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PERFECT

7

Weekly Current Affairs

June 2021 | ISSUE 03



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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
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Issues of the Week

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GS Paper-1

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

1. Raja Parba Festival of Odisha

Why in News?

- ◆ Raja Parba, a 3-day festival celebrating womanhood was celebrated across Odisha.

History

- ◆ Raja Day is celebrated in honour of Mother Earth and as an extension of all women in the state of Odisha. This day is based on the historical belief that mother earth (Bhuma Devi) menstruates for three days, the land of Odisha should be free from any agricultural activity like ploughing or sowing since mother earth is expected to be going through a rejuvenation.
- ◆ The term Raja has come from Rajaswala (meaning a menstruating woman) and during the medieval period the festival became more popular as an agricultural holiday remarking the

worship of Bhudevi, who is the wife of Lord Jagannath.

Key Points

- ◆ Raja festival is a three-pronged festival in celebration of women in Odisha. The first day of the festival is called Pahili Raja, the second is termed Mithuna Sankranti and the third Bhu Daha or Basi Raja.
- ◆ On the first day, they believe it is a time for unmarried girls to prepare for their matrimony. On Pahili Raja Day the girls consume nutritious food like Podapitha and swing on ropes attached to a tree in celebration of this day. Walking barefoot is also not encouraged on this day.
- ◆ On Mithuna Sankranti, people offer their prayers to the Sun god (Surya Bhagwan) for a balanced rainfall.



- ◆ The festival ends with a custom called Vasumati Snana or the bathing of mother Earth (Bhuma Devi). On this day, Women give mother Earth's stone sculpture a bath with turmeric paste and offer her flowers and smear her with Sindoor.
- ◆ The festival also signifies the end of summer and the beginning of the monsoon in the state of Odisha.

2. Tulu Language

Why in News?

- ◆ Various organisations initiated a Twitter campaign demanding official language status to Tulu in Karnataka and Kerala.

History

- ◆ Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala.

- ◆ Some scholars suggest Tulu is among the earliest Dravidian languages with a history of 2000 years.
- ◆ Robert Caldwell (1814-1891), in his book, A Comparative Grammar of the

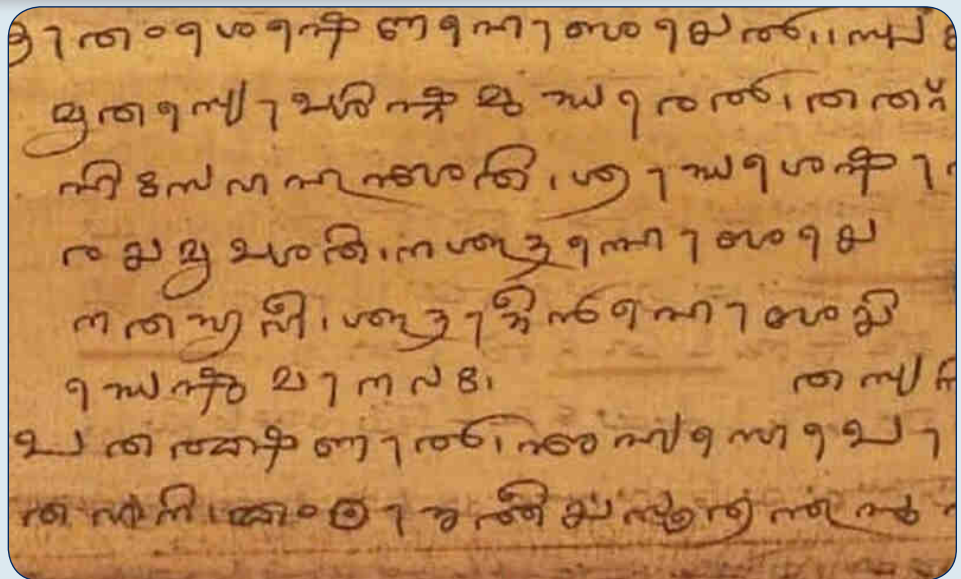
Dravidian or South-Indian Family of Languages, called Tulu “one of the most highly developed languages of the Dravidian family”.

Contribution in Art and Cinema

- ◆ Tulu has a rich oral literature tradition with folk-song forms like paddana, and traditional folk theatre yakshagana.
- ◆ Tulu also has an active tradition of cinema with around 5 to 7 Tulu language movies produced a year.
- ◆ Tulu films are being screened every day in Mangaluru and Udupi in at least one theatre.

Present Status

- ◆ At present, Tulu is not an official language in the country.
- ◆ If included in the eighth schedule, Tulu would get recognition from the Sahitya Akademi.
- ◆ Tulu are confined to the above-mentioned regions of Karnataka and Kerala, informally known as Tulu Nadu.



- ◆ As per the 2011 Census report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.

Demand of Tulu Speakers

- ◆ The Tulu speakers, mainly in Karnataka and Kerala, have been requesting the governments to give it official language status and include it in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.
- ◆ Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani,

Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri are the 22 languages presently in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.

- ◆ Last year, ‘Jai Tulunad’ conducted an online campaign demanding to include Tulu in the new National Education Policy (NEP).

GS Paper-2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

3. G7 Summit

Why in News?

- ◆ The G7 (Group of Seven) summit in the UK ended with pledges on COVID-19, tax and the environment.

Key Takeaways

- ◆ The leaders of the G7 countries ended a three-day summit with a diverse set of initiatives, including a pledge to vaccinate poorer countries against the coronavirus, a promise to make large corporations pay their fair share of taxes and a plan to tackle climate change with a blend of technology and money.
- ◆ **Corona Vaccine**
 - i. The G7 leaders pledged to deliver an additional 870 million vaccine doses for the developing world on top of the 250 million already promised by the US and 100 million from the UK. Deliveries will take place over the next year.
 - ii. Many of the promised doses will flow through COVAX, a global vaccine buying system backed by the World Health Organization and Gavi, the vaccine alliance.
 - iii. The G7 also urged China to cooperate with the UN health agency on a “transparent” second-

phase probe into the origins of the global coronavirus pandemic.

- ◆ **Climate Change**

- i. G7 leaders pledged to phase out coal-fired power generation at home and to end funding for new coal-burning power plants in the developing world. The leaders committed to offering developing nations \$2.8 billion to help them switch to cleaner fuels.
- ii. The summit also promised to make good on a pledge, first made in 2009, to “to jointly mobilize \$100 billion per year from public and private sources, through to 2025” to developing countries to help them tackle the impact of climate change.

- ◆ **Tax on Multinational Corporations**

- i. The summit agreed measures to dissuade multinational companies from shifting profits to low tax havens. G7 Leaders signed up to levy a minimum 15% corporate tax rate. The proposal will now go to G20 nations meeting in Italy next month.
- ii. G7 Leaders also moved to help protect the global financial system from the impact of climate change by agreeing rules to

require companies and financial institutions to disclose the extent to which their business is exposed to climate change risks.

- ◆ **Russia and Cyberattacks**

- i. G7 leaders have demanded Russia take action against those conducting cyberattacks and using ransomware, and called for an investigation into the use of chemical weapons on Russian soil.

- ◆ **War in Ethiopia**

- i. The G7 also called for an immediate end to hostilities in Ethiopia’s Tigray region.
- ii. Fighting broke out in the region in November between government troops and the region’s former ruling party, the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF). Troops from neighbouring Eritrea also entered the conflict to support the Ethiopian government.

- ◆ **Challenge to China**

- i. The leaders will work together to challenge China’s “non-market economic practices” and to call on Beijing to respect human rights in Xinjiang and Hong Kong.
- ii. The leaders also said they will promote their values by calling on

China to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Xinjiang, where Beijing is accused of committing serious human rights abuses against the Uighur minority, and in the semi-autonomous city of Hong Kong.

Introduction

- ◆ The UK is holding the presidency of the G7 for 2021.
- ◆ The theme for the summit was 'Build Back Better'.

About G7

- ◆ The G7 is an organisation of the world's

seven largest so-called advanced economies. They are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States.

- ◆ Russia joined in 1998, creating the G8, but was excluded in 2014 for its takeover of Crimea.

4. China's Dominance in Rare Earth Minerals

Why in News?

- ◆ Beijing's dominance in rare earth minerals, key to the future of manufacturing, is a cause for concern for the United States (U.S.) and Europe.

What are Rare Earth Metals?

- ◆ The rare earth elements (REE) are a set of seventeen metallic elements. These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table plus scandium and yttrium.
- ◆ Rare earth elements are an essential part of many high-tech devices.
- ◆ Rare earth minerals with names like neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium are crucial to the manufacture of magnets used in industries of the future like wind turbines and electric cars. And they are already present in consumer goods such as smartphones, computer screens and telescopic lenses.
- ◆ Others have more traditional uses, like cerium for glass polishing and lanthanum for car catalysts or optical lenses.

Dependence on China

- ◆ China today controls nearly 90% of global rare earth production.

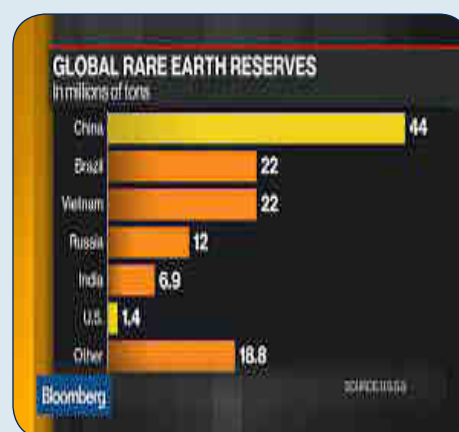
- ◆ According to the U.S. Geological Survey, in 2019, the U.S. imported 80% of its rare earth minerals from China.
- ◆ While, according to the European Commission, the European Union (EU) received 98% of its supply from China.
- ◆ Therefore, China's market dominance is enough to sound an alarm for western countries.

Counter Measures

- ◆ The US Senate passed a law aimed at improving American competitiveness that includes provisions to improve critical minerals supply chains.
- ◆ The US is also aims to boost production and processing of rare earths and lithium, another key mineral component.
- ◆ European countries will also present an "action plan" to the European Commission on how to boost production.

India's Position

- ◆ India has the world's fifth-largest reserves of rare earth elements, nearly twice as much as Australia, but it imports most of its rare earth needs



in finished form from its geopolitical rival, China.

- ◆ With adjustments to the existing policy, India could emerge as a rare earths supplier to the world and use these resources to power a high-end manufacturing economy geared to the needs of the 21st century.
- ◆ The key challenge for India today is to scale up upstream and downstream processes in the rare earths value chain.
- ◆ The best move forward might be to create a new Department for Rare Earths (DRE) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, drawing on its exploration, exploitation, refining, and regulation capabilities.
- ◆ This DRE should oversee policy formulation and focus on attracting investment and promoting R&D.

5. Draft Master Plan for Delhi 2041

Why in News?

- ◆ The Delhi Development Authority has given its preliminary approval to the draft Master Plan for Delhi 2041.
- ◆ The current master plan of Delhi — Master Plan 2021 — expires this year.

What is Master Plan?

- ◆ A master plan of any city is like a vision document by the planners and the land-owning agency of the city, which gives a direction to the future development.
- ◆ It includes analysis, recommendations, and proposals keeping in mind the population, economy, housing, transportation, community facilities, and land use.

Key Focus Areas of Master Plan

- ◆ The draft of the Master Plan for Delhi seeks to “foster a sustainable, liveable and vibrant Delhi by 2041”.
- ◆ The Master Plan 2041 aims to develop common community spaces to provide refuge spots, common kitchens and quarantine space in an emergency.
- ◆ **Housing Sector**
 - i. In the housing sector, it talks about incentivising rented accommodation by inviting private players and government agencies to invest more, keeping in mind the large migrant population.
 - ii. It addresses parking problems and suggests a ‘user pays’ principle, which means users of all personal motor vehicles, except for non-motorised ones, have to pay for authorised parking facilities, spaces and streets.



◆ Environmental Pollution

- i. The draft plan aims to minimise vehicular pollution through key strategies, including a switch to greener fuels for public transport and adoption of mixed-use of transit-oriented development (TOD).
- ii. It also addresses improving the quality of water, which is taken from the Yamuna river as well as various lakes, natural drains and baolis.
- iii. The draft lays a clear boundary of the buffer zone near the Yamuna river and explores how to develop it. As per the plan, a green buffer of 300-metre width shall be maintained wherever feasible along the entire edge of the river.

◆ Nighttime Economy

- i. To improve the nighttime economy, the plan focused on cultural festivals, bus entertainment, metro, sports facilities, and retail stores included in Delhi Development Authority (DDA)'s Night Life Circuit plan.

◆ Airborne Epidemics

- i. The plan proposed to reduce vulnerability to airborne epidemics through decentralised workspaces, mandatory creation of open areas, better habitat design and green-rated developments to reduce dependence on mechanical ventilation systems.

Challenges

- ◆ The plan may face challenges like confrontation from political wings, lack of resources and funds, corruption in different departments, lack of political and bureaucratic will and multiplicity of agencies.
- ◆ For instance, despite talks of increasing surface parking, removing junk vehicles, imposing fines for dumping debris, garbage burning, and segregation of waste, a lot of these things could never be implemented.
- ◆ In some cases like, increasing parking or increasing its charges, there is resistance from politicians due to vote-bank politics.
- ◆ In other cases, lack of funds and improper implementation mar the projects.

6. Naga Peace Agreement

Why in News?

- ◆ The Nagaland government has decided to institute a committee comprising Opposition leaders to pursue the lingering Naga peace agreement and the Naga political issue with the Centre.
- ◆ The panel will be headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

Introduction

- ◆ The talks seek to settle disputes that date back to colonial rule. The Nagas are not a single tribe, but an ethnic community that comprises several tribes who live in the state of Nagaland and its neighbourhood.
- ◆ One key demand of Naga groups has been a Greater Nagalim that would cover not only the state of Nagaland but parts of neighbouring states, and even of Myanmar.
- ◆ The British had annexed Assam in 1826, in which they subsequently created the Naga Hills district and went on to extend its boundaries.
- ◆ The earliest sign of Naga resistance dates back to 1918, with the formation of the Naga Club. In 1929, the Club famously told the Simon Commission “to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as in ancient times”.
- ◆ In 1946, A Z Phizo formed the Naga National Council (NNC), which declared Naga independence on August 14, 1947, and then, in 1951, claimed to have conducted a referendum in which an overwhelming majority supported an independent Naga state.
- ◆ By the early 1950s, the NNC had taken up arms and gone underground. The

NNC split in 1975, the breakaway group being the NSCN, which split further in later years, most prominently into the NSCN(I-M) and NSCN (Khaplang) in 1988.

Several Peace Talks

- ◆ **1975:** A peace accord was signed in Shillong in which the NNC leadership agreed to give up arms. Several NNC leaders, including Isak Chishi Swu, Thuingaleng Muivah and S S Khaplang refused to accept the agreement and broke away to form the NSCN. In 1988 came another split, with Khaplang breaking away to form the NSCN (K) while Isak and Muivah headed the NSCN (I-M).
- ◆ **1997:** The NSCN (I-M) signed a ceasefire agreement with the government in 1997, preceded by rounds of talks since 1995. The key agreement was that there would be no counter-insurgency offensive against the NSCN (I-M), who in turn would not attack Indian forces. The NSCN (I-M) had then announced to “every citizen of Nagalim wherever they may be”, that a ceasefire agreement was entered into between the Government of India and the outfit “to bring about a lasting political solution to the long drawn out Indo-Naga issue”.
- ◆ **2015:** In August that year, the Centre signed a framework agreement with the NSCN (I-M). Prime Minister Narendra Modi described it as a “historic agreement” towards settling the “oldest insurgency” in India. This set the stage for the ongoing peace talks. In 2017, six other Naga armed outfits under the banner of the Naga

National Political Groups (NNPGs) joined the talks.

NSCN-IM Stand

- ◆ The Naga talks have hit the deadlock since early 2020. National Socialist Council of Nagaland-(Isak Muivah) (NSCN-IM) leader T. Muivah has refused to hold any dialogue with interlocutor and Nagaland Governor R.N Ravi. Following the failure of the breakdown of communication between the two, Union Home Minister Amit Shah deputed a team of Intelligence Bureau officials to continue the discussions with the NSCN-IM.
- ◆ In 2017, Mr. Ravi included more Naga groups in the dialogue process and signed a preamble with the seven Naga National Political Groups (NNPG).
- ◆ The NSCN-IM has been demanding a separate constitution and flag for the Nagas and the assimilation of all Naga inhabited areas in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. The talks with the Centre have continued for more than 23 years.

Other Hurdles

- ◆ The government and the NSCN (I-M) have failed to agree on issues relating to a separate Naga flag and a constitution.
- ◆ Civil society groups in Nagaland are divided in their opinion. Some have said the talks should be wrapped up with whatever is offered now and keep other issues open for later negotiations; others believe all issues should be settled and the NSCN(I-M) should be on board, even if it takes longer than the deadline.

7. Online Module to map Out-of-school Children

Why in News?

- ◆ The Ministry of Education has launched an online module to compile data on out-of-school children.

Key Highlights

- ◆ To track down such children, the ministry has developed an online module for compiling the data of out-of-school children identified by each state/UT and their mapping with special training centres (STC) on the PRABANDH portal.
- ◆ The child-wise information of the identified out of school children and STCs will be uploaded at block level under the supervision of block source coordinator of the certain block research centre (BRC).
- ◆ The online module would allow for the mapping of the children with the nearest Special Training Centres to provide bridge courses.
- ◆ In order to facilitate age appropriate admission of out-of-school children in the age group of 6-14 years in regular schools, financial provisions are made in the [Samagra Shiksha] scheme for arranging special training to bridge their learning gaps and mainstreaming them in schools.
- ◆ For out-of-school children in the 16-18 years of age group and belonging to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Group, financial assistance has been made available for the first time from the year 2021-22, to continue their education through Open/Distance Learning mode.

Background

- ◆ In January, the Education Ministry had directed States to conduct comprehensive door to door surveys to identify children who were out of school and migrant students affected by COVID-19 disruptions.
- ◆ They were told to prepare an action plan to prevent increased dropouts, lower enrolments, loss of learning and deterioration in the gains made in providing universal access, quality and equity in recent years.
- ◆ Schools were also asked to relax detention norms in order to prevent dropouts in a year when COVID-19 has disrupted teaching and learning process.
- ◆ Globally, the United Nations had estimated that almost 24 million school age children are at risk of dropping out from the educational system due to the pandemic.

About PRABANDH Portal

- ◆ Project Appraisal, Budgeting, Achievements and Data Handling System (PRABANDH) portal is a step towards leveraging technology to enhance efficiency and manage the implementation of newly launched Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for School Education-Samagra Shiksha.

About Samagra Shiksha

- ◆ Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education has been launched throughout the country as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 2018-19.



- ◆ This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- ◆ It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- ◆ The major interventions under the scheme are: (i) Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention; (ii) Gender and Equity; (iii) Inclusive Education; (iv) Quality; (v) Financial support for Teacher Salary; (vi) Digital initiatives; (vii) Entitlements under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 including uniforms, textbooks etc.; (viii) Pre-school Education; (ix) Vocational Education; (x) Sports and Physical Education; (xi) Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training; and (xii) Monitoring of the scheme.

GS Paper-3

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

8. Protection of 'Heritage Trees' in Maharashtra

Why in News?

- ◆ The Maharashtra government will make amendments to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act of 1975, to introduce provisions for the protection of 'heritage trees'.
- ◆ The Maharashtra Cabinet has also green-lighted the formation of the Maharashtra Tree Authority in local civic bodies and councils which will take all decisions regarding the protection of trees.

What are Heritage Trees?

- ◆ Under the proposed amendment, a tree with an estimated age of 50 years or more shall be defined as a heritage tree. It may belong to specific species, which will be notified from time to time.
- ◆ Experts believe that in addition to the age, the state climate change department (which will be implementing the Tree Act), should also consider a tree's rarity, its botanical, historical, religious, mythological and cultural importance in defining a heritage tree.

Determination of Age

- ◆ The most common method of determining the age of the tree is Dendrochronology – or tree-ring dating also called growth rings.

- ◆ Each year, roughly a tree adds to its girth, the new growth is called a tree ring. By counting the rings of a tree, the age can be determined.

Introduction of Concept of Heritage Tree in Maharashtra

- ◆ The tree's age will determine the number of trees to be planted as part of the compensatory plantation – that is anyone cutting a heritage tree will need to plant trees in the same numbers as the cut tree's age.
- ◆ For instance, if a 52-year-old tree is to be felled, then the party felling the tree will have to plant 52 trees in compensation, with each compensatory tree at least 6-8 ft in height at the time of planting.
- ◆ Through the introduction of a heritage tree, the state environment wants to discourage the cutting of heritage trees.

Economic Value of the Tree

- ◆ In case compensatory plantation is not possible, the tree feller has to pay compensation for the economic valuation of the trees being felled.
- ◆ While the state government has not defined the economic value of the tree, experts say that the amount of oxygen that a tree releases into the environment should determine its economic value.

- ◆ The Supreme Court, in March 2021 also addressed the issue of the value of trees, beyond the wood/timber cost.
- ◆ The court said that, to calculate "just and fair compensation for felling of trees, it is imperative to make a realistic assessment of the economic value of a tree, which may be permitted to fell, concerning its value to the environment and its longevity, about factors such as the production of oxygen and carbon sequestration, soil conservation, protection of flora/fauna, its role in habitat and ecosystem integrity and any other ecologically relevant factor, distinct from timber/wood.

About Tree Authority

- ◆ The Tree Authority is tasked with "increasing the tree cover in urban areas and protecting the existing ones." Experts shall be a part of the local tree authority.
- ◆ A proposal to cut more than 200 trees of age 5 years or more, will be referred to the state tree authority.
- ◆ The Tree Authority will have to ensure that the project is not sub-divided into smaller parts to keep the number of trees below the defined threshold. Ensure preparation of a tree plan and should aspire over the years to have 33 per cent green belt in their area.

9. CHIME Telescope

Why in News?

- ◆ Recently, an international group of astronomers has detected 535 Fast Radio Bursts (FRB), the highest-ever detected in a single sky scanning, possibly emerging from young neutron stars present in the universe.
- ◆ Prior to the CHIME project, radio astronomers had only caught sight of around 140 bursts in their scopes since the first FRB was spotted in 2007.

Key Findings

- ◆ Scientists with the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME) Telescope have assembled the largest collection of fast radio bursts (FRBs) in the telescope's first FRB catalogue.
- ◆ The telescope has detected a whopping 535 new fast radio bursts in its first year of operation itself, between 2018 and 2019.
- ◆ The new catalogue significantly expands the current library of known FRBs, and is already yielding clues as to their properties.

- ◆ For instance, the newly discovered bursts appear to fall in two distinct classes: those that repeat, and those that don't. Scientists have identified 18 FRB sources that burst repeatedly, while the rest appear to be one-offs.

What are FRBs?

- ◆ FRBs are oddly bright flashes of light, registering in the radio band of the electromagnetic spectrum, which blaze for a few milliseconds before vanishing without a trace.
- ◆ These brief and mysterious beacons have been spotted in various and distant parts of the universe, as well as in our own galaxy. Their origins are unknown and their appearance is highly unpredictable.

About CHIME

- ◆ CHIME is located at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia in Canada.
- ◆ It is led by McGill University in Montreal, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto.

- ◆ CHIME comprises four massive cylindrical radio antennas, roughly the size and shape of snowboarding half-pipes.
- ◆ The telescope receives radio signals each day from half of the sky as the Earth rotates.

About Neutron Stars

- ◆ Neutron stars are formed when the core of a massive star undergoes gravitational collapse when it reaches the end of its life.
- ◆ This results in the matter being so tightly packed that even a sugar-cube sized amount of material taken from such a star weighs more than 1 billion tons, which is about the same as the weight of Mount Everest.
- ◆ Magnetars are a subclass of these neutrons and occasionally release flares with more energy in a fraction of a second than the Sun is capable of emitting in tens of thousands of years.

10. EnVision Mission to Venus

Why in News?

- ◆ The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced its new mission, EnVision to Planet Venus, Earth's nearest neighbor.
- ◆ Recently, NASA also selected two missions to the planet Venus. The missions called DAVINCI+ and VERITAS.

About EnVision

- ◆ EnVision is likely to be launched sometime in the 2030s. The earliest launch opportunity for EnVision is 2031, followed by 2032 and 2033.
- ◆ Once launched, the spacecraft will take about 15 months to reach Venus and will take 16 more months to achieve orbit circularisation.

- ◆ The spacecraft will carry a range of instruments to study the planet's atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition.
- ◆ EnVision will follow another ESA-led mission to Venus called 'Venus Express' (2005-2014) that focussed on atmospheric research and pointed

to volcanic hotspots on the planet's surface.

- ◆ Other than this, Japan's Akatsuki spacecraft has also been studying the planet's atmosphere since 2015.

Why Venus?

- ◆ At the core of the ESA's mission is the question of how Earth and Venus evolved so differently from each other considering that they are roughly of the same size and composition.
- ◆ Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system because of the heat that is trapped by its thick cloud cover.
- ◆ On the other hand, the results from DAVINCI+ are expected to reshape the understanding of terrestrial planet formation in the solar system and beyond. Taken together, both missions

are expected to tell scientists more about the planet's thick cloud cover and the volcanoes on its surface.

- ◆ Further, scientists speculate about the existence of life on Venus in its distant past and the possibility that life may exist in the top layers of its clouds where temperatures are less extreme.

About Venus

- ◆ For those on Earth, Venus is the second-brightest object in the sky after the moon. It appears bright because of its thick cloud cover that reflects and scatters light.
- ◆ But while Venus, which is the second closest planet to the Sun, is called the Earth's twin because of their similar sizes, the two planets have significant differences between them.

- ◆ For one, the planet's thick atmosphere traps heat and is the reason that it is the hottest planet in the solar system, despite coming after Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun. Surface temperatures on Venus can go up to 471 degrees Celsius, which is hot enough to melt lead.

- ◆ Further, Venus moves forward on its orbit around the Sun but spins backwards around its axis slowly. This means on Venus the Sun rises in the west and sets in the East.
- ◆ One day on Venus is equivalent to 243 Earth days because of its backward spinning, opposite to that of the Earth's and most other planets. Venus also does not have a moon and no rings.

11. Beed Model of Crop Insurance of Maharashtra

Why in News?

- ◆ Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has urged the centre for state-wide implementation of the 'Beed model' of the crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yogn (PMFBY).

About Beed Model

- ◆ Located in the drought-prone Marathwada region, the district of Beed presents a challenge for any insurance company. Farmers here have repeatedly lost crops either to failure of rains or to heavy rains.
- ◆ Given the high payouts, insurance companies have sustained losses. The state government had a difficult time getting bids for tenders to implement the scheme in Beed.

- ◆ During the 2020 kharif season, tenders for implementation did not attract any bids. So, the state Agriculture Department decided to tweak the guidelines for the district. The state-run Indian Agricultural Insurance Company implemented the scheme.

- ◆ Under the new guidelines, the insurance company provided a cover of 110% of the premium collected, with caveats.

- If the compensation exceeded the cover provided, the state government would pay the bridge amount.
- If the compensation was less than the premium collected, the insurance company would keep 20% of the amount as handling charges and reimburse the rest to the state government.

- ◆ In a normal season where farmers report minimal losses, the state government is expected to get back money that can form a corpus to fund the scheme for the following year. However, the state government would have to bear the financial liability in case of losses due to extreme weather events.

Reasons behind State-wide Implementation

- ◆ The reason why Maharashtra is pushing for this scheme is that in most years, the claims-to-premium ratio is low with the premium being paid to the company.
- ◆ In the Beed model, the profit of the company is expected to reduce and the state government would access another source of funds.
- ◆ The reimbursed amount can lead to lower provisioning by the state for the

following year, or help in financing the paying the bridge amount in case of a year of crop loss.

- ◆ For farmers, however, this model does not have any direct benefit.

About PMFBY

- ◆ Launched in 2016, the flagship

PMFBY insures farm losses against inclement weather events. Farmers pay 1.5-2% of the premium with the rest borne by the state and central governments. It is a central scheme implemented by state agriculture departments as per central guidelines.

- ◆ For farmers, the low rate of premium and relatively decent coverage make the scheme attractive.
- ◆ Prior to 2020, the scheme was optional for farmers who did not have loans pending, but mandatory for loanee farmers. Since 2020, it has been optional for all farmers.

12. UN “High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

Why in News?

- ◆ The Prime Minister of India has delivered a keynote address at the UN “High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought” via video conference.
- ◆ The Prime Minister spoke at the Opening Segment in his capacity as the President of the 14th Session of the Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Key Highlights

- ◆ The Dialogue aimed to focus the international community's attention on land issues and generate political will for implementing land solutions within COVID-19 adaptation and recovery strategies.
- ◆ Land is the foundation of our societies and is a cornerstone to global food security and environmental health, zero hunger, poverty eradication and affordable energy. It underpins the success of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ◆ Globally, one fifth of earth's land area – more than 2 billion hectares – is degraded, including more than half of all agricultural land. Unless we change how we manage soil, over 90% could become degraded by 2050.
- ◆ Land degradation negatively impacts one fifth of the planet's land area and the livelihoods of 3.2 billion people,

40% of the global population.

- ◆ It accelerates climate change and biodiversity loss, and contributes to droughts, wildfires, involuntary migration and the emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases.
- ◆ But 1 billion hectares can be restored over the next 10 years to reverse course, and power COVID-19 recoveries and provide livelihoods at a time when hundreds of millions of jobs are at risk.

India and Land Degradation

- ◆ India is on track to achieve its national commitment of Land degradation neutrality.
- ◆ India is also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. This would contribute to India's commitment to achieve an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- ◆ The Prime Minister gave example of the Banni region in Rann of Kutch in Gujarat to illustrate how restoration of land can start a virtuous cycle of good soil health, increased land productivity, food security and improved livelihoods.
- ◆ In Banni region, land restoration was done by developing grasslands, which helped in achieving land degradation neutrality. It also supports pastoral activities and livelihood by promoting animal husbandry.
- ◆ Further, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, India is also assisting

fellow developing countries to develop land restoration strategies.

About UNCCD COP14

- ◆ In the UNCCD COP14, the parties had adopted the Delhi Declaration. They encouraged the transition and increased access to energy in rural and urban communities with the aim to combat desertification/land degradation and drought. The parties also sought to achieve land degradation neutrality and resilience-building.
- ◆ The Delhi Declaration also encouraged a proactive approach to reduce the risks and impacts of desertification/land degradation and drought through the implementation of drought preparedness plans and increased risk mitigation for drought and sand and dust storms.

About UNCCD

- ◆ The UNCCD is one of the three Rio Conventions—along with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ◆ The negotiation of the UNCCD was called for in Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, or Earth Summit).
- ◆ The UNCCD was adopted on 17 June 1994, entered into force on 26 December 1996.

13. Operation Olivia

Why in News?

- ◆ Every year, the Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December.

About Operation Olivia

- ◆ Indian Coast Guard initiated "Operation Olivia" in early 1980s to protect the Olive Ridley turtles.
- ◆ For optimal results, round-the-clock surveillance is conducted from November till May utilising Coast Guard assets such as fast patrol vessels, air cushion vessels, interceptor craft and Dornier aircraft to enforce laws near the rookeries.
- ◆ From November 2020 to May 2021, the Coast Guard devoted 225 ship days and 388 aircraft hours to protect 3.49 lakh turtles that laid eggs along the Odisha coast.

Protection of Turtle

- ◆ The Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red list.
- ◆ All five species of sea turtles found in India are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and in the Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits trade in turtle products by signatory countries.
- ◆ Odisha has also formulated laws for protecting Olive Ridley turtles, and the Orissa Marine Fisheries Act empowers the Coast Guard as one of its enforcement agencies.

Nesting Habits

- ◆ The Olive Ridley has one of the most extraordinary nesting habits in the natural world, including mass nesting

called arribadas.

- ◆ The 480-km-long Odisha coast has three arribada beaches at Gahirmatha, the mouth of the Devi river, and in Rushikulya, where about 1 lakh nests are found annually.
- ◆ More recently, a new mass nesting site has been discovered in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with more than 5,000 nests reported in a season.

Threats to Nesting

- ◆ Studies have found three main factors that damage Olive Ridley turtles and their eggs — heavy predation of eggs by dogs and wild animals, indiscriminate fishing with trawlers and gill nets, and beach soil erosion.
- ◆ Dense fishing activity along the coasts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, especially ocean-going trawlers, mechanised fishing boats and gill-netters pose a severe threat to turtles.

14. PASIPHAE - Sky Surveying Project

Why in News?

- ◆ A team of astronomers are developing a vital instrument, PASIPHAE, which will be used in upcoming sky surveys to study stars, is being led by an Indian astronomer.

About PASIPHAE

- ◆ Polar-Areas Stellar - Imaging in Polarisation High - Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE) is an international collaborative sky surveying project.
- ◆ Scientists aim to study the polarisation in the light coming from millions of stars.

- ◆ The name is inspired from Pasiphae, the daughter of Greek Sun God Helios, who was married to King Minos.
- ◆ The survey will use two high-tech optical polarimeters to observe the northern and southern skies, simultaneously.

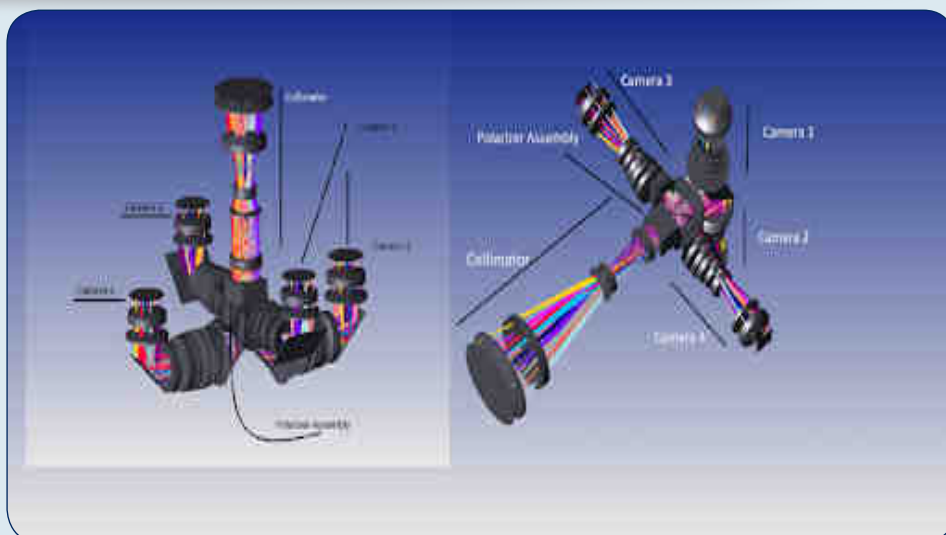
- ◆ It will focus on capturing starlight polarisation of very faint stars that are so far away that polarisation signals from there have not been systematically studied. The distances to these stars will be obtained from measurements of the GAIA satellite.

- ◆ By combining these data, astronomers will perform a maiden magnetic field tomography mapping of the interstellar medium of very large areas of the sky using a novel polarimeter instrument known as WALOP (Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter).

Why PASIPHAE?

- ◆ Since its birth about 14 billion years ago, the universe has been constantly expanding, as evidenced by the presence of Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation which fills the universe.

- ◆ Immediately after its birth, the universe went through a short inflationary phase during which it expanded at a very high rate, before it slowed down and reached the current rate. However, so far, there have only been theories and indirect evidence of inflation associated with the early universe.
- ◆ A definitive consequence of the inflationary phase is that a tiny fraction of the CMB radiation should have its imprints in the form of a specific kind of polarisation (known scientifically as B-mode signal).
- ◆ The PASIPHAE survey will measure starlight polarisation over large areas of the sky. This data along with GAIA distances to the stars will help create a 3-Dimensional model of the distribution of the dust and magnetic field structure of the galaxy.
- ◆ Such data can help remove the galactic polarised foreground light and enable astronomers to look for the elusive B-mode signal.



What is WALOP?

- ◆ Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter (WALOP) is an instrument, when mounted on two small optical telescopes, that will be used to detect polarised light signals emerging from the stars along high galactic latitudes.
- ◆ A WALOP each will be mounted on the 1.3-metre Skinakas Observatory, Crete, and on the 1-metre telescope of the South African Astronomical Observatory located in Sutherland.
 - The 1-metre-class telescopes enable both larger fields of view of the sky

combined with the minutest details of distant stars.

- ◆ WALOP will operate on the principle that at any given time, the data from a portion of the sky under observation will be split into four different channels.
- ◆ Depending on the manner in which light passes through the four channels, the polarisation value from the star is obtained. That is, each star will have four corresponding images which when stitched together will help calculate the desired polarisation value of a star.

15. National AI Portal (INDIAai)

Why in News?

- ◆ The 'National AI Portal' has celebrated its first anniversary on May 28, 2021.

About INDIAai

- ◆ The National AI Portal is a joint initiative by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM and serves as a central hub for AI related news, learning, articles, events and activities etc., in India and beyond.
- ◆ The portal was launched by the Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Law

and Justice and Communications, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on May 30, 2020.

What is AI?

- ◆ AI is the branch of computer science concerned with developing machines that can complete tasks that typically require human intelligence.
- ◆ In other words, AI is a constellation of technologies that enable machines to act with higher levels of intelligence and emulate the human capabilities of sense, comprehend and act.

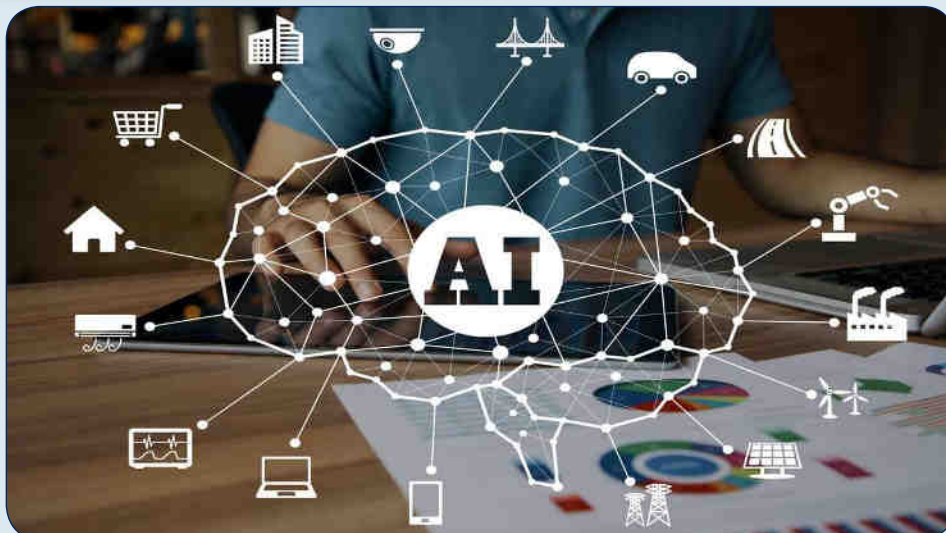
- ◆ With the explosion of available data expansion of computing capacity, the world is witnessing rapid advancements in AI, machine learning and deep learning, transforming almost all sectors of the economy.

Use of AI in India

- ◆ A Bengaluru based start-up has developed a non-invasive, AI-enabled technology to screen for early signs of breast cancer. Similarly, hospitals in Tamil Nadu are using Machine Learning algorithms to detect diabetic retinopathy and help

address the challenge of shortage of eye doctors.

- ◆ For the COVID-19 response, an AI-enabled Chatbot was used by MyGov for ensuring communications.
- ◆ Similarly, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) deployed the Watson Assistant on its portal to respond to specific queries of frontline staff and data entry operators from various testing and diagnostic facilities across the country on COVID-19.
- ◆ ICRISAT has developed an AI-power sowing app, which utilises weather models and data on local crop yield and rainfall to more accurately predict and advise local farmers on when they should plant their seeds. This has led to an increase in yield from 10 to 30 per cent for farmers.
- ◆ The Central Board of Secondary Education has integrated AI in the school curriculum to ensure that students passing out have the basic knowledge and skills of data science, machine learning and artificial intelligence.
- ◆ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had launched a “Responsible AI for Youth” programme in April 2020, wherein more than 11,000 students from government schools completed the basic course in AI.
- ◆ India’s “AI for All” strategy focuses on responsible AI, building AI solutions at scale with an intent to make India



the AI garage of the world — a trusted nation to which the world can outsource AI-related work. AI solutions built in India will serve the world.

- ◆ AI researchers at ARTPARK in collaboration with Niramai Health Analytix and IISc developed XraySetu, an AI-driven solution for the early intervention of COVID-19 cases across India with chest Xray interpretation over WhatsApp.
- ◆ An AI-based flood forecasting model that has been implemented in Bihar is now being expanded to cover the whole of India to ensure that around 200 million people across 2,50,000 square kilometres get alerts and warnings 48 hours earlier about impending floods.
- ◆ As AI works for digital inclusion in India, it will have a ripple effect on economic growth and prosperity. Analysts predict that AI can help add up to \$957 billion to the Indian economy by 2035.

Measures to Boost AI in India

- ◆ India joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI or Gee-Pay).
- ◆ U.S. India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative was launched in March 2021, to scale up the Science and Technology relationship between India and the United States to solve problems of both countries and overcome barriers for growth.
- ◆ In June 2018, NITI Aayog released India’s National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (NSAI). The strategy, called #AI for All, combines the economic potential of AI with social development and inclusive growth, and positions India as the ‘AI Garage of the World’. With it, India joined an elite list of countries with a well-defined AI strategy.



Persons of the Week

Naftali Bennett



Megha Rajagopalan Professor Radha Mohan



Ram Prasad Bismil



Aung San Suu Kyi



Salman Rushdie



Sundar Pichai



1. Naftali Bennett

- ◆ A self-professed “more Right-wing” leader than Benjamin Netanyahu, 49-year-old Naftali Bennett was sworn in as 13th Prime Minister of Israel recently, ending his predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu’s historic 12-year rule.
- ◆ He is the leader of the right-wing Yamina Party.
- ◆ Yair Lapid, the head of the Yesh Atid party, would take over premiership in September 2023 under a power-sharing deal with Bennett, serving for two years till the end of the term.



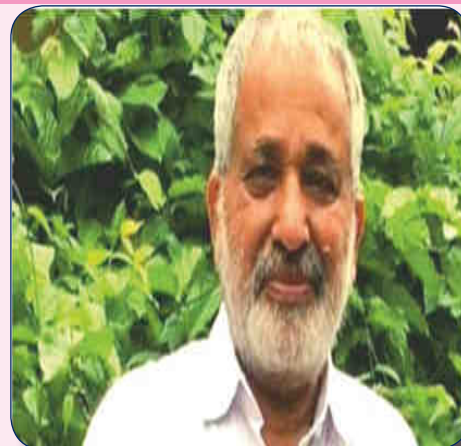
2. Megha Rajagopalan

- ◆ Megha Rajagopalan, an Indian-origin journalist, along with two contributors has won the Pulitzer Prize for innovative investigative reports that exposed a vast infrastructure of prisons and mass internment camps secretly built by China for detaining hundreds of thousands of Muslims in its restive Xinjiang region.
- ◆ Ms. Rajagopalan's Xinjiang series won the Pulitzer Prize in the International Reporting category.
- ◆ Pulitzer prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories. In twenty of the categories, each winner receives a certificate and a USD 15,000 cash award.
- ◆ The winner in the public service category is awarded a gold medal.



3. Professor Radha Mohan

- ◆ Noted environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee Professor Radha Mohan, who helped popularise organic farming techniques, died recently.
- ◆ He was awarded the Padma Shri along with his daughter Sabarmatee in 2020 for their contribution to the agriculture sector.
- ◆ Back in 1990, the father-daughter duo founded ‘Sambhav’, a social organisation aimed at educating farmers on organic and natural farming.
- ◆ They transformed the 36 hectares of wasteland in Nayagarh district’s Odagaon using ecological waste to create fertile topsoil. That land now boasts of more than 1,000 plant species including rare ones such as clove bean and black rice. It also supports a bank of 700 indigenous seed varieties.



4. Ram Prasad Bismil

- ◆ Birth anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Ram Prasad Bismil was celebrated on June 11.
- ◆ Ram Prasad Bismil was born on June 11, 1897, in a nondescript village in Uttar Pradesh’s Shahjahanpur district to Murlidhar and Moolmati.
- ◆ He was associated with the Arya Samaj from an early age.

- ◆ On August 9, 1925, Ram Prasad Bismil along with companions Ashfaqulla Khan and others executed the plan of looting the train at Kakori near Lucknow.
- ◆ In Barrack number 11 of Lucknow Central Jail, Bismil wrote his autobiography, considered as one of the finest works in Hindi literature

and also the cult song “Mera rang de Basanti chola”.

- ◆ With the words “Jai Hind” on his lips, the 30-year-old Bimil was hanged in the Gorakhpur jail on December 19, 1927 and cremated on the banks of Rapti river. The site later came to be known as Raj Ghat.



5. Aung San Suu Kyi

- ◆ The trial of Myanmar’s deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi has started recently.
- ◆ Myanmar has been in chaos since the military seized power on February 1 and detained Aung San Suu Kyi and other elected leaders.
- ◆ Aung San Suu Kyi, 75, has meanwhile been held under house arrest in Myanmar’s capital, Naypyidaw, and appeared in public for the first time on May 24 when she attended a 30-minute

court hearing.

- ◆ She won Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991.
- ◆ Aung Saan Suu Kyi burst into the international scene during the days of her first house arrest from 1989 to 1995. It was then she became “symbolically omnipresent”.
- ◆ Within the country she was venerated almost like a female bodhisattva, a benevolent nat. Outside her country

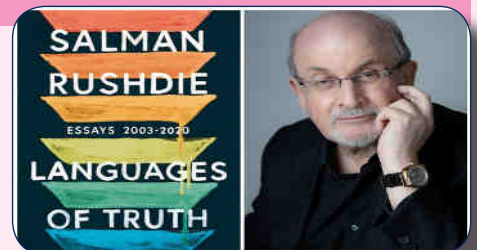


she was portrayed as an icon of democracy, the Gandhi of Burma or the Jean d’Arc.

6. Salman Rushdie

- ◆ A book titled “Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020” authored by Salman Rushdie.
- ◆ In his new book, Rushdie attempts to perform a defensive castling move.

- ◆ Apart from ‘Pandemic’, Languages of Truth collects several other essays, speeches and criticism the author wrote between 2003 and 2020.



7. Sundar Pichai

- ◆ Google CEO Sundar Pichai has turned 49 on June 10.
- ◆ Pichai was born in Madurai, Tamil Nadu on June 10, 1972.
- ◆ In 2004, Pichai led the product management for a suite of Google’s client software products, including

Google Chrome.

- ◆ In 2015, Pichai was selected as the Google CEO. He succeeded Larry Page who had co-founded Google along with Sergey Brin. In 2019, Pichai became the CEO of Alphabet Inc, which is Google’s sister company.



Places of the Week

Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Srisailem Temple in Andhra Pradesh



Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh



Umling La, Ladakh



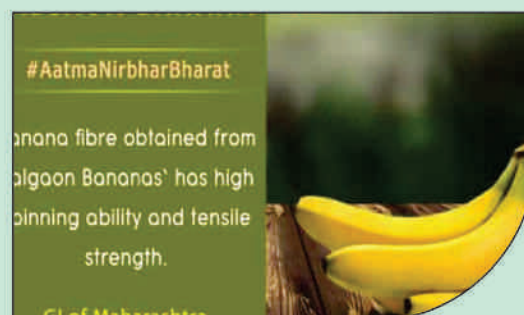
'National Maritime Heritage Complex', Gujarat



New Version of the 'Atlantic Charter'



GI Certified 'Jalgaon Banana'



1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- ◆ A 15-meter-tall tree that belongs to the genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered from the Andaman Islands.
- ◆ The new species, *Pyrostria laljii*, is also the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India.
- ◆ Plants belonging to genus *Pyrostria* are usually found in Madagascar but the recently discovered species is new to science.
- ◆ *Pyrostria laljii* has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria.
- ◆ The A&N Islands is a group of 572



islands and islets that are rich and unique in terms of plant diversity in India.

- The total number of listed flora on the islands is approximately

3,410 plant species under 1,281 genera and 303 families belonging to Angiosperms, Gymnosperms, Pteridophytes, Bryophytes, and Lichens.

2. Srisailem Temple in Andhra Pradesh

- ◆ 18 Copper plate inscriptions dating back to the 14th or 16th century were found near Ghanta Matham of Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailem.
- ◆ The inscriptions are in Sanskrit and Telugu. A total of 35 inscriptions have been found during the renovation works till now.
- ◆ Mallikarjuna Temple (also simply

known as Srisailem Temple), is a Hindu temple dedicated to the deity Shiva, located at Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh.

- ◆ It is significant to the Hindu sects of both Shaivism as this temple is referred to as one of the twelve Jyothirlingas of Lord Shiva. Shiva is worshiped as Mallikarjuna, and is represented by the lingam.



3. Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh

- ◆ More than 200 contingency workers of the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh went on an indefinite strike over non-payment of wages since December 2020.
- ◆ Pakke Tiger Reserve is also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve.

- ◆ It is bounded by Bhareli or Kameng River in the west and north, and by Pakke River in the east.
- ◆ It falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.



4. Umling La, Ladakh

- ◆ At 5.793m (19,005ft) above the sea level, Umling La is one of the highest motorable roads in the world.
- ◆ It is located in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ◆ It is constructed under "Project Himank" of the Border Roads Organization (BRO).
- ◆ Being close to Hanle, the 86-km-long strategic road through Umling La Top connects Chisumle and Demchok villages, located 230km from Leh. These villages are very close to the India-China border in eastern sector.



5. 'National Maritime Heritage Complex', Gujarat

- ◆ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Culture for the development of National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat.
- ◆ The complex will have many offerings including National Maritime Heritage Museum, Heritage Theme Park, and LightHouse Museum.
- ◆ There will also be Museum Themed Hotels as well Maritime themed eco-resorts, and Maritime Institute.

MOU FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NMHC AT LOTHAL, GUJARAT



- ◆ MoU signed between MoPSW & Ministry of Culture
- ◆ World class Historical Site showcasing India's rich Maritime Heritage
- ◆ Includes National Maritime Museum, Maritime Heritage based Theme Park, Maritime Research Institute, Nature Conservation Park
- ◆ State Pavilions and 14 Galleries highlighting diverse Maritime Heritage of India

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#) /MansukhMandviya [www.MansukhMandviya.in](#)

6. New Version of the 'Atlantic Charter'

- ◆ US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Johnson signed a new version of the 'Atlantic Charter'.
- ◆ The original Atlantic Charter was signed in 1941.
- ◆ The new Atlantic Charter touches upon topics like climate change, the Covid-19 crisis and the emerging role of technology, but its main focus is that of national security along the lines of the original Atlantic Charter and the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949.



- ◆ The 8-point new Atlantic Charter is a welcome signal to proponents of the US-UK alliance following

a tumultuous decade of relations between the allies.

7. GI Certified 'Jalgaon Banana'

- ◆ In a major boost to India's exports of Geographical Indications (GI) certified agricultural produce, a consignment of fibre and mineral rich 'Jalgaon Banana' has been shipped to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- ◆ India's banana exports have been rising sharply because of adoption of farm practices on par with global standards.
- ◆ India is the world's leading producer of bananas, accounting for 25% of global output.
- ◆ Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh contribute more than 70% to the country's banana production.



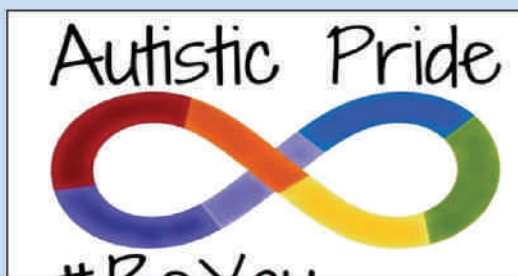
- ◆ India counts the US, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran, and

Malaysia as its largest markets for agriculture produce.



International/National Days of the Week

Autism Pride
Day 2021



World Day to Combat
Desertification
and Drought 2021



International Day of
Family Remittances
2021



International Albinism
Awareness Day 2021



World Refugee
Day 2021



World Sickle Cell
Awareness Day 2021



International
Yoga Day 2021



1. Autism Pride Day 2021

- ◆ Autism Pride Day is celebrated every year on June 18.
- ◆ Autism Pride Day is observed to respect the rights of persons with autism.
- ◆ People with autism are often subject to human rights violations, discrimination and stigma. Autism Pride Day and Autism Awareness Day are marked to stop such discrimination.
- ◆ Autism Pride Day was first celebrated by Aspies for Freedom in 2005. One of the key aspects of the day is that autistic people participate in the events on the day and families share their great success stories.
- ◆ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in 160 children have Autism Spectrum Disorder.



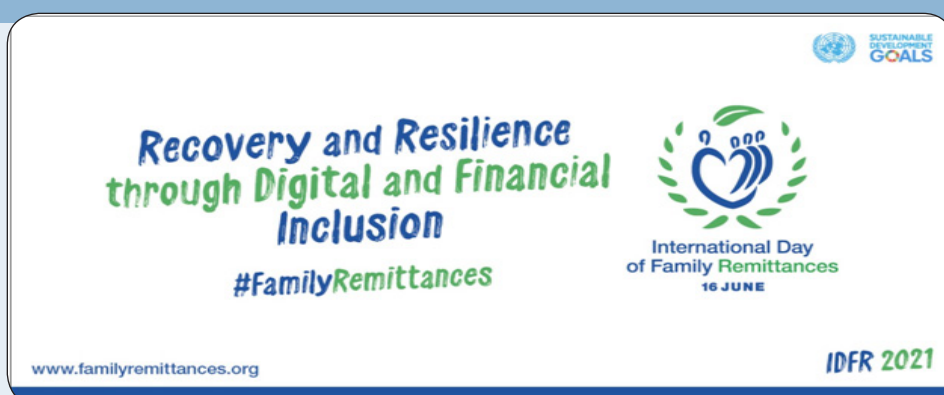
2. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2021

- ◆ The desertification and drought day 2021 is observed on 17 June every year.
- ◆ The day's focus is to turn the degraded land that has lost its natural productivity due to human activity into healthy land.
- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly in the early 90s decided on a resolution to observe June 17 as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- ◆ This year's theme is "Restoration. Land.Recovery. We build back better with healthy land".
- ◆ Current commitments from over 100 countries specify the restoration of almost 1 billion hectares of land over the next decade – an area almost the size of China.5 If we restore this land, we can deliver massive benefits for people and the planet.



3. International Day of Family Remittances 2021

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) to be marked on June 16.
- ◆ It recognizes the more than 200 million migrant workers, women and men, who send money home to over 800 million family members.
- ◆ The IDFR is now recognised internationally and is an important project in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (Objective 20), which advocates for lower transfer costs and



- ◆ increased financial inclusion through remittances.
- ◆ The theme of IDFR this year is 'Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion.'
- ◆ According to an official UN blog, there has been only a drop of 1.6 percent in remittances in 2020. It has come down from \$548 billion in 2019 to \$540 billion.

4. International Albinism Awareness Day 2021

- ◆ International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on June 13 to raise and create awareness among people about albinism and the human rights of people with albinism.
- ◆ The theme of the day this year is #StrengthBeyondAllOdds.
 - The reason for choosing this theme is to primarily highlight the good qualities of those with albinism across the globe.
- This year the theme also aims to shed light on how people with albinism are made to defy all odds and exceed expectations in all domains of life.
- Most importantly, the theme of 2021 encourages people around the world to join hands in the global effort to #BuildBackBetter.
- ◆ On December 18, 2014, the United Nations' General Assembly adopted



a resolution establishing June 13th as International Albinism Awareness Day.

5. World Refugee Day 2021

- ◆ World Refugee Day is observed on June 20 to respect and honour the courage and resilience of refugees across the globe.
- ◆ The United Nations designated the day to celebrate the strength and courage of people forced to flee their homes and countries to escape conflict or persecution.
- ◆ In 2001, on June 20, World Refugee Day was celebrated for the first time.
- The event marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention which deals with the protection of refugees internationally.
- ◆ The theme for this year's World Refugee Day is "Together we heal, learn and shine." It highlights the basic needs of displaced persons, such as healthcare, nutrition and education.
- ◆ The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is also using sports to help



displaced people heal through physical and mental activities.

6. World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2021

- ◆ World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed every year on June 19 to increase awareness and understanding of the disease and the challenges faced by its patients and their families.
- ◆ Sickle cell disease causes patients to have sickle-shaped red blood cells that can stick together and block blood flow and oxygen from reaching all parts of the body. It is an inherited blood disorder.
- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly, on December 22, 2008,



adopted a resolution recognizing sickle cell disease as a public health problem.

- ◆ The UNGA also recognised Sickle disease as one of the first genetic diseases.

7. International Yoga Day 2021

- ◆ International Day of Yoga 2021 (IDY 2021) is observed every year on 21st June 2021.
- ◆ IDY 2021 was the 7th edition of International Day of Yoga.
- ◆ In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly recognized 21st June as the International Day of Yoga at the initiative of Prime Minister of India via a unanimous vote.
- ◆ Yoga has always been an important part of India's culture and civilization as it is not just beneficial for the body but also renews the mind with confidence.



- ◆ The theme of the International Yoga Day 2021 is 'Yoga for well-being - how the practice of Yoga can promote the holistic health of every individual.'



Brain Boosters

01

India and Pakistan on Basmati Rice

1. Why in News?

- ◆ India, the world's largest exporter of basmati rice, has applied for protected geographical indication (PGI) status from the European Union's Council on Quality Schemes for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs.
- ◆ This would give it sole ownership of the basmati title in the European Union (EU).

2. Background

- ◆ The stand-off began when India filed a claim in the EU on 11 September 2020, seeking GI status for its basmati from the union's Council on Quality Schemes for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs.
- ◆ This status would've provided New Delhi a monopoly over basmati rice markets in Europe.
- ◆ Pakistan, which is the only other basmati rice exporter in the world, has opposed this move as it would adversely impact its own exports, especially as the EU is a major market for its basmati. Therefore, it filed a counter-petition in late 2020.
- ◆ In 2006, the EU had recognised basmati as a joint product of India and Pakistan but New Delhi has been trying to be the sole owner of the GI tag.



3. Recent Update

- ◆ India and Pakistan are expected to share ownership of the coveted branding rights for basmati rice in markets of the EU.
- ◆ According to sources, both nations are likely to reach an agreement after opposing each others' claims for getting Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), or GI tag, for the product in the EU.

5. Basmati Rice Market of the EU

- ◆ The unfettered access to the basmati rice market of the EU is also crucial and sought after because according to analytical reports, the European basmati rice market which was valued at \$491 million in 2016, is expected to reach \$615 million by 2023, registering a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 3.2 per cent from 2017-2023.

4. Importance of GI Tag

- ◆ According to estimates, the GI tag for Indian basmati could've boosted the country's exports to the European markets from the current \$250 million to \$500 million.
- ◆ According to Union Commerce ministry and All India Rice Exporters Association data, India exported \$245.4 million worth of basmati rice to the EU in 2020-21 as against \$207 million in 2019-20.
- ◆ In quantitative terms, it was 2.88 lakh tonnes compared to 2.11 lakh tonnes the previous year.
- ◆ Similarly, Pakistan exports between 5-7 lakh tonnes of basmati rice to the world, of which 2-2.5 lakh tonnes is shipped to EU countries.

02

Subsidy on Electric Vehicles

1. Why in News?

- ◆ In view of the adoption of eco-friendly vehicles, the government of India has decided to increase subsidy for such vehicles by 50% under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles Phase II (FAME Phase II) scheme

2. Key Highlights

- ◆ The Centre has made a partial modification of the FAME Phase II, including increasing the demand incentive for electric two-wheelers to Rs. 15,000 per KWh from an earlier uniform subsidy of Rs. 10,000 per KWh for all EVs, including plug-in hybrids and strong hybrids except buses.
- ◆ The department of heavy industries also capped incentives for electric two-wheelers at 40% of the cost of vehicle, up from 20% earlier.



3. Significance

- ◆ The government's continued support to drive adoption of EVs, with a keen focus on locally built electric two-wheelers will make India the manufacturing hub of EVs.
- ◆ The latest decision will bring down the prices of electric two-wheelers nearer to the IC (internal combustion engine) vehicles and remove one of the biggest blocks, of the high sticker price of electric two-wheelers.
- ◆ Together with the other important factors like extremely low running cost, low maintenance and zero emission, such price levels will surely spur a substantial demand for electric two-wheelers.

4. About FAME II

- ◆ The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 is a National Mission document providing the vision and the roadmap for the faster adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country.
- ◆ As part of the NEMMP 2020, Department of Heavy Industry formulated a Scheme viz. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme in the year 2015 to promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.
- ◆ The Phase-I of the Scheme was extended from time to time and the last extension was allowed till 31st March, 2019.
- ◆ Presently, Phase-II of FAME India Scheme is being implemented for a period of 3 years from 01st April, 2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- ◆ The scheme is intended to support the hybrid/electric vehicle market development and its manufacturing eco-system to achieve self-subsistence.
- ◆ The scheme has four focus areas i.e. Technology Development, Demand Creation, Pilot Project and Charging Infrastructure.

03

‘Southern Ocean’ as World’s Fifth Ocean

1. Why in News?

- ◆ On June 8, 2021 - World Oceans Day - the National Geographic Society has recognised the ‘Southern Ocean’ as the world’s fifth ocean.
- ◆ The other four oceans are - the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic Oceans.



2. Key Points

- ◆ The IHO too had recognised ‘Southern Ocean’ as a distinct body of water surrounding Antarctica in 1937 but had repealed the same in 1953.
- ◆ However, the United States Board on Geographic Names as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, both recognize the term ‘Southern Ocean’.

3. Significance

- ◆ The Southern Ocean is home to large populations of whales, penguins and seals.
- ◆ But industrial fishing on species like krill and Patagonian toothfish had been a concern for decades.
- ◆ The recognition would draw attention to these issues, in addition to the rapid warming of the Southern Ocean due to global warming by officially changing the name of the waterbody.

4. About Southern Ocean

- ◆ The Southern Ocean is the only ocean ‘to touch three other oceans and to completely embrace a continent rather than being embraced by them’.
- ◆ It is also defined by its Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) that flows from west to east around Antarctica.
- ◆ Scientists think the ACC was created 34 million years ago when the continent of Antarctica separated from South America, allowing water to flow unimpeded around the "bottom" of the world.

5. About ACC

- ◆ ACC is the only current in the global ocean to close upon itself in a circumpolar loop.
- ◆ ACC is also the strongest ocean current on our planet.
- ◆ This trait makes the ACC the most important current in the Earth’s climate system because it links the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and is the primary means of inter-basin exchange of heat, carbon dioxide, chemicals, biology and other tracers.
- ◆ The ACC is created by the combined effects of strong westerly winds across the Southern Ocean, and the big change in surface temperatures between the Equator and the poles.
- ◆ Ocean density increases as water gets colder and as it gets more salty. The warm, salty surface waters of the subtropics are much lighter than the cold, fresher waters close to Antarctica. We can imagine that the depth of constant density levels slopes up towards Antarctica.
- ◆ The westerly winds make this slope steeper, and the ACC rides eastward along it, faster where the slope is steeper, and weaker where it’s flatter.

04

Dagmara Hydroelectric Project

1. Why in News?

- ◆ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Hydro Power Corporation Limited (NHPC Limited) and Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (BSHPC) for Implementation of 130.1 MW Dagmara Hydroelectric Project, the largest hydropower project of Bihar.



2. Key Points

- ◆ Dagmara multipurpose hydropower project is located about 31 km downstream on Kosi river under Bhaptiyahi block in Supaul district.
- ◆ It will be a 'Run-of-River' project.
- ◆ It will have the total capacity of generating 130 MW energy, in which 17 units of 7.65 MW will be installed for power generation.

3. Expected Benefits

- ◆ Project will be a landmark project in the power sector scenario of Bihar as far as green power is concerned.
- ◆ Apart from generating clean and green power, the execution will boost the socio-economic and infrastructure development in the area and shall also create employment opportunities.

4. What are Run-of-River Hydro Projects?

- ◆ Run-of-river hydro projects use the natural downward flow of rivers and micro turbine generators to capture the kinetic energy carried by water.
- ◆ Typically, at a high point along the river a dam is constructed to create a headpond in front of the dam.
- ◆ From the dam water is diverted from the river through a pipeline ('penstock') which leads to a downstream powerhouse.
- ◆ The water level in the headpond is to ensure that the intake to the penstock remains under water.

5. About NHPC

- ◆ NHPC is a Category-A Miniratna Company under Ministry of Power, in the field of Hydropower.
- ◆ Currently, NHPC has 24 operational power stations with a total installed capacity of 7071 MW.

05

Dedicated Freight Corridor

1. Why in News?

- ◆ In order to validate the efficacy of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) for military movement, the Indian Army has conducted a successful trial run of a military train loaded with vehicles and equipment from New Rewari in Haryana to New Phulera in Rajasthan.

2. Key Highlights

- ◆ These trials were part of the 'Whole of the Nation Approach' for optimising national resources and achieve seamless synergy among various ministries and departments.
- ◆ Development of infrastructure at certain locations to support mobilisation and trials to validate move of defence owned rolling stock on Roll On-Roll Off (RO-RO) service are being formalised and modalities are being evolved.



3. What is the DFC?

- ◆ Under the DFC, two corridors are being constructed, the Western DFC over 1,506 km and Eastern DFC over 1,875 km.
- ◆ The Eastern DFC starts at Sohnewal (Ludhiana) in Punjab and ends at Dankuni in West Bengal.
- ◆ The Western DFC starts from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to JNPT in Mumbai, touching all major ports along the way.
- ◆ Built at a cost of Rs 5,750 crore through a loan from World Bank (which is funding a majority of the Eastern DFC; the Western DFC is being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency).

4. Importance

- ◆ Around 70% of the freight trains currently running on the Indian Railway network are slated to shift to the freight corridors, leaving the paths open for more passenger trains.
- ◆ This is like building an entire railway network from scratch, independent of Indian Railways. All the installations are new. Including the stations, and that's why the names of a majority of its stations are prefixed with 'New', such as New Bhaupur, New Khurja etc.
- ◆ Tracks on DFC are designed to carry heavier loads than most of Indian Railways. DFC will get track access charge from the parent Indian Railways, and also generate its own freight business.

06

‘Global Drive to Scale up TB Prevention’ Event

1. Why in News?

- ◆ A virtual high-level event on ‘Global Drive to Scale up TB Prevention’ was organized by World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Programme.



2. Purpose

- ◆ The purpose of this special high-level event was to discuss key actions needed at the global and country-level to scale up TB prevention strategies and drive progress towards achieving the 2022 UN High-Level Meeting target on TB preventive treatment.

3. What is TB?

- ◆ TB is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs.
- ◆ TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- ◆ About one-quarter of the world's population has a TB infection, which means people have been infected by TB bacteria but are not (yet) ill with the disease and cannot transmit it.
- ◆ Tuberculosis mostly affects adults in their most productive years. However, all age groups are at risk.

4. Global impact of TB

- ◆ TB occurs in every part of the world. In 2019, the largest number of new TB cases occurred in the WHO South-East Asian region, with 44% of new cases, followed by the WHO African region, with 25% of new cases and the WHO Western Pacific with 18%.
- ◆ In 2019, 87% of new TB cases occurred in the 30 high TB burden countries. Eight countries accounted for two thirds of the new TB cases: India, Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and South Africa.

6. India's Commitment

- ◆ India is aggressively implementing its fully-funded National Strategic Plan to End TB by 2025, five years ahead of the SDG target of 2030.
- ◆ India also stands committed to rapidly achieve national scale-up of TB preventive treatment (TPT) and activities to achieve the UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) targets of 40 million persons started on TB treatment and 30 million on TPT globally in the remaining 18 months.

5. Global commitments

- ◆ On 26 September 2018, the United Nations (UN) held its first- ever high-level meeting on TB, elevating discussion about the status of the TB epidemic and how to end it to the level of heads of state and government.
- ◆ The political declaration of the UN high-level meeting included four new global targets:
 - I. treat 40 million people for TB disease in the 5-year period 2018–2022;
 - II. reach at least 30 million people with TB preventive treatment for a latent TB infection in the 5-year period 2018–2022;
 - III. mobilize at least US\$ 13 billion annually for universal access to TB diagnosis, treatment and care by 2022;
 - IV. mobilize at least US\$ 2 billion annually for TB research.
- ◆ SDG Target 3.3 includes ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

07

India's Deep Ocean Mission

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the long pending 'Deep Ocean Mission'.



2. About the Mission

- ◆ The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal Ministry implementing this multi-institutional mission.
- ◆ There are six components to the programme.
 - I. A manned submersible will be developed to carry three people to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools. An Integrated Mining System will be also developed for mining polymetallic nodules at those depths in the central Indian Ocean.
 - II. The second component involves developing Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services, which entails developing a suite of observations and models to understand and provide future projections of important climate variables on seasonal to decadal time scales.
 - III. The next component is searching for deep sea flora and fauna, including microbes, and studying ways to sustainably utilise them.
 - IV. The fourth component is to explore and identify potential sources of hydrothermal minerals that are sources of precious metals formed from the earth's crust along the Indian Ocean mid-oceanic ridges.
 - V. The fifth component involves studying and preparing detailed engineering design for offshore Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) powered desalination plants.
 - VI. The final component is aimed at grooming experts in the field of ocean biology and engineering. This component aims to translate research into industrial applications and product development through on-site business incubator facilities.

3. Other Key Points

- ◆ The five-year inter-ministerial and inter-departmental mission will bring together researchers and experts from the Indian Space Research Organisation, Defence Development and Research Organisation, Department of Atomic Energy, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Biotechnology and the Indian Navy.
- ◆ This mission will make India one among the handful of powerful nations that already have dedicated ocean studies and missions, including the US, Japan, France, Russia and China.
- ◆ The mission also provides impetus to India's Blue Economy initiatives — planned from 2020 to 2030 — which envisages a number of researches that will be performed to study the oceans, of which very little is known.
- ◆ Given the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region for the country, the mission will help India tighten its grip in the South Asia region.
- ◆ Though some institutions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences have their own research vessel, India will build a research vessel specifically for carrying out deep ocean explorations and it will be built at an Indian shipyard.
 - The existing vessel Sagar Kanya is nearly three-and-half decades old.
- ◆ A UN-lined organisation with expertise in mineral exploration will guide India in identifying the areas for exploration in the region.

5. Significance

- ◆ It has been estimated that 380 million metric tonnes of polymetallic nodules are available at the bottom of the seas in the Central Indian Ocean.
- ◆ According to the experts, the fraction of given reserve can meet the energy requirement of India for the next 100 years.

4. India's Region

- ◆ India has been ear-marked nearly 1.5 lakh square kilometres of area in the central Indian Ocean for exploration.
- ◆ India's Exclusive Economic Zone spreads over 2.2 million square kilometers.
- ◆ In September 2016, India signed a 15-year contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration of Poly-Metallic Sulphides (PMS) in the Indian Ocean.
 - Poly-Metallic Sulphides (PMS), which contain iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold, platinum in variable constitutions, are precipitates of hot fluids from upwelling hot magma from the deep interior of the oceanic crust, discharged through mineralized chimneys.
 - PMS in the Ocean Ridges have attracted worldwide attention for their long term commercial as well as strategic values.

Self Assessment (Objective Questions)



1. Raja Parba Festival of Odisha

Q. With reference to the Raja Parba festival, consider the following statements:

1. Raja Parba is celebrated across Chhattisgarh to celebrate womanhood.
2. The festival also signifies the end of summer and the beginning of the monsoon in the state of Chhattisgarh.

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)

2. Tulu Language

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Tulu Language':

1. Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala.
2. Tulu Language has been recognized as official language recently.

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)

3. G7 Summit

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'G7 Summit':

1. The UK is holding the presidency of the G7 for 2021.
2. The theme for the summit was 'Build Back Better'.

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

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

Ans: (c)

4. China's Dominance in Rare Earth Minerals

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The rare earth elements (REE) are a set of seventeen metallic elements. These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table plus scandium and yttrium.
2. Japan today controls nearly 90% of global rare earth production.
3. India has the world's fifth-largest reserves of rare earth elements.

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

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

Ans: (c)

5. Draft Master Plan for Delhi 2041

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Master Plan for Delhi 2041':

1. It talks about incentivising rented accommodation by inviting private players and government agencies to invest more.
2. The plan also focused on the concept of nighttime economy for Delhi.

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)

6. Naga Peace Agreement

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nagaland government has signed a peace agreement with the Centre on 26 January 2021.
2. Both parties also resolved the issues related to a separate Naga flag and a constitution.

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)

7. Online Module to map Out-of-school Children

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Education has launched an online module to compile data on out-of-school children.
2. The online module would also allow for the mapping of the adolescent girls' health, nutrition and wellbeing in rural 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)

8. Protection of 'Heritage Trees' in Maharashtra

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. After Goa, Maharashtra has become the second state to provide protection of 'Heritage Trees' in the state.
2. Maharashtra government will give 100 Rs per month for the maintenance of 'Heritage Trees'.

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

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

Ans: (d)

9. CHIME Telescope

Q. With reference to the 'CHIME Telescope', consider the following statements:

1. CHIME is located at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia in Britain.
2. The telescope receives radio signals each day from half of the sky as the Earth rotates.

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

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

Ans: (d)

10. EnVision Mission to Venus

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. NASA has announced its new mission, EnVision to Planet Venus, Earth's nearest neighbor.
2. Recently, European Space Agency (ESA) also selected two missions, DAVINCI+ and VERITAS to the planet Venus.

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)

11. Beed Model of Crop Insurance of Maharashtra

Q. Consider the following statement with reference to the Beed Model of Crop Insurance in Maharashtra:

1. Under the scheme, the insurance company will provided a cover of 110% of the premium collected, with caveats.
2. If the compensation exceeded the cover provided, the state government would pay the bridge amount.
3. If the compensation was less than the premium collected, the insurance company would keep 20% of the amount

as handling charges and reimburse the rest to the state government.

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)

12. UN “High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The UNCCD is one of the three Rio Conventions—along with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. The UNCCD was adopted on 17 June 1994, entered into force on 26 December 1996.

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

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

Ans: (c)

13. Operation Olivia

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘Operation Olivia’:

1. It was started by the government of Odisha along with Indian Coast Guard for the protection of Olive Ridley turtle.
2. The Olive Ridley is listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red list.

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)

14. PASIPHAE - Sky Surveying Project

Q. With reference to the Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE), consider the following statements:

1. NASA is developing a vital instrument, PASIPHAE, which will be used in upcoming sky surveys to study stars.
2. The survey will use two high-tech optical polarimeters to

observe the northern and southern skies, simultaneously.

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

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

Ans: (b)

15. National AI Portal (INDIAai)

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'National AI Portal':

1. The National AI Portal is a joint initiative by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
2. It will serve as a central hub for AI related news, learning, articles, events and activities etc., in India and beyond.

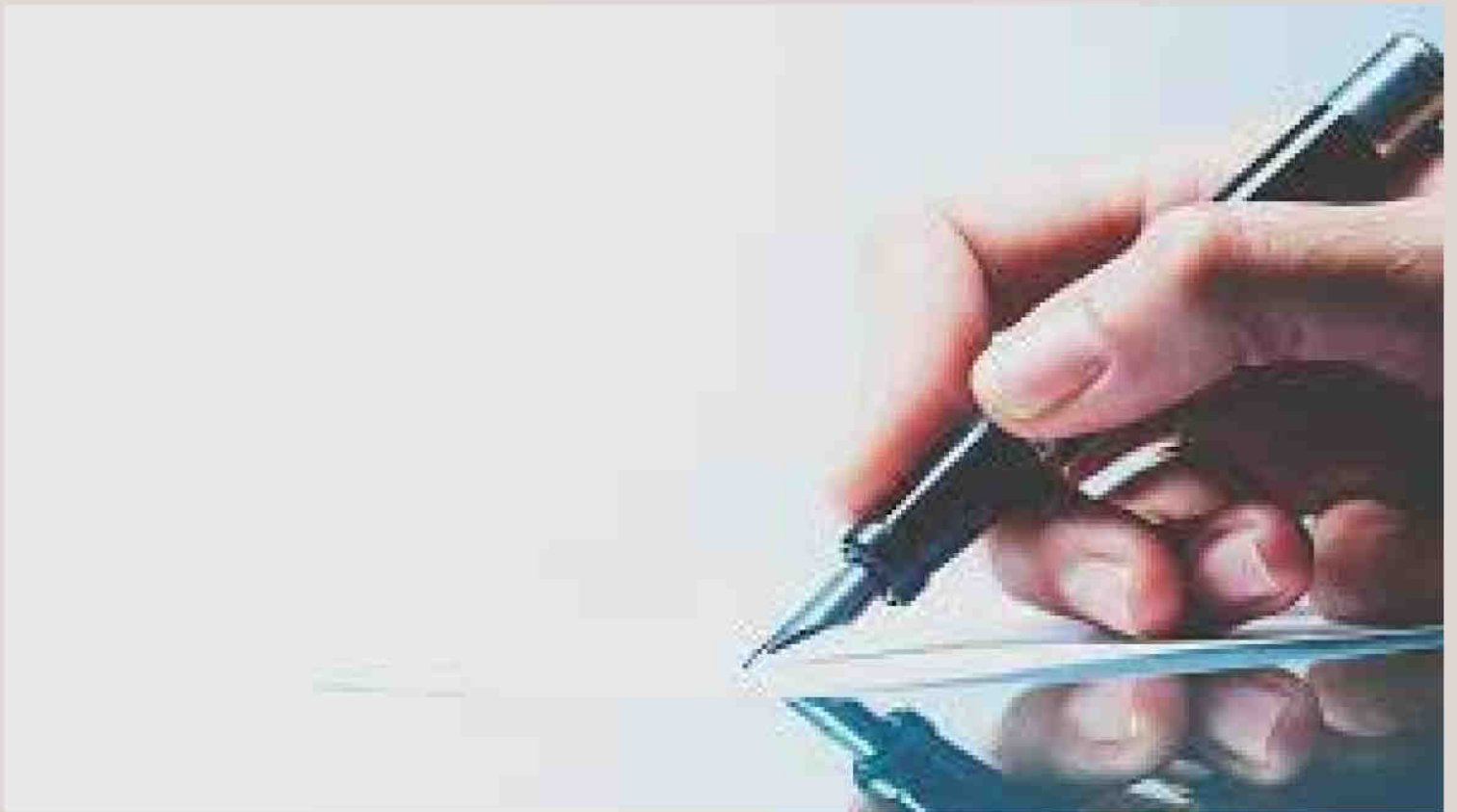
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)



Self Assessment (Subjective Questions)





- 01 Write a short note on Raja Parba Festival of Odisha.
- 02 Discuss the contribution of 'Tulu Language' in art and cinema.
- 03 What is the G7? Also discuss key takeaways of recent G7 summit.
- 04 What are Rare Earths? How and why does China dominate the sector? Discuss.
- 05 Write a short note on 'Master Plan for Delhi 2041'.
- 06 Discuss the reasons behind the failure of 2015 Naga Peace Talk with the Centre.
- 07 The Ministry of Education's online module to compile data on out-of-school children will bridge their learning gaps and mainstreaming them in schools. Explain.
- 08 What are heritage trees? Why was the concept of heritage tree introduced in Maharashtra?
- 09 Write a short note on 'CHIME Telescope'.
- 10 Several missions have been announced by the several space agencies. Why are scientists interested in studying Venus? Elaborate.
- 11 Discuss the key features of 'Beed Model of Crop Insurance in Maharashtra'.
- 12 Discuss the key initiatives of Indian government in order to achieve its national commitment of Land degradation neutrality.
- 13 Write a short note on 'Operation Olivia'.
- 14 Write a short note on 'PASIPHAE - Sky Surveying Project'.
- 15 Highlights the key contributions made by National AI Portal (INDIAai) in order to achieve 'AI for All' strategy of government of India.

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 vartly 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.

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

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