.

- ◆ A visit by PLO chief Mahmoud Abbas in 2017 became the occasion for New Delhi to signal the substantive shift. Until then, in various statements, with its expression of support for a two-state solution, India had always included a line in support of East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

- ◆ As a part of Link West Policy, India has de-hyphenated its relationship with Israel and Palestine in 2018 to treat both the countries mutually independent and exclusive.

Present Status

- ◆ India's policy on the longest running conflict in the world has gone from being unequivocally pro-Palestine for the first four decades, to a tense balancing act with its three-decade-old friendly ties with Israel.
- ◆ In recent years, India's position has also been perceived as pro-Israel.
- ◆ India has dropped its stock phrase of its strong support to the “just Palestinian cause” in its statement at the UNHRC on May 27 — which used to be part of Indian statements in the past. This signals a slight nuanced shift away from Palestine, and towards Israel.

About UNHRC

- ◆ The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.
- ◆ The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly.
- ◆ The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

2. It's Time to Define Limits of Sedition: Supreme Court

Why in News?

- ◆ The Supreme Court has recently said “it is time to define the limits of sedition”.
- ◆ The observation was made while dealing with the writ petitions filed by two news channels - TV5 news and ABN Andhra Jyoti - seeking the quashing of FIR and contempt petitions.

Background

- ◆ Andhra Pradesh government has booked two Telugu news channels under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for their reportage of the COVID-19 pandemic in the State.
- ◆ The two channels have been made co-accused along with parliamentarian Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, whose speech was alleged to have promoted disaffection against the government.

Court's Observations

- ◆ A bench comprising Justices DY Chandrachud, L Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat expressed a prima facie view that the FIRs are an attempt to “muzzle mujle freedom of press”.
- ◆ The Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud flagged indiscriminate use of the sedition law against critics, journalists, social media users, activists and citizens for airing their grievances about the governments COVID-19 management, or even for seeking help to gain medical access, equipment, drugs and oxygen cylinders, especially during the second wave of the pandemic.
- ◆ The bench observed that there was a need to define the scope of offences under Section 124A (sedition), 153A (promotion of communal hatred) and



505 (Statements conducing to public mischief) under the Indian Penal Code.

- ◆ “It is time to define the limits of sedition,” Justice Chandrachud said. He pointed out that the Court had categorically told the States not to initiate penal action against the critics of COVID-19 management measures in an April 30 order.

About the Law

- ◆ Originally drafted by Thomas Macaulay — the man credited for bringing English education in India, the sedition law was introduced in India in 1870.
- ◆ Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code is referred to as the sedition law. The word “sedition” itself is, however, not mentioned in the IPC section.
- ◆ The sedition law reads: “Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which a fine may be added; or, with fine.”
- ◆ IPC Section 153 A: Punishes acts promoting enmity between different

groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

- ◆ IPC Section 505: Makes the publication and circulation of content which may cause ill-will or hatred between different groups an offence.

Sedition Cases and Convictions

- ◆ According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 47 cases of sedition were filed in 2014. Chargesheets were filed against 16 accused while just one person was convicted.
- ◆ In 2015, 30 sedition cases were filed, and 73 accused were arrested but no one was convicted by the court.
- ◆ In 2016, one person was convicted for sedition while 35 cases were filed against 48 accused.
- ◆ In 2017, 51 sedition cases were filed, 228 accused were arrested, and four persons were convicted.
- ◆ In 2018, two persons were convicted by court for sedition while 56 people were booked in 70 cases.
- ◆ In 2019, 93 sedition cases were registered against 96 people. Two were convicted of sedition.

3. India and Maldives on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Urban Development

Why in News?

- ◆ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Maldives on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.

Background

- ◆ The Prime Minister of India in his visit to Maldives in June 2019, had emphasised India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and assured India's full support to Maldives in realising its aspirations for broad based socio-economic development and strengthening of democratic and independent institutions.

Key Highlights

- ◆ A Joint Working Group (JWG) will be constituted to strategize and implement programmes on cooperation under the framework of the MoU. The JWG will meet once in a year, alternately in Maldives and in India.
- ◆ The objectives of the MoU are to facilitate and strengthen India-Maldives technical cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development including Urban Planning, Smart Cities Development, Solid waste management, Affordable housing, Urban Green Mobility, Urban Mass Rapid Transport, smart cities development and any other related area mutually agreed by contracting parties.

Benefits

- ◆ The MoU is expected to create employment in the areas of sustainable urban development including Urban



Planning, Smart Cities Development, Solid waste management, Affordable housing, Urban Green Mobility, Urban Mass Rapid Transport, Smart Cities Development.

- ◆ The MoU will promote strong, deep and long-term bilateral cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development between the two countries.

India - Maldives Relations

- ◆ India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity.
- ◆ Indians are the second largest expatriate community in the Maldives, with an approximate strength of 22,000. About 25% of doctors and teachers in the Maldives are Indians.
- ◆ Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India.
- ◆ Bilateral relations have also benefited from President Ibrahim Solih's "India First" policy.

- ◆ India is currently implementing large infrastructure projects worth \$2 billion, such as ports, roads, bridges, water and sanitation, in the Maldives.
- ◆ The Maldives also received considerable assistance from India since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was the first country to receive made-in-India vaccines in January, when New Delhi gifted 100,000 doses.
- ◆ This was preceded by health and humanitarian assistance provided in 2020, including nearly 12 tonnes of medicines, and a soft loan of \$250 million for budgetary support.

India's Neighbourhood First Policy

- ◆ "Neighbourhood First Policy" is part of India's foreign policy that accords primacy to nations in India's periphery.
- ◆ It also includes in its ambit the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)—a grouping that includes almost all countries of South Asia and some in South-East Asia.

4. SCO Forum on People-to-People Friendship

Why in News?

- ◆ Leaders of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, observer states, and dialogue partners as well as representatives of non-governmental friendship organizations, have held in-depth discussions on topics such as think tank exchanges, sister city cooperation, health, rural development and poverty reduction, high-quality connectivity, and new media training.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The Forum was co-organized by the Good-neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission of the SCO, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Hubei Provincial People's Government.
- ◆ Officials and experts also reached a broad consensus on carrying forward the "Shanghai Spirit", deepening solidarity and collaboration, maintaining peace and stability of countries in the region, promoting common development and making greater contributions towards building a community with a shared future for humanity.
- ◆ The Forum realized that the SCO plays a pivotal role in respecting diversity of civilizations, supporting the people of all countries in independently choosing the path for development, establishing equal partnerships, safeguarding peace and stability of our region and promoting common development.
- ◆ The SCO has become a comprehensive regional cooperation organization uniting 18 countries and a population of over 3 billion.

- ◆ The Forum spoke highly of the non-governmental organizations of SCO countries for their solidarity and mutual assistance in the fight against COVID-19, and underlined that only through solidarity and cooperation can the international community overcome global challenges such as COVID-19 and safeguard the common home of mankind.



- ◆ It supports practical cooperation, deep integration of industrial, supply, and value chains, unimpeded regional economic circulation, and more cooperation in areas such as digital economy, e-commerce, artificial intelligence and smart city with a view to improving people's well-being and building a green and open regional economy characterized by innovation and coordination and shared by all.
- ◆ The Forum has encouraged greater mutual learning between civilizations, good-neighborliness and friendship among countries, and the involvement of women, youth, children, and other groups in fruitful bilateral and multilateral exchanges and cooperation in culture, education, academic research, sports, media, tourism, science and technology, health, traditional medicine, folk arts and crafts, and environmental protection to form an all-dimensional, in-depth, and multi-channel cooperation framework.
- ◆ The Forum has supported the initiative of Tajikistan as the current holder of the rotating presidency of the SCO to hold the SCO Women's Forum and other

activities, and supports Tajikistan's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Tajikistan's SCO Center for Friendship and Cooperation, and China-Tajikistan Friendship Association to actively participate in and hold a series of activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the SCO.

- ◆ The Forum has proposed that non-governmental organizations of member states, observer states and dialogue partners take the 20th anniversary of the founding of the SCO in 2021 as an opportunity to deepen mutual understanding and traditional friendship and actively promote the cause of people-to-people friendship of the SCO in the post-epidemic era.

Key Suggestions

- ◆ The Forum has believed that non-governmental organizations need to be more active in facilitating communication, reflecting the will of the people, and pooling together people's efforts.
- ◆ The Forum has believed that sub-national cooperation provides a solid foundation and source of strength for the long-term friendship between countries.

5. PM-CARES for Children

Why in News?

- ◆ Prime Minister has announced a number of benefits to children impacted by the current COVID pandemic under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Fixed Deposit in the Name of the Child**
 - PM CARES will contribute through a specially designed scheme to create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age.
 - This corpus:
 - Will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend from 18 years of age, for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements during the period of higher education; and
- ◆ On reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum for personal and professional use.
- ◆ **School Education: For Children under 10 years**
 - The child will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.
 - If the child is admitted in a private school, the fees as per the RTE norms will be given from the PM-CARES.
 - PM-CARES will also pay for expenditure on uniform, text books and notebooks.
- ◆ **School Education: For Children between 11-18 years**
 - The child will be given admission in any Central Government residential school such as Sainik School, Navodaya Vidyalaya etc.
 - In case the child is to be continued under the care of Guardian/ grandparents/ extended family, then he or she will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.
 - If the child is admitted in a private school, the fees as per the RTE norms will be given from the PM-CARES.
- PM-CARES will also pay for expenditure on uniform, text books and notebooks.
- ◆ **Support for Higher Education**
 - The child will be assisted in obtaining education loan for Professional courses / Higher Education in India as per the existing Education Loan norms. The interest on this loan will be paid by the PM- CARES.
 - As an alternative, scholarship equivalent to the tuition fees / course fees for undergraduate/ vocational courses as per Government norms will be provided to such children under Central or State Government Schemes. For children who are not eligible under the existing scholarship schemes, PM-CARES will provide an equivalent scholarship.
- ◆ **Health Insurance**
 - All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs.
 - The premium amount for these children till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM-CARES.

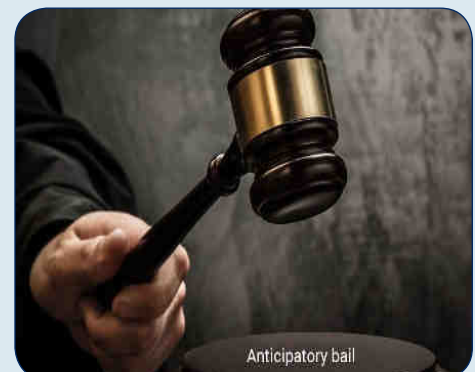
6. The Concept of 'Anticipatory Bail'

Why in News?

- ◆ The Supreme Court has ruled that Courts in "extraordinary circumstances" have the discretion to grant protection from arrest to accused even while denying them anticipatory bail, but the power cannot be exercised in an untrammelled manner, and the order will have to be a reasoned one.

Background

- ◆ The court was hearing appeals against two High Courts (HC) orders which, while rejecting the prayer of the accused for anticipatory bail, had asked them to surrender before the trial court and file a regular bail application within 90 days, and protected them from any coercive action during this period.



- ◆ This was challenged in the top court on the ground that the HC could not have given them any further protection, as it had declined the final relief of pre-arrest bail.

Key Observations of the Court

- ◆ A Supreme Court judgment said an accused denied anticipatory bail can, in exceptional circumstances, still be given protection from immediate arrest if his sudden incarceration by the State will plunge his personal affairs and family into crisis.
- ◆ In such “exceptional” cases, HCs and SC were given powers to grant anticipatory bail to the accused because of the premium that the Constitution places on the right to liberty guaranteed under Article 21. At times, courts may need to look beyond the strict confines of the written text to secure complete justice.
- ◆ The grant or rejection of an application under CrPC has a direct bearing on the right to life and liberty of an individual.
- ◆ However, the courts should not use this discretion to grant “judicial largesse” to accused persons. That was the kind of power no court possessed.
- ◆ The anticipatory bail provision of Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure seeks to balance the rights of accused with the concerns of the investigating agency, the victim of the alleged crime and the society at large.
- ◆ The provision needs to be read liberally, and considering its beneficial nature, the courts must not read in restrictions that the legislature have not explicitly provided for. Any ambiguity in the language must be resolved in favour of the applicant seeking relief.

7. Rwanda Genocide

Why in News?

- ◆ French President Emmanuel Macron has acknowledged his country’s “overwhelming responsibility” in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, but stopped short of a clear public apology.
- ◆ The remarks were welcomed by Rwandan President Paul Kagame – a fierce critic of France ever since the genocide– who called them “more valuable than an apology” and “an act of tremendous courage”.

Rwandan Genocide

- ◆ The Rwandan genocide of April-July 1994 was the culmination of long-running ethnic tensions between the minority Tutsi community, who had controlled power since colonial rule by Germany and Belgium, and the majority Hutu.
- ◆ Over the course of 100 days, the tragedy took the lives of over 8 lakh people, estimated to amount up to 20% of Rwanda’s population.

- ◆ Hutu militias systematically targeted the Tutsi ethnic group, and used the nation’s public broadcaster, Rwanda Radio, for spreading propaganda. Military and political leaders encouraged sexual violence as a means of warfare, leading to around 5 lakh women and children being raped, sexually mutilated or murdered.
- ◆ The conflict ended when the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized control of the country in July, and its leader Paul Kagame assumed power.

Role of France

- ◆ During the genocide, Western powers including the United States were blamed for their inaction which abetted the atrocities.
- ◆ France, which was then led by Socialist President François Mitterrand, gained notoriety after being accused of acting as a staunch ally of the Hutu-led government that ordered the killings.

- ◆ In June 1994, France deployed a much-delayed UN-backed military force in southwest Rwanda called Operation Turquoise– which was able to save some people, but was accused of sheltering some of the genocide’s perpetrators.
- ◆ Kagame’s RPF opposed the French mission.

Relations after Genocide

- ◆ Bilateral relations nosedived after the genocide, as leaders in Rwanda as well as elsewhere in Africa were infuriated by the role of France.
- ◆ Kagame drew his country – whose official language had been French ever since Belgian rule – away from France, and brought it closer to the US, China and the Middle East.
- ◆ Kagame also broke off relations with France at one point.
- ◆ In 2009, Rwanda also joined the Commonwealth of Nations, despite having no historical relations with the UK.

8. Rule 6(I) of the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954

Why in News?

- ◆ In an unprecedented order, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) invoked Rule 6(I) of the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954 to place the services of West Bengal chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay with the Government of India.

Background

- ◆ The order came hours after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee allegedly skipped a review meeting on Cyclone Yaas with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

What is Rule 6(1)?

- ◆ Rule 6(I) says that a cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State governments concerned and the Central government, be deputed for service under the Central government or another State government.
- ◆ It however adds, “provided that in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central government and the State government or State governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central government.”
- ◆ After the All India Services Act, 1951 came into existence, the IAS cadre rules were framed in 1954. The said rule on deputation giving more discretionary powers to the Centre was added in May 1969.



What has been the Practice so far?

- ◆ Before any officer of All India Services (AIS) is called for deputation to the Centre, his or her concurrence is required.
- ◆ The Establishment Officer in DoPT invites nominations from State governments. Once the nomination is received, their eligibility is scrutinised by a panel and then an offer list is prepared, traditionally done with the State government on board.
- ◆ Central Ministries and offices can then choose from the list of officers on offer.
- ◆ AIS officers are recruited by the Centre and they are lent to States.
- ◆ The publication of offer list on DoPT's website was discontinued by the government in 2018 amid reports that not many State government officers were willing to come to Centre for deputation.

In Case of Disagreement

- ◆ The All India Services (Discipline and

Appeal) Rules, 1969 are not clear on the punishment in such cases.

- ◆ But Rule 7 says the authority to institute proceedings and to impose penalty will be the State government while he or she was “serving in connection with the affairs of a State.”
- ◆ The case is peculiar as Mr. Badyopadhyay retires on May 31 and is not on deputation to the Central government. The Chief Minister can write to the Centre to reconsider its decision.
- ◆ The Centre may ask the State to conduct an enquiry or citing an exceptional case can order an enquiry on its own.
- ◆ The officer can take the plea that he was acting under the instructions of the Chief Minister.

Experts' Opinion

- ◆ The recent order is a “blatant misuse of power and an attempt to encroach on state's jurisdiction.”
- ◆ The order is not only “unprecedented” but also vindictive.

9. Monetary Assistance to Students under Mid-day Meal Scheme

Why in News?

- ◆ The Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance of 100 Rs. each to children studying in Class 1 to Class 8 in government schools, who are beneficiaries of the Mid Day Meal scheme.

Key Points

- ◆ The money, Rs.1200 crore in total, will be given to 11.8 crore children through direct benefit transfer as a one-time payment in the 11.20 lakh government and government aided schools across the country.
- ◆ The money comes from the cooking cost component of the mid day-meal scheme.
- ◆ The assistance is in addition to the Government of India's announcement of distribution of free-of-cost food grains at 5 kg per person per month to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY).

Cooking Cost Component

- ◆ The total Central allocation for the Mid Day Meal scheme in 2021-22 is Rs. 11,500 crore.
- ◆ It's largest component is cooking costs, which cover the prices of ingredients such as pulses, vegetables, cooking oil, salt, and condiments.
- ◆ Last year, the minimum allocation for cooking cost per child per day was set at Rs. 4.97 for Classes 1 to 5, and Rs. 7.45 for Classes 6 to 8, with the Centre paying 60% of the cost.



Significance

- ◆ This decision will help safeguard the nutritional levels of children and aid in protecting their immunity during the challenging pandemic times.

Related Issues

- ◆ Right to Food activists said this is insufficient to provide nutrition security. With approximately 200 school days, each child should be getting something like 900 Rs. - 1300 Rs. annually (as cooking cost component). All of last year, hardly any State did both — provide free grain and transfer these cooking costs. The government should transfer last year's arrears also.
- ◆ With schools being closed due to COVID-19, children are being given cash in lieu of the mid day meal in some places and dry rations in others. Either way, the quantities/amounts are too low to be even adequate for one nutritious meal a day.
- ◆ The amount is barely enough to meet the nutritional norms of the government (e.g., 20-30 gm of protein, 50-75 gm of vegetables). When this same amount is used to buy small quantities (for each child), parents will be able to purchase even less.

Other Suggestions

- ◆ Child activists have suggested enhanced take home rations, including eggs, vegetables, fruits, dal/chana, oil be given in order to ensure nutrition security.
- ◆ Child activists also urged the government to resume on-site feeding in a staggered manner in open spaces on school campuses, noting that providing dry rations and cash were a poor substitute for the hot meals usually given under the scheme.

About Mid-day Meal Scheme

- ◆ With a view to enhancing enrollment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th August 1995.
- ◆ In 2004, the scheme was relaunched as the Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- ◆ It guarantees a meal to all children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.
- ◆ Students up to Class VIII have guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.

10. China Expanded Influence in UN Bodies: Study

Why in News?

- ◆ According to a new study, China has taken numerous steps over the past decade to expand its influence in the United Nations (UN) and related bodies.

Key Highlights of the Study

- ◆ The study cited UN figures to show China's expanding influence has been enabled by the country's increased monetary contributions to the world body – its mandatory contributions as a UN member rose by 1,096% between 2010 and 2019, while voluntary donations increased by 346% from \$51 million in 2010 to \$172 million in 2019.
- ◆ The mandatory contributions and voluntary donations combined made China the fifth largest donor to the UN, with the country's total funding rising from \$190 million in 2010 to \$1.6 billion in 2019.
- ◆ At the same time, China increased its influence in crucial non-UN multilateral bodies and is now in a "dominant position" in several such organisations in terms of personnel and funding, including the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Impact of these Moves

- ◆ China's focus in these efforts has been on bodies that help set international standards in order to boost the fortunes of Chinese companies and to favour

Beijing's projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative.

- ◆ China directly heads four of 15 principal agencies of the UN – ITU, UNIDO, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) – and Chinese deputies are present in nine of these agencies, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and World Health Organization (WHO).
- ◆ The study noted ITU sets global standards for telecommunications, where China's Huawei is a major player. ITU also has Chinese representatives serving two terms. This ensures that Chinese national champions like Huawei and its standards become embedded and implemented by UN agencies engaged in development work in sparsely penetrated markets like the African continent, the Pacific, and South and Southeast Asia.
- ◆ The acceptance of blockchain standards for finance proposed at ITU by the People's Bank of China, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology and Huawei, reflecting China's efforts to supplant the West as standard setter.
- ◆ UNIDO was formed to encourage industrialisation in the developing world but its importance has waned as countries found it unhelpful, leaving China in charge. China immediately connected UNIDO to its Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI), which UNIDO now endorses.

- ◆ China's positioning at ICAO, which sets air navigation and safety standards, ensured that during the pandemic, Taiwan was excluded from all discussions – just as it was with the WHO, over which China has a disproportionate influence.
- ◆ China's participation in UN bodies has "grown more sophisticated over the years", with the country choosing "clusters of agencies to lead, whose work can be interwoven with and are interlinked to its own domestic agendas like 'Made in China 2025', and the rise of Chinese companies".

Response by Other Countries

- ◆ The US renegotiating the Postal Treaty in 2019 to increase stamp costs on post and mail originating from China.
- ◆ This was done after it was found it was cheaper to send a package from China to the US than between two destinations within the US.

Recommendations for India

- ◆ India can take to counter China's moves, including a more proactive role as a rule-maker, setting up and leading its own multilaterals such as the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, increasing voluntary contributions to agencies and bodies where it believes it can play a larger role, and sponsoring Indian nationals for influential policy positions in the UN system.

11. ECOWAS and Mali Crisis

Why in News?

- ◆ The 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are taking measures to solve Mali crisis.
- ◆ In recent move, Colonel Assimi Goita, Mali's coup leader and newly appointed interim president, has been summoned to an emergency meeting of West African leaders in Ghana.

Mali Crisis

- ◆ Nine months after overthrowing President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in the wake of mass anti-government protests, the army has detained President Bah Ndaw and Prime Minister Moctar Ouane just hours after the announcement of a new cabinet that excluded two key military leaders.
- ◆ For the second time in less than a year, Mali's military is back in power.
- ◆ Since 1960, when Mali gained independence from France, there have been five coups — and only one peaceful transition from one democratically elected president to another.
- ◆ The 2012 coup was a surprise because for 20 years, Mali had been viewed as a democratic model for emerging democracies and presidential elections were just weeks away. Since then, coups seem to have become commonplace.



About ECOWAS

- ◆ The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is made up of fifteen member countries that are located in the Western African region.
- ◆ It was established in 1975, with the signing of the Treaty of Lagos.
- ◆ These countries have both cultural and geopolitical ties and shared common economic interest.
- ◆ The Atlantic Ocean forms the western as well as the southern borders of the West African region. The northern border is the Sahara Desert, with the Ranishanu Bend generally considered the northernmost part of the region. The eastern border lies between the Benue Trough, and a line running from Mount Cameroon to Lake Chad.
- ◆ The 15 members are - Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote D'ivoire,

The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

- ◆ ECOWAS includes two sub-regional blocs:
 - ◆ The West African Economic and Monetary Union (also known by its French-language acronym UEMOA) is an organisation of eight, mainly French-speaking states.
 - ◆ Established in 1994 and intended to counterbalance the dominance of English-speaking economies in the bloc (such as Nigeria and Ghana).
 - ◆ The West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), established in 2000, comprises six mainly English-speaking countries within ECOWAS which plan to work towards adopting their own common currency, the eco.

GS Paper-3

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

1. National Statistical Office data on Indian Economy

Why in News?

- ◆ According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data, the Indian economy contracted by 7.3% against 4% expansion in 2019-20.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The fourth quarter of 2020-21 recorded a growth of 1.6% in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the second quarter of positive growth, after the country had entered a technical recession in the first half of the year.
- ◆ The given data is marginally better than the 8% contraction in the economy projected earlier. GDP growth in 2019-20, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was 4%.
- ◆ The Gross Value Added (GVA) recorded 3.7% growth in Q4, compared to 1% in Q3. GVA had contracted 22.4% and 7.3% in the first and second quarters of 2020-21.
- ◆ The GVA in India's economy shrank 6.2% in 2020-21, compared to a 4.1% rise in the previous year. Only two sectors bucked the trend of negative GVA growth - Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (which rose 3.6%) and Electricity, Gas, Water Supply and other Utility Services (up 1.9%).

- ◆ GVA from Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Broadcasting-related services recorded the sharpest decline of 18.2%, followed by Construction (-8.6%), Mining and quarrying (-8.5%) and Manufacturing (-7.2%).

- ◆ GDP had contracted 24.4% in the April to June 2020 quarter, followed by a 7.4% shrinkage in the second quarter. It had returned to positive territory in the September to December quarter with a marginal 0.5% growth.

- ◆ Fiscal deficit for 2020-21 was at 9.3 per cent of the GDP, lower than 9.5 per cent estimated by the Finance Ministry in the revised Budget estimates.

- ◆ The government has set a target to reduce the fiscal deficit this year to 6.8% of GDP.

GVA vs GDP

- ◆ There are two main ways in which the Central Statistics Office (CSO) estimates economic growth.
- ◆ One is from the supply side — that is, by mapping the value-added (in rupee terms) by the various sectors in the economy. The sectors are broadly divided into Agriculture, Industry



and Services, and all workers in the economy fall into one or the other category.

- ◆ The GDP is arrived at from the demand side. It is calculated by mapping the expenditure made by different categories of spenders. Broadly speaking, there are four sources of expenditure in an economy — namely, private consumption, government consumption, business investments, and net exports (exports minus imports).
- ◆ Typically, GDP is a good measure when you want to compare India with another economy, while GVA is better to compare different sectors within the economy. GVA is more important when looking at quarterly growth data, because quarterly GDP is arrived at by apportioning the observed GVA data into different spender categories.

2. Climate Breakthroughs Summit

Why in News?

- ◆ The Climate Breakthroughs Summit took place virtually on May 27, 2021.

About the Summit

- ◆ It is a collaboration between the World Economic Forum, Mission Possible Partnership, the United Nations Climate Champions, and the United Kingdom Climate Change Conference (COP26) Presidency.
- ◆ The Summit was organised in the backdrop of a Nature report, according to which, natural climate solutions have the potential to provide a third of the climate mitigation to reach a 1.5- or 2-degree pathway by 2030.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Climate leaders at the summit discussed progress in critical sectors of the global economy, including steel, shipping, green hydrogen as well as nature.
- ◆ One of its key campaigns is 'Race to Zero' campaign that mobilises support of 708 cities, 24 regions, 2,360 businesses, 163 investors, and 624 higher education institutions to move towards zero-carbon recovery for a sustainable future.
- ◆ According to a recent World Meteorological Organization report, there is a 40 per cent chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5 degrees Celsius in at least one of the next five years, and these odds will increase with time.
- ◆ Therefore, the United Nations made a call for coordinated action to secure global net-zero emissions and fulfill



its goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels by 2050.

- ◆ As many as 40 health care institutions worldwide have committed to halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050. These 40 institutions represent more than 3,000 health care facilities in 18 countries.
- ◆ The transitions of individual companies and institutions such as these are being supported by sector-wide plans, reflected in the revised Climate Action Pathways, also launched today with the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.
- ◆ The pathways set out sectoral visions for achieving a 1.5°C resilient world in 2050, providing a roadmap to help countries and non-State actors alike to identify actions needed by 2021, 2025, 2030 and 2040 to deliver a zero-carbon world in time.

About Race To Zero Campaign

- ◆ Race To Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon

recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.

- ◆ The UN-backed Race to Zero campaign is the largest ever alliance outside of national governments committed to halving global emissions by 2030 and delivering a zero-carbon world in line with the Paris Agreement.

About Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

- ◆ The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action supports implementation of the Paris Agreement by enabling collaboration between governments and the cities, regions, businesses and investors that must act on climate change.
- ◆ Its main objective is to strengthen collaboration between governments and key stakeholders to immediately lower emissions and increase resilience against climate impacts.
- ◆ These actions will be guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Odisha's Blackbuck Population

Why in News?

- ◆ According to the latest population census released recently by the chief conservator of forest (wildlife), Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years.

Key Highlights

- ◆ As per 2021 census, the antelopes numbered 7,358 compared to 2194 in 2011. It includes 4,196 females, 1,712 males and 1,450 young.
- ◆ The numbers were 6,875 in 2020, 4,082 in 2018, 3,806 in 2015 and 2,194 in 2011, according to official sources.

Blackbuck in Odisha

- ◆ Blackbucks are found only in the Ganjam district in the southern part of the state, which is where the census was carried out. It used to be sighted in the Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary in Puri district till 2012-13,



but now has vanished from the area.

- ◆ The blackbuck is known in Odisha and Ganjam as Krushnasara Mruga.
- ◆ The blackbuck is a Schedule-1 animal according to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended in 1992) and is considered as 'Vulnerable' according to the Red Data Book.
- ◆ The Blackbuck is a species of antelope native to India and Nepal. It

is widespread in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and other areas throughout peninsular India.

Reasons for the Increase

- ◆ Improvement of habitats, protection given by the local people and forest staff were some of the reasons for the increase of the population of the blackbuck in Ganjam.



Persons of the Week

Veer Savarkar



Laurence des Cars



Jawaharlal Nehru



Eric Carle



Penpa Tsering



Arun Kumar Mishra



Abdulla Shahid



1. Veer Savarkar

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to pioneering Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on his 138th birth anniversary.
- ◆ Savarkar was born in 1883 in Maharashtra, and is seen as a hero, especially to parties and organisations which subscribe to Hindutva views.
- ◆ In 1909, Ganesh opposed the Morley-Minto reforms of the British government. Savarkar also gathered

support for the movement but was later sentenced 50 years in jail for this.

- ◆ The former Hindu Mahasabha president was infamously incarcerated in the cellular jails of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, called Kala Pani, by the Britishers.
- ◆ In 2002, the airport in Andaman and Nicobar's capital city Port Blair was renamed after Veer Savarkar.



2. Laurence des Cars

- ◆ Art historian and curator Laurence des Cars has become the first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre – the world's largest art museum, based in Paris — in its 228-year history.
- ◆ The Louvre is home to the Mona Lisa, a classic that cultural organisations and

art lovers across the world would love to exhibit.

- ◆ The daughter of a journalist and a writer, and the granddaughter of the novelist Guy des Cars, Des Cars specialises in 19th and early 20th-century art.

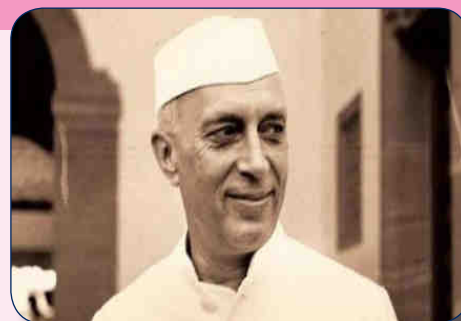


3. Jawaharlal Nehru

- ◆ Rahul Gandhi paid tribute to former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary.
- ◆ Jawaharlal Nehru was born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad.
- ◆ In 1919, he joined the Indian National Congress and worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi during India's

independence movement. He became the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee in September 1923.

- ◆ He was sworn in on August 15, 1947, as the first Prime Minister of India when the nation gained independence from the British empire.
- ◆ Serving till his death on May 27, 1964,



Jawaharlal Nehru remains India's longest-serving Prime Minister.

4. Eric Carle

- ◆ Eric Carle, the beloved children's author and illustrator whose classic "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and other works gave millions of kids some of their earliest and most

cherished literary memories, has died at age 91.

- ◆ The ladybug's journey in the picture book 'The Grouchy Ladybug' (1977) taught generations of young readers



not just the hierarchy in the food chain, or how day slowly progresses into night, but also the importance of exploring one's emotions to understand

the consequences of our actions.

- ◆ Carle was also the author of over 70 books for children that have sold more than 152 million copies worldwide.

These include 'The Tiny Seed' (1970), 'Do You Want to Be My Friend?' (1971), 'The Mixed-Up Chameleon' (1975), among others.

5. Penpa Tsering

- ◆ Penpa Tsering has been appointed as the new President, or Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration, the Dharamshala-based Tibetan government-in-exile.
- ◆ Penpa Tsering succeeded Lobsang Sangay. Penpa Tsering is the second democratically-elected Sikyong of the 17th Parliament-in-Exile of the Central Tibetan Administration.
- ◆ He was elected to the 12th and 13th Tibetan parliament-in-exile and served two terms as speaker from 2008-16.
- ◆ He was appointed to the North America Representative of the Dalai Lama in 2016 but removed a year later on charges of dereliction of duty after he levelled allegations of corruption against Sangay.



6. Arun Kumar Mishra

- ◆ Former Supreme Court judge Arun Kumar Mishra has been appointed the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- ◆ He was appointed judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court in October 1999. He later served as chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court and Calcutta High Court before being elevated to the Supreme Court on July 7, 2014.
- ◆ This is the first time in the body's 27-year history that the government would have formally appointed a chairman who had not served as chief justice of India, owing directly to a 2019 amendment by the Parliament that allowed a judge of the Supreme Court to be considered for the post.



7. Abdulla Shahid

- ◆ India has decided to vote in support of Maldives' Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid in the election of the President of the United Nations General Assembly. This time the UNGA head will be chosen from the Asia-Pacific grouping.
- ◆ Decision will disappoint Afghanistan, which has former Foreign Minister Zalmi Rassoul in the running.
- ◆ Asia-Pacific group of the UN consists of 53 Member States and is the second largest regional group by number of member states after the African Group.
- ◆ Its territory is composed of much of the continents of Asia and Oceania with the exception of a few countries.



Places of the Week

**China's Jiangsu
Province**



Cali



Rishiganga



**Kaziranga National Park
and Tiger Reserve**



UAE's Golden Visa



**Bhitarkanika
National Park**



Kerala



1. China's Jiangsu Province

- ◆ The first case of human infection from a particular bird flu strain known as H10N3 has been detected in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu.
- ◆ H10N3 is low pathogenic, which means it causes relatively less severe disease in poultry and is unlikely to cause a large-scale outbreak.
- ◆ In February, China reported an outbreak of H5N8 avian influenza in Lianyungang, a coastal city also in the eastern province of Jiangsu.
- ◆ H5N8 is a subtype of the Influenza A virus (also known as the bird flu virus).



2. Cali

- ◆ The Colombian army has tightened its control over Cali, the country's third largest city, after the latest anti-government protests left at least 13 people dead.
- ◆ Cali is the second-largest city in Colombia by area and the third most populous. It is the only major Colombian city with access to the Pacific Coast.
- ◆ Cali is located in the Cauca Valley to the west of the Cauca River.



3. Rishiganga

- ◆ Following reports that cracks had developed in the glaciers at the origin of Rishiganga in Chamoli, a team of scientists carried out an aerial survey and found nothing wrong.
- ◆ Rishiganga is a river in the Chamoli district, Uttarakhand. It springs from

the Uttari Nanda Devi Glacier on the Nanda Devi mountain. It is also fed from the Dakshini Nanda Devi Glacier.

- ◆ Continuing through the Nanda Devi National Park, it flows into the Dhauliganga River near the village Rini.



4. Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve

- ◆ The Assam government has approved a proposal to increase the firepower of the guards of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve and provide commando training to them. These measures are aimed at preventing poaching.
- ◆ Much of the focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga are focused on the 'big four' species— Rhino, Elephant, Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.
- ◆ The park was created in 1908 on the recommendation of Mary Curzon. The park is located on the borders of the Golaghat and Nagaon districts under the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot.
- ◆ It hosts two-thirds of the world's one-horned rhinoceros population.



5. UAE's Golden Visa

- ◆ Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt recently received his golden visa from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government.
- ◆ In 2019, the UAE implemented a new system for long-term residence visas, thereby enabling foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor and with 100 per cent ownership of their business.
- ◆ The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency (5 and

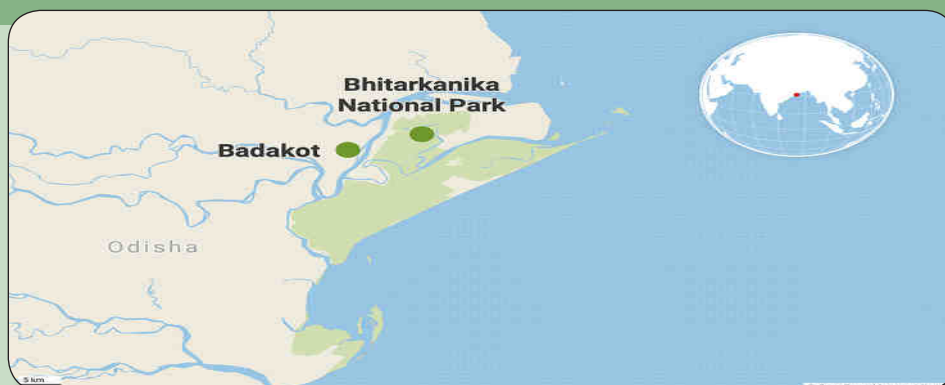


10 years) to people belonging to the following groups: investors, entrepreneurs, individuals with outstanding talents the likes of

researchers, medical professionals and those within the scientific and knowledge fields, and remarkable students.

6. Bhitarkanika National Park

- ◆ The Severe Cyclonic storm Yaas has left a trail of devastation at Bhitarkanika National Park.
- ◆ The park, located in Odisha, is famous for its mangroves, migratory birds, turtles, estuarine crocodiles, and countless creeks.
- ◆ It is India's second-largest mangrove forest and represented by three Protected Areas, the Bhitarkanika



National Park, the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

- ◆ Bhitarkanika is located in the estuary of Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Mahanadi river systems.

7. Kerala

- ◆ Kerala's 'Bell of Faith' scheme will be expanded to the villages to reach senior citizens staying alone.
- ◆ 'Bell of Faith' scheme, a safety project conceived under Kerala's Community Policing Scheme, was launched in 2018.
- ◆ It will help elderly citizens attract the attention of their neighbours using a loud, remote-controlled bell in emergencies.



International/National Days of the Week

World No Tobacco
Day 2021



Amnesty International
Day 2021



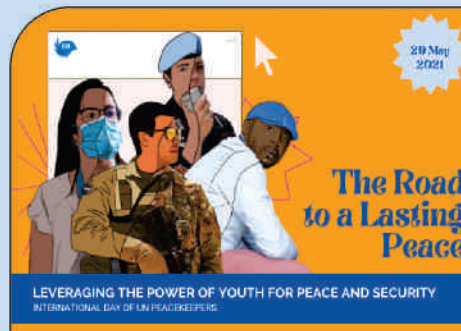
International Everest
Day 2021



Hindi Journalism
Day 2021



International Day of UN
Peacekeepers 2021



World Milk
Day 2021



World Bicycle
Day 2021



1. World No Tobacco Day 2021

- ◆ The World No Tobacco Day is observed every year on 31 May to make tobacco users aware of the opportunity to lead a healthier life.
- ◆ The aim of this day is to spread awareness about the dangers of using tobacco and how health problems can be tackled by doctors when one quits smoking.
- ◆ This year, the theme is 'Quit tobacco to be a winner'.
- ◆ The Member States of the World Health Organization created World No Tobacco Day in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes.
- ◆ In 1987, the World Health Assembly passed Resolution, calling for 7 April 1988 to be a "a world no-smoking day."
- ◆ In 1988, another resolution was



passed, calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on 31 May.

2. Amnesty International Day 2021

- ◆ Amnesty International Day is observed every year on May 28 with an aim to remind people about the value of human rights. The Day also promotes human rights and raise awareness of the abuses and its effects.
- ◆ Amnesty International is a non-governmental organisation focused on human rights with over three million members and supporters around the world.
- ◆ The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its "defence of human dignity against torture, and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.



3. International Everest Day 2021

- ◆ Mt. Everest Day is observed every year on May 29 in memory of the first summit of Mt. Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal on the day in 1953.
- ◆ The day was observed for the first time in 2008, the year Edmund Hillary died.
- ◆ Mount Everest attracts climbers, including highly experienced mountaineers, every year from across the globe.



- ◆ The British named it Mount Everest after Sir George Everest, a 19th-

century British surveyor of South Asia.

4. Hindi Journalism Day 2021

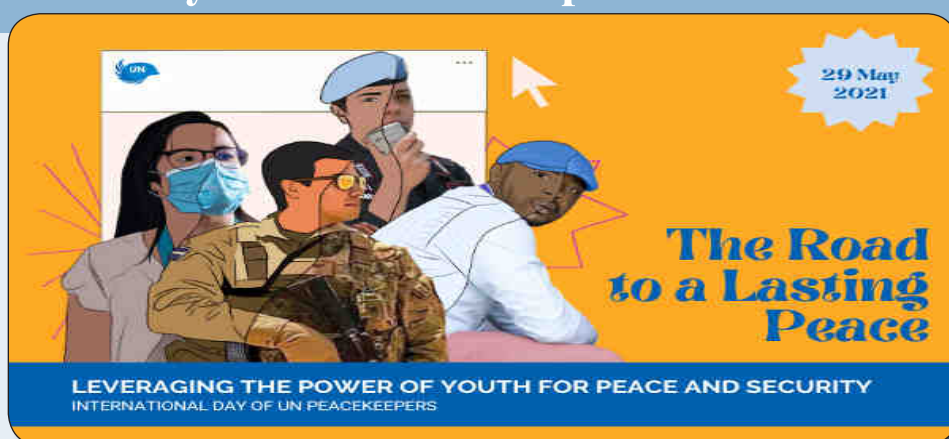
- ◆ May 30 is being celebrated as Hindi Journalism Day (Hindi Patrakarita Diwas) every year.
- ◆ On May 30, 1826, the first Hindi newspaper, Udan Martand, was published. Since then, this day is considered a historic day for Hindi journalism.



- ◆ Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla was the editor who started this newspaper.
- ◆ The newspaper played a vital role in creating awareness amongst the people during India's freedom struggle.

5. International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2021

- ◆ The United Nations has designated 29 May as the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
- ◆ The day aims to celebrate the contributions of civilian and uniformed personnel who perform the task of peacekeeping for the organisation.
- ◆ According to the official website, 130 UN peacekeepers lost their lives last year and 4,000 have died since 1948, when the UN peacekeeping mission began.
- ◆ In 1948, the UN sent its first peacekeeping mission called the United Nations Truce Supervision



Organization (UNTSO) which started functioning in Palestine.

- ◆ UNTSO started its operation in Palestine on 29 May. Therefore, this day was selected as the International

Day of UN Peacekeepers.

- ◆ The theme of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2021 is "The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security".

6. World Milk Day 2021

- ◆ The World Milk Day is observed every year on 1 June to recognise the importance of milk as a global food.
- ◆ The World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in 2001.
- ◆ The date, 1 June was chosen because

many countries were observing the milk day during that time of the year.

- ◆ Amid the pandemic, World Milk Day 2021 will be celebrated with a theme focusing on 'Sustainability in the dairy sector along with empowering the environment, nutrition, and socio-economic'.



7. World Bicycle Day 2021

- ◆ World Bicycle Day is observed on June 3 every year to highlight the importance of cycling tradition and its significant role in keeping our health and planet fit.
- ◆ The United Nations (UN) declared June 3 as World Bicycle Day, citing its uniqueness, versatility, affordability, reliability and eco-friendliness.
- ◆ The first time the International Bicycle Day was celebrated was three years back in the year 2018.



Brain Boosters

01

'D-voter' or Doubtful Voter

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The last 'D-voter' or doubtful voter has walked out of one of six detention centres in Assam, leaving about 170 more similarly marked people to be released from the other five.



2. Background

- ◆ Manindra Das was marked a 'D-voter' in 2015 and later declared a “foreigner” in a one-sided decision by a Foreigners’ Tribunal in 2019.
- ◆ He was lodged in the detention centre within Silchar Central Jail in southern Assam’s Barak Valley.

3. Who is a D- Voter?

- ◆ D- voter is the acronym used for ‘doubtful voter’.
- ◆ Those persons whose citizenship was doubtful or was under dispute were categorized as ‘D- Voters’ during the preparation of National Register of Citizens in Assam.
- ◆ This category was introduced in 1997 at the time EC was revising the state’s voter list.
- ◆ 'Doubtful voter' or ‘doubtful citizenship’ have not been defined in the Citizenship Act, 1955 or the Citizenship Rules of 2003.
- ◆ Once a family or an individual is marked as doubtful citizen (D-Category), they are then informed in a specified pro forma as soon as the verification process comes to an end.
- ◆ They are also given a chance to be heard by Sub- district or Taluk Registrar of Citizen Registration before arriving at a final decision on whether their name will be included in the register. The Registrar has time of 90 days to finalize his findings and justify it.

4. Who is a Foreigner?

- ◆ A declared foreigner, or DF, is a person marked by any of the 100 Foreigners’ Tribunals (FTs) in Assam for allegedly failing to prove their citizenship after the State police’s Border wing marks him or her as an illegal immigrant.

5. Foreigners’ Tribunals

- ◆ Foreigners’ Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established as per the Foreigners’ Tribunal Order, 1964 and the Foreigners’ Act, 1946.
- ◆ It is for those who have been left out in the final NRC list or have been marked as ‘D’ meaning ‘doubtful’.
- ◆ The ones falling under this category have the right to appeal to the Foreigners Tribunal.
- ◆ Under the provisions of Foreigners’ Act, 1946 and Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964, only Foreigner Tribunals have the right to declare a person as a foreigner.
- ◆ The Ministry of Home Affairs has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
- ◆ Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.

02

Monoclonal Antibodies

1. Why in News?

- ◆ India is facing shortages of the two monoclonal antibody therapies — Itolizumab and Tocilizumab.



2. What are Monoclonal Antibodies?

- ◆ Monoclonal antibodies are artificially created antibodies that aim to aid the body's natural immune system.
- ◆ They target a specific antigen — a protein from the pathogen that induces immune response.
- ◆ These can be created in the lab by exposing white blood cells to a particular antigen.
- ◆ In the case of Covid-19, scientists usually work with the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which facilitates the entry of the virus into the host cell.
- ◆ In a healthy body, the immune system is able to create antibodies — tiny Y-shaped proteins in our blood that recognise microbial enemies and bind to them, signalling the immune system to then launch an attack on the pathogen.

3. COVID-19 and Monoclonal Antibodies

- ◆ Since the emergence of Covid-19, multiple treatment strategies and protocols are being used to curb the prevalence of the virus, including neutralizing monoclonal antibodies cocktail drug, casirivimab and imdevimab.
- ◆ Casirivimab and imdevimab are monoclonal antibodies mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses.

4. History

- ◆ The idea of delivering antibodies to treat a disease dates as far back as the 1900s, when Nobel-prize winning German immunologist Paul Ehrlich proposed the idea of a 'Zauberkegel' (magic bullet), a compound which selectively targets a pathogen.
- ◆ From then, it took eight decades of research to finally arrive at Muromonab-CD3, the world's first monoclonal antibody to be approved for clinical use in humans.
- ◆ Muromonab-CD3 is an immunosuppressant drug given to reduce acute rejection in patients with organ transplants.

03

MPLAD Scheme

1. Why in News?

- ◆ Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to restart the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme and make MPLAD funds available to MPs.



5. Criticism

- ◆ The criticism has been on two broad grounds.
- ◆ First, that it is inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution as it co-opts legislators into executive functioning.
- ◆ The workload on MPs created by the scheme diverted their attention from holding the government accountable and other legislative work.
- ◆ The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000) and the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, headed by Veerappa Moily (2007), recommended discontinuation of the scheme.
- ◆ In 2010, the Supreme Court held that the scheme was constitutional.
- ◆ The second criticism stems from allegations of corruption associated with allocation of works.
- ◆ The Comptroller and Auditor General has on many occasions highlighted gaps in implementation.

2. Background

- ◆ In April 2020, the government suspended the MPLAD Scheme so that these funds would be available for its COVID-19 management efforts.

3. What is the MPLAD Scheme?

- ◆ The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a programme first launched during the Narasimha Rao Government in 1993, aimed towards providing funds for developmental works recommended by individual MPs.
- ◆ The MPs were entitled to recommend works to the tune of Rs 1 crore annually between 1994-95 and 1997-98, after which the annual entitlement was enhanced to Rs 2 crore.
- ◆ The UPA government in 2011-12 raised the annual entitlement to Rs 5 crore per MP.
- ◆ Under MPLAD Scheme, MPs can recommend development programmes involving spending of Rs 5 crore every year in their respective constituencies.
- ◆ MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including nominated ones, can do so.
- ◆ States have their version of this scheme with varying amounts per MLA.
- ◆ Delhi has the highest allocation under MLALAD; each MLA can recommend works for up to Rs 10 crore each year.
- ◆ In Punjab and Kerala, the amount is Rs 5 crore per MLA per year; in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, it is Rs 2 crore; in Uttar Pradesh, it was recently increased from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore.

4. How does the Scheme Work?

- ◆ MPs and MLAs do not receive any money under these schemes.
- ◆ The government transfers it directly to the respective local authorities. The legislators can only recommend works in their constituencies based on a set of guidelines.
- ◆ The guidelines lay down a number of development works, including construction of railway halt stations, providing financial assistance to recognised educational bodies, cooperative societies, bar associations, installing CCTV cameras, and rainwater harvesting systems,
- ◆ The MPLADS funds can be merged with other schemes such as MGNREGA and Khelo India.

04

Attack on Gaza may Constitutes War Crimes

1. Why in News?

- ◆ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has said that Israel's deadly strikes on Gaza may constitute war crimes, and that the Hamas Islamist group had also violated international humanitarian law by firing rockets into Israel.



2. Background

- ◆ The office of United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has verified the deaths of 270 Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including 68 children, during violence this month.
- ◆ Hamas rockets had killed 10 Israelis and residents.

3. What are War Crimes?

- ◆ According to the United Nations, a war crime is a serious breach of international law committed against civilians or “enemy combatants” during an international or domestic armed conflict.
- ◆ A war crime occurs when superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering is inflicted upon an enemy. In spite of the outrage caused by the bombing of a school or a country’s TV station, such actions do not necessarily amount to war crimes. Such bombing will only be a war crime if the extent of civilian casualties resulting from the attack is excessive compared to the military advantage gained from the attack.
- ◆ In contrast with genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes have to occur in the context of armed conflict.

4. Geneva Conventions

- ◆ The meaning of war crimes was clarified in the four 1949 Geneva Conventions.
- ◆ Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention defines war crimes as “wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including ... wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person ... taking of hostages and extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly”.
- ◆ The Geneva Conventions established that states could exercise jurisdiction over such crimes.
- ◆ Over recent decades, international courts such as the Yugoslavia Tribunal and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have exercised jurisdiction over individuals accused of war crimes.
- ◆ The Rome Statute of the ICC expanded the list of crimes that constitutes war crimes. The statute, for example, recognises forced pregnancy as a war crime.

05

"Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme" and "Oxy Van" (Oxygen Forests) in Haryana

1. Why in News?

- On the occasion of World Environment Day, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced unique and first of its kind initiatives "Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme", and "Oxy Van" (Oxygen Forests) to avoid shortage of oxygen in future.



2. Background

- Amid the ongoing pandemic, several states including Haryana witnessed a crisis of medical oxygen that was needed for severely ill COVID-19 patients.

3. About "Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme"

- The state government has taken an initiative to honour all those trees which are of the age of 75 years and above and have served humanity throughout their life by producing oxygen, reducing pollution, providing shade and so on.
- Such trees will be identified throughout the state and these will be looked after by involving local people in this scheme.
- For maintenance of trees older than 75 years, a "pension amount" of Rs 2,500 would be given per year in the name of PVDPS to the village panchayats.
- This 'tree pension' shall continue to increase every year, on lines similar to the Old Age Samman Pension Scheme in the state.
- According to state government officials, at least 2,500 such trees have been identified so far.

4. About "Oxy Van" (Oxygen Forests)

- Oxy Van are identified pieces of land, on which as many as 3 crore trees would be planted. For this, Oxy Forests will be planted on land ranging from 5 acres to 100 acres in the cities of Haryana.
- The Oxy Vans will occupy 10 per cent of the 8 lakh hectares of land across Haryana.
- The park will also have an information centre and a souvenir shop, and people will be able to buy plants at subsidized rates related to their Rashi (zodiac sign) to grow in their homesteads.

5. Types of Van

- Chit Van:** It will contain ornamental and flowering plants like the Orchid Tree (Kachnar), Indian Laburnum (Amaltas), Pride of India, Red silk cotton tree (Semal), among others.
- Pakhi Van:** It will house plants like Peepal, Banyan, Pilkhan, Neem etc.
- Antriksh Van:** It will have "luck-boosting" plants like Flame of the Forest (Palash/Dhak), Jackfruit, Cluster Fig (Gullar), Amla, Krishan Neel, Champa, Khair, Bilwa, etc.
- Arogya Van:** It will have medicinal plants like Tulsi, Ashwagandha, Neem, Aloe Vera, Harad, Baheda, etc.
- Sugandh Vatika:** It will contain fragrant plants like Sugadhraj, Chameli, Night Queen, Day King, Night-blooming Jasmine (Parijaat), etc.
- Panchvati:** Panchvati literally means five trees. These trees are Banyan/Barh/Bargad, Sacred Fig/Peepal, Stone Apple (Bilwa/Bil), Aonla, and Sita Ashok.

06

Mekedatu Project

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a joint committee to look into allegations of unauthorised construction activity taking place in Mekedatu, where the Karnataka government had proposed to construct a dam across the Cauvery River.

2. Key Highlights

- ◆ NGT has also directed the panel to submit a report on or before July 5.
- ◆ The NGT also directed the joint committee to assess the damage caused to the environment in case of any construction made and determine the compensation payable by the respective authorities who are responsible.
- ◆ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Department of Forests, State of Karnataka will be the nodal agency for coordination and for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.



3. About the Project

- ◆ Being set up by the Karnataka government, the project is near Mekedatu, in Ramanagaram district, across the river Cauvery from Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ Mekedatu, meaning goat's leap, is a deep gorge situated at the confluence of the rivers Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi.
- ◆ Its primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and recharge the groundwater table in the region.

4. Tamil Nadu vs Karnataka

- ◆ According to the Tamil Nadu government, the project is violating the final award of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal, and that the "construction of the two reservoirs would result in impounding of the flows in the intermediate catchment below the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini reservoirs, and Billigundulu in the common border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ While, Karnataka government said that the project will not come in the way of releasing the stipulated quantum of water to Tamil Nadu, nor will it be used for irrigation purposes.

07

Germany and Genocide in Namibia

1. Why in News?

- ◆ Germany for the first time has recognised that it committed genocide against the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia during its colonial rule over a century ago.



2. What was the Herero and Nama Genocide?

- ◆ Between 1884 and 1890, Germany formally colonised parts of present-day Namibia — a territory which was roughly twice as large as the European nation, but not as densely populated.
- ◆ By 1903, around 3,000 German settlers had occupied the central high ground of the region.
- ◆ Between 1904 and 1908, German colonial settlers killed tens of thousands of men, women and children from the Herero and Nama tribes after they rebelled against colonial rule in what was then called German South West Africa.
- ◆ The Germans continued to rule the region till 1915, following which it fell under South Africa's control for 75 years. Namibia finally gained independence in 1990.
- ◆ While Germany has previously acknowledged the atrocities, they refused to pay direct reparations for many years.

3. Impact on Relations

- ◆ The atrocities committed in what was then known as German South West Africa have been described by some historians as the first genocide of the 20th century.
- ◆ Since 2015, however, the two countries have been negotiating an agreement in an attempt to “heal the wounds” of the past. This was meant to combine an official apology by Germany as well as some sort of financial package.
- ◆ In August that year, Namibia rejected the reparations offered by Germany, claiming that their offer was “unacceptable”.
- ◆ Germany was also reluctant to use the term “reparations” to describe the financial aid they were planning to provide.
- ◆ In 2018, as a gesture of goodwill, Germany returned the human remains of some Herero and Nama tribe members, which were used during the colonial-era in experiments to assert the superiority of the European race.
- ◆ Finally in May 2021, Germany acknowledged the killings as genocide. Germany also promised financial support of over a billion euros to the Southern African nation.

4. What's Next?

- ◆ A declaration will be ratified by the parliaments of both countries. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier is expected to officially apologize for Germany's crimes in front of the Namibian Parliament.
- ◆ Germany's financial package worth 1.1 billion euros will be paid separately to existing aid programmes in the country over the next three decades.
- ◆ A majority of the total sum will go towards projects relating to land reform, rural infrastructure, water supply and professional training.
- ◆ The descendants of Herero and Nama tribes are heavily involved in these developmental projects.
- ◆ Meanwhile, around 50 million euros has been reserved for cultural projects and youth exchange programmes between the two countries, to help build bridges.

Self Assessment (Objective Questions)



1. Southwest Monsoon

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Southwest Monsoon':

1. The onset of the monsoon over Andhra Pradesh marks the beginning of the southwest monsoon season over India.
2. El Nino, La Nina, positive and negative IOD are believed to have an influence over the Indian monsoon.

3. El Nino and La Nina are associated with the heating and cooling of the equatorial Indian Ocean respectively.

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

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

Ans: (c)

2. India on UNHRC Resolution on Gaza Violence

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. In 1975, India became the first non-Arab country to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.
2. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

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

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

Ans: (c)

3. It's Time to Define Limits of Sedition: Supreme Court

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code is referred to as the sedition law.
2. The word "sedition" itself is, however, not mentioned in the IPC section.
3. The sedition law was introduced in India in 1900 by

Thomas Macaulay.

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

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

Ans: (b)

4. India and Maldives on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Urban Development

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the India-Maldives relations:

1. India has opened its first Consulate General in Addu City of the Maldives.
2. In 2020, Maldives received highest financial assistance through SAGAR Vision of India.

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

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

Ans: (a)

5. SCO Forum on People-to-People Friendship

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The 2021 summit of SCO Forum on People-to-People Friendship was hosted by India.
2. Russia holds the chairmanship of SCO for 2021-22.

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

Ans: (d)

6. PM-CARES for Children

Q. With reference to the PM-CARES for Children' scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It will contribute through a specially designed scheme to create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age.
2. All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs.

3. The premium amount for these children till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM-CARES.

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

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

Ans: (d)

7. The Concept of 'Anticipatory Bail'

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Only Supreme Court of India have the discretion to grant protection from arrest to accused even while denying them anticipatory bail.
2. Supreme Court is given powers to grant anticipatory bail to the accused because of the premium that the Constitution

places on the right to liberty guaranteed under Article 21 and 22.

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

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

Ans: (d)

8. Rwanda Genocide

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rwandan Genocide:

1. The government of Germany has acknowledged its overwhelming responsibility in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.
2. The Rwandan genocide was the culmination of long-

running ethnic tensions between the minority Tutsi community and the majority Hutu.

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

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

Ans: (b)

9. Rule 6(I) of the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules:

1. Rule 6(I) says that a cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State governments concerned and the Central government, be deputed for service under the Central government or another State government.

2. It however adds, "provided that in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central government.

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

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

Ans: (c)

10. Monetary Assistance to Students under Mid-day Meal Scheme

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Central government will provide monetary assistance of 100 Rs. each to children studying in Class 1 to Class 8 in government schools, who are beneficiaries of the Mid Day Meal scheme.

2. The money will come from the PM-CARES Fund.

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

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

Ans: (a)

11. China Expanded Influence in UN Bodies: Study

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The mandatory contributions and voluntary donations combined made China the third largest donor to the United Nations.
2. In 2020, China was elected the chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board.

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

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

Ans: (d)

12. ECOWAS and Mali Crisis

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is made up of fifteen member countries that are located in the Eastern African region.
2. The Atlantic Ocean forms the western as well as the southern borders of the East African region.

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

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

Ans: (d)

13. National Statistical Office data on Indian Economy

Q. With reference to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian economy has contracted by 7.3% against 4% expansion in 2019-20.
2. Fiscal deficit for 2020-21 was at 9.3 per cent of the GDP, lower than 9.5 per cent estimated by the Finance Ministry in the revised Budget estimates.

3. The government has set a target to reduce the fiscal deficit this year to 6.8% of GDP.

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

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

Ans: (d)

14. Climate Breakthroughs Summit

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Race To Zero is committed to halving global emissions by 2030 and delivering a zero-carbon world in line with the Paris Agreement.
2. Race To Zero campaign was launched by United Nations

Environment Programme.

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

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

Ans: (a)

15. Odisha's Blackbuck Population

Q. With reference to the Odisha's blackbuck population, consider the following statements:

1. The blackbuck is known in Odisha and Ganjam as Krushnasara Mruga.
2. As per 2021 census, the population of blackbuck has increased from 2194 to 7358.

3. Blackbuck is considered as 'endangered' according to the IUCN Red Data Book.

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

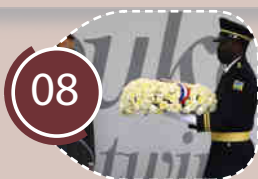
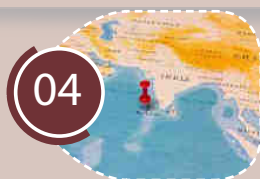
- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)



Self Assessment (Subjective Questions)





- 01 What does the 'Onset of Monsoon' mean? Does a delayed monsoon mean a poor monsoon in India?
- 02 Highlights the key points of Indian policy on Israel - Palestine conflict.
- 03 "It is time to define the limits of sedition- Supreme Court." Elaborate.
- 04 Discuss the importance of Maldives in Indo-Pacific Security Space in South Asia.
- 05 Write a short note on "Shanghai Spirit".
- 06 Discuss the key features of 'PM-CARES for Children' Scheme'.
- 07 Critically discuss the concept of 'anticipatory bail' in Indian context.
- 08 Discuss the politics and history behind France seeking 'forgiveness' from Rwanda for 1994 genocide.
- 09 What is Rule 6(I) of the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954? Discuss the recent controversy related to it.
- 10 Critically examine the rationale behind the proposal of government to provide monetary assistance of 100 Rs. each to children studying in Class 1 to Class 8 in government schools, who are beneficiaries of the Mid Day Meal scheme.
- 11 "China has taken numerous steps over the past decade to expand its influence in the United Nations (UN) and related bodies." Elaborate.
- 12 Write a short note on role of ECOWAS in solving Mali crisis.
- 13 What is the difference between Gross Value Added and Gross Domestic Product.
- 14 Write a short note on Race to Zero' campaign.
- 15 Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years. Discuss the reasons behind it.

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

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

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