

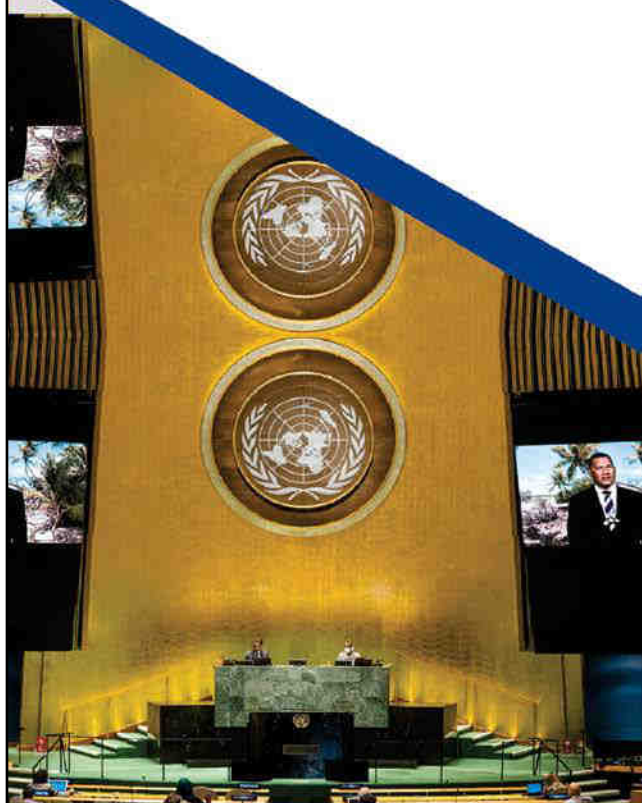
The Best Weekly Current Affairs Magazine for Civil Services Exam

PERFECT

7

Weekly Current Affairs

June 2021 | ISSUE 04



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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

OUR TEAM

Founder & CEO	➤ Vinay Kumar Singh
Managing Director	➤ Q. H.Khan
Chief Editor	➤ Qurban Ali
Managing Editor	➤ Ashutosh Singh
Editors	➤ Omveer Singh Chaudhary ➤ Jeet Singh ➤ Avaneesh Pandey
Editorial Support	➤ Prof. R. Kumar
Lead Authors	➤ Anshuman Tiwari ➤ Ajay Singh ➤ Ahamad Ali
Authors	➤ Ashraf Ali ➤ Girraj Singh ➤ Hariom Singh ➤ Sneha Tiwari
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Design & Development	➤ Sanjeev Kumar Jha ➤ Punish Jain
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Weekly Current Affairs

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(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

Issues of the Week

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- ◆ Summit on Green Hydrogen Initiatives

GS Paper-2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

1. Process of Recusal of Judges

Why in News?

- ◆ Recently, two Supreme Court (SC) judges — Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Aniruddha Bose have recused themselves from hearing cases relating to West Bengal.
- ◆ In another case, Delhi High Court (HC) judge Anup Bhambhani has also recused himself from hearing a plea by digital media houses challenging the validity of the IT rules regulating intermediaries.

What is Recusal of Judges?

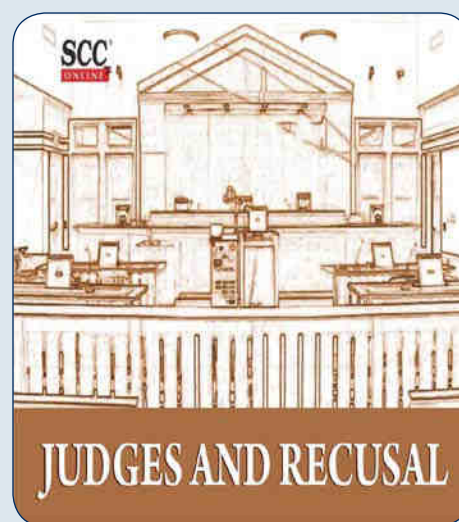
- ◆ Recusal, generally referred as judicial disqualification, is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.
- ◆ The practice stems from the cardinal principle of due process of law that nobody can be a judge in her own case. Any interest or conflict of interest would be a ground to withdraw from a case since a judge has a duty to act fair.
- ◆ Another instance for recusal is when an appeal is filed in the Supreme Court against a judgement of a High Court that may have been delivered by the SC judge when she was in the HC.

Process of Recusal

- ◆ There are no formal rules governing recusals, although several Supreme Court judgments have dealt with the issue.
- ◆ Since there are no formal rules governing the process, it is often left to individual judges to record reasons for recusal. Some judges disclose the reasons in open court; in some cases, the reasons are apparent.
- ◆ In *Ranjit Thakur v Union of India* (1987), the Supreme Court held that the tests of the likelihood of bias is the reasonableness of the apprehension in the mind of the party.
- ◆ “A Judge shall not hear and decide a matter in a company in which he holds shares... unless he has disclosed his interest and no objection to his hearing and deciding the matter is raised,” states the 1999 charter ‘Restatement of Values in Judicial Life’, a code of ethics adopted by the Supreme Court.

Reasons

- ◆ When there is a conflict of interest, a judge can withdraw from hearing a case to prevent creating a perception that she/he carried a bias while deciding the case.
- ◆ The conflict of interest can be in many ways — from holding shares in a



company that is a litigant to having a prior or personal association with a party involved in the case.

- ◆ In a landmark verdict in 2015 holding that the National Judicial Appointments Commission as unconstitutional, Justice Kurian Joseph and Justice Madan Lokur had referred to the need for judges to give reasons for recusal to build transparency and help frame rules to govern the process.
- ◆ Once a request is made for recusal, the decision to recuse or not rests with the judge. While there are some instances where judges have recused even if they do not see a conflict but only because such an apprehension was cast, there have also been several cases where judges have refused to withdraw from a case.

2. Draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Why in News?

- Recently, the Centre has released the draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Key Highlights

- The new draft proposes to amend the Cinematograph Act of 1952 with provisions that will give the Centre “revisionary powers” and enable it to “re-examine” films already cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

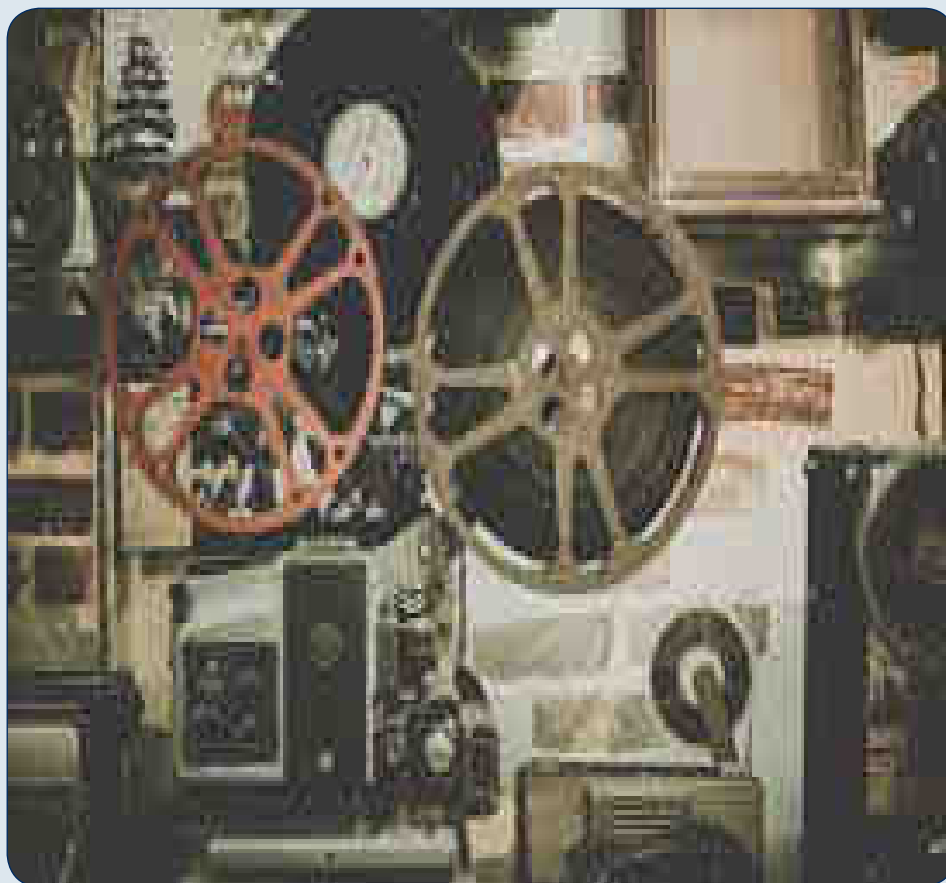
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting proposes to add a provision to the Act that will equip the Centre with revisionary powers on account of violation of Section 5B(1) (principles for guidance in certifying films).

- In other words, the proposed revision “means that the Central Government, if the situation so warranted, has the power to reverse the decision of the Board”.

- The draft proposed to introduce age-based categorisation and classification.

- Currently, films are certified into three categories — ‘U’ for unrestricted public exhibition; ‘U/A’ that requires parental guidance for children under 12; and ‘A’ for adult films.

- The new draft proposed to divide the categories into further age-based groups: U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+. This proposed age classification for films echoes the new IT rules for streaming platforms.



- The draft proposed to add Section 6AA that will prohibit unauthorised recording.

- At present, there are no enabling provisions to check film piracy in the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

- The draft also proposed to certify films for perpetuity. Currently a certificate issued by the CBFC is valid only for 10 years.

Criticism

- The draft has been criticised by filmmakers such as Adoor Gopalakrishnan, who has termed it a “super censor”, adding one more layer of censorship to the already existing process.

- The draft came shortly after the abolition of the Film Certificate Appellate Tribunal, which was the last point of appeal for filmmakers against the certificate granted to their film. Therefore, new draft could be a further curb on freedom of expression.

- According to the experts, the dissolving of the appellate tribunal itself was an undemocratic decision, taken without any consultation.

- Even at present, the filmmakers have not much say in the certification process, with the censor officers implementing the will of the Government.

- The Supreme Court had earlier said that the Government has no right to demand re-censorship of a film which has already been censored.

3. UN General Assembly Resolution on Myanmar

Why in News?

- ◆ India has abstained on a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on Myanmar.

Key Points

- ◆ The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution “The situation in Myanmar” with 119 Member States voting in favour, including Myanmar while 36 nations abstained, including Myanmar’s neighbours India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Laos, Nepal and Thailand. Russia also abstained.
- ◆ Belarus was the sole country voting against it.
- ◆ The resolution expressed “grave concern” at the February 1 coup and called upon Myanmar’s military junta to immediately and unconditionally release President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other government officials, politicians and those arbitrarily detained or arrested.
- ◆ It also called “upon all Member States to prevent the flow of arms into Myanmar”.
- ◆ The resolution called on the Myanmar armed forces to end the state of emergency and respect all human rights of all the people of the country.

India’s Argument

- ◆ The reason that India gave for abstaining is that its views have not been reflected in the draft that was considered for adoption.
- ◆ It reiterated that a “consultative and constructive approach involving the neighbouring countries and the region



remains important” in peacefully resolving the issue.

this approach did not sit well with New Delhi.

- ◆ In fact, despite its abstention, it made several arguments that overlap with the contents of the resolution – such as welcoming the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN’s) five-point consensus.

ASEAN’s Five-point Consensus

- ◆ It envisages
 - an “early visit of the ASEAN Special Envoy”;
 - condemning the “use of violence”; and
 - expressing “steadfast” support for the process of democratic transition.

Concerns for India

- ◆ India believes that the solution to the crisis in Myanmar needs to come from the region. It wants Myanmar’s neighbours in South and Southeast Asia, rather than countries seven seas away, to take the lead in resolving the fix.
- ◆ This particular resolution was predominantly spearheaded by the Western bloc, including the US, UK, France and Germany. Very evidently,

- ◆ It might have felt that a bunch of extra-regional powers were trying to set the terms of engagement on an issue that demands the involvement of regional stakeholders.
- ◆ Further, India, in all likelihood, was not comfortable with certain provisions of the resolution. For instance, it might not have wanted to vote for a resolution that uses the term “Rohingya Muslim minority” or talks about their citizenship rights – both sticking points in India’s Myanmar policy.
- ◆ Moreover, India may not have favoured the resolution’s call to “prevent the flow of arms to Myanmar”, which Naypyitaw could interpret as New Delhi’s endorsement of an informal arms embargo. Here, it is interesting to note that India has signed a series of defence deals with the Myanmar military in recent years.
- ◆ In short, India firmly believes in working with whoever is in power in Naypyitaw – which currently happens to be the military – to protect its own bilateral and regional interests.

GS Paper-3

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

4. Children and Digital Dumpsites Report

Why in News?

- ◆ A report on e-waste dumpsites titled, “Children and Digital Dumpsites” has been released by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Key Highlights

- ◆ More than 18 million children and adolescents working at e-waste dumpsites in low- and middle-income countries are potentially at the risk of severe health hazards.
- ◆ The new report underlined the risk children working in the informal processing faced due to discarded electronic devices or e-waste.
- ◆ As many 18 million children — as young as five years — and about 12.9 million women work at these e-waste dumpsites every year. The e-waste from high-income countries is dumped in the middle- or low-income countries for processing every year.
 - ▢ This e-waste is dismantled and recycled by children.
 - ▢ It contains over 1,000 precious metals and other substances like gold, copper, mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
 - ▢ The processing is done in low-income countries, which do not

have proper safeguarding regulation and which makes the process even more dangerous.

- ◆ The volume of e-waste generated is surging rapidly across the globe. About 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste was generated in 2019, according to the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership.
- ◆ Only 17.4 per cent of this e-waste was processed in formal recycling facilities. The rest of it was dumped in low- or middle-income countries for illegal processing by informal workers.
- ◆ This is likely to increase in the coming years because of the rise in the number of smartphones and computers.

Impact

- ◆ Children are particularly more exposed to the toxic chemicals used and released during the processing of e-waste. They are less likely to metabolise or eradicate pollutants absorbed.
- ◆ Several women, including expectant mothers, also work there. Processing e-waste exposes them as well as their children to these toxins, which can lead to premature births and stillbirth.
- ◆ The hazardous impact of working at such sites is also experienced by families and communities that reside in the vicinity of these e-waste dumpsites.

Initiatives

- ◆ The WHO Initiative on E-waste and Child Health was launched in 2013 after the WHO Working Meeting on E-waste and Child Health.
- ◆ The Geneva Declaration on E-waste and Children’s Health set as goals:
 - ▢ increased access to the evidence and knowledge base;
 - ▢ greater awareness about health impacts, particularly in children, and solutions for e-waste management;
 - ▢ improved health sector capacity to identify risks, track progress and promote e-waste policies that protect children through exposure reduction;
 - ▢ promotion of e-waste exposure monitoring;
 - ▢ multisectoral collaboration to implement policies reducing e-waste exposure;
 - ▢ facilitation of research about e-waste and health;
 - ▢ development and testing of country-based pilot initiatives to reduce e-waste health risks.
- ◆ WHO recently joined the E-Waste Coalition, which is working globally to support governments in addressing e-waste issues across health, environment, climate and development agendas.

5. Mangrove and Casuarinas Plantation in Odisha

Why in News?

- ◆ The Odisha government has proposed to raise mangrove and casuarinas plantation in around 109 and 4,000 hectares of land, respectively, in the coastal belt.
- ◆ The state has around 480-kilometres-long coastal belt.

Why?

- ◆ Odisha is vulnerable to various natural disasters like cyclone, flood, hailstorm, drought due to its unique geo-climatic condition.
- ◆ The mangroves served as a natural barrier to cyclonic winds in Bhitarkanika National Park during Cyclone Yaas, which hit the state on May 26, 2021.

- ◆ The cyclone, with wind speed of around 145 km, devastated a few other areas, but its impact was not felt in Kalibhanjadiha island inside the national park due to the presence of mangroves.
- ◆ The mangroves have acted as a bio-shield against the strong winds in all the cyclones that struck the state. As many as 96 cyclones have hit Odisha coast in the last 130 years.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The mangrove forests will be raised under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) Phase-II; the casuarinas will be planted by the state resources.
- ◆ The coastal belt plantation aims to erect a strong, natural barrier against the strong winds during cyclones.

- ◆ Currently, the state has 219 square kilometres of mangrove forests in three districts.

What is Mangrove Forest?

- ◆ Mangroves are a group of trees and shrubs that live in the coastal intertidal zone.
- ◆ All of these trees grow in areas with low-oxygen soil, where slow-moving waters allow fine sediments to accumulate.
- ◆ Mangrove forests only grow at tropical and subtropical latitudes near the equator because they cannot withstand freezing temperatures.
- ◆ Mangrove forests provide a wide range of services, such as provisioning of timber, medicines, fish, and shellfish.

6. Hallmarking of Gold

Why in News?

- ◆ The government has announced the phased implementation of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery with effect from June 16.

Key Highlights

- ◆ In the first phase, gold hallmarking will be available in only in 256 districts and jewellers having annual turnover above Rs 40 lakh will come under its purview.
- ◆ As per BIS standards, there are three categories of hallmarking based on purity of gold—22 carat, 18 carat and 14 carat.
- ◆ However, Gold of Additional carats 20, 23 and 24 will also be allowed for Hallmarking.

- ◆ Further, the jewellers can continue to buy back old gold jewellery without a hallmark from consumers.

Exemptions

- ◆ A certain category of jewellery and items will be exempted from the mandatory requirement of hallmarking.
- ◆ According to the Department of Consumer Affairs, “Export and re-import of jewellery as per Trade Policy of Government of India — Jewellery for international exhibitions, jewellery for government-approved B2B domestic exhibitions will be exempted from mandatory Hallmarking.
- ◆ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said that watches, fountain pens and special

types of jewellery such as Kundan, Polki and Jadau will be exempted from hallmarking.

What is Hallmarking of Gold?

- ◆ The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), which operates gold and silver hallmarking scheme in India, defines hallmarking as the “accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles.”
 - So, it is a “guarantee of purity or fineness” of precious metal articles.
- ◆ In 2018, the government notified two categories—gold jewellery and gold artefacts; and silver jewellery and silver artefacts—under the purview of hallmarking.

- So, hallmarking in India is available for jewellery of only two metals—gold and silver.

Need

- ◆ India is the biggest consumer of gold. However, the level of hallmarked jewellery is very low in the country.

According to the ministry, at present, only 30% of Indian gold jewellery is hallmarked.

- ◆ One of the reasons responsible for low level of hallmarked jewellery is non-availability of sufficient assaying and hallmarking centres (A&HC). There are about only 35,879 jewellers across

the country, who are certified by BIS. The number of A&HC is 945.

- ◆ According to the ministry, one A&H centre can hallmark 1500 articles in a day and the estimated hallmarking capacity of A&H centres per year is 14 crore articles.

7. Space-time Induces Neutrino Oscillations

Why in News?

- ◆ Scientists have shown that the geometry of space-time can cause neutrinos to oscillate.

What are Neutrinos?

- ◆ Proton, neutron, and electron are tiny particles that make up atoms.
- ◆ The neutrino is also a tiny elementary particle, but it is not part of the atom.
- ◆ Neutrino has a very tiny mass, no charge and spins half. It interacts very weakly with other matter particles.
 - So weakly that every second trillions of neutrinos fall on us and pass through our bodies unnoticed.
- ◆ Neutrinos come from the Sun (solar neutrinos) and other stars, cosmic rays that come from beyond the solar system, and from the Big Bang from which our Universe originated.
- ◆ They can also be produced in the lab.

What is Neutrino Oscillation?

- ◆ Neutrinos come in three types or “flavours” – electron neutrino, tau neutrino and muon neutrino.
- ◆ They can change from one flavor to another as they travel. This process is called neutrino oscillation and is an unusual quantum phenomenon.
- ◆ A neutrino’s spin always points in the opposite direction of its motion, and until a few years ago, neutrinos were believed to be massless.

- ◆ It is now generally believed that the phenomenon of neutrino oscillations require neutrinos to have tiny masses.
- ◆ Neutrino oscillation was established by Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, Canada, and Super-Kamiokande experiment in Japan. They studied Solar neutrinos, atmospheric neutrinos and man-made neutrinos.

Role of Space-time

- ◆ Einstein’s theory of general relativity says that gravitation is the manifestation of space-time curvature.
- ◆ According to the scientists, neutrinos, electrons, protons and other particles which are in the category of fermions show a certain peculiarity when they move in presence of gravity.
- ◆ Space-time induces a quantum force in addition to gravity between every two fermions. This force can depend on the spin of the particles, and causes massless neutrinos to appear massive when they pass through matter, like the Sun’s corona or the Earth’s atmosphere.
- ◆ Something similar happens for electroweak interactions, and together with the geometrically induced mass it is enough to cause oscillation of neutrinos.

Neutrino Study in India

- ◆ The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) will study atmospheric neutrinos only.

- ◆ INO is being set up in Bodi West Hills, in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ Atmospheric neutrinos are produced from cosmic rays which consist of protons and heavy nuclei.
- ◆ These collide with atmospheric molecules such as Nitrogen to give off pions and muons which further decay to produce neutrinos.

Future Applications of Neutrinos

- ◆ Solar neutrinos can give us information about the interior of the Sun. Studying these neutrinos can help us understand what goes on in the interior of the Sun.
- ◆ Light is the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum, other parts are used in for example radio astronomy. Likewise, if the properties of neutrinos are understood better, they can be used in astronomy to discover what the universe is made up of.
- ◆ • Neutrinos interact very little with the matter around them, so they travel long distances uninterrupted. Since they take time to cross these distances, they are in effect uninterrupted for very long times.
- ◆ The extragalactic neutrinos we observe may be coming from the distant past. These inviolate messengers can give us a clue about the origin of the universe and the early stages of the infant universe, soon after the Big Bang.

8. Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor

Why in News?

- ◆ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in the state of Tamil Nadu.

What is CKIC?

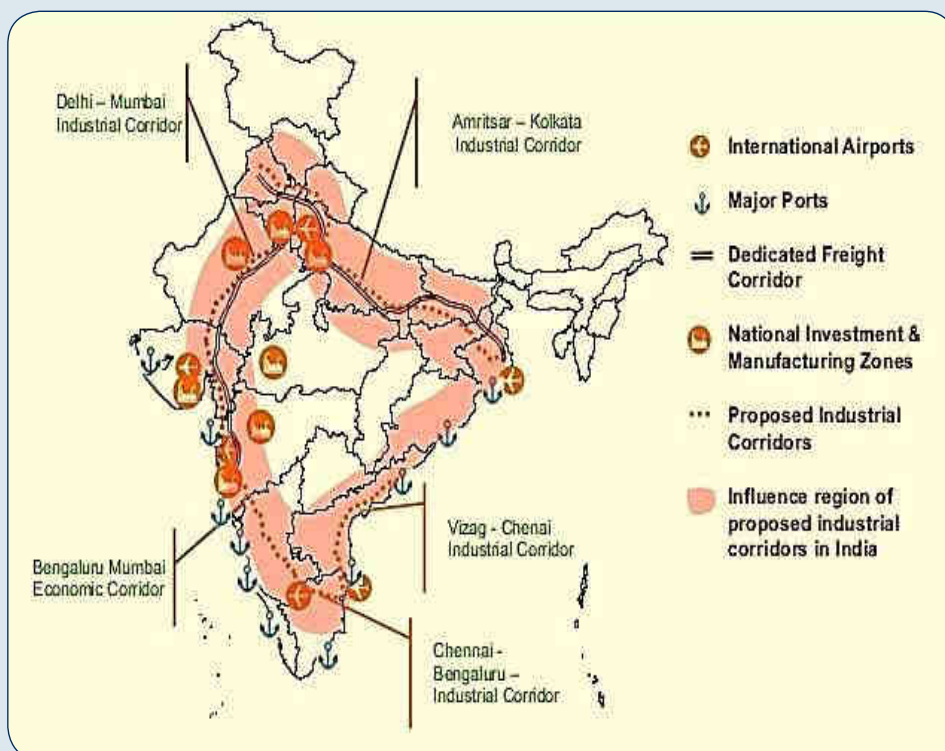
- ◆ CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to the production networks of South, Southeast, and East Asia.
- ◆ ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC.

Key Highlights of the Agreement

- ◆ In line with Strategy 2030, ADB's long-term corporate strategy, the project emphasises sustainability, climate change resilience, and road safety elements.
- ◆ ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ◆ Seven-year contracts are provided for long-term maintenance of road projects. Climate change adaptation measures will be incorporated in highway upgrades, including improved drainage, raised road embankments in critical sections, and resizing of bridges and culverts.

Industrial Corridor Projects in India

- ◆ Government of India is developing various Industrial Corridor Projects



as part of National Industrial Corridor programme which is aimed at development of futuristic industrial cities in India which can compete with the best manufacturing and investment destinations in the world.

- ◆ 11 Industrial Corridors Projects are being taken up for development with 32 Projects to be developed in 04 phases up to 2024-25:

- Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC);
- Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC);
- Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC);
- East Coast Industrial Corridor (ECIC) with Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) as Phase 1;
- Bengaluru Mumbai Industrial Corridor (BMIC);
- Extension of CBIC to Kochi via Coimbatore;

- Hyderabad Nagpur Industrial Corridor (HNIC);
- Hyderabad Warangal Industrial Corridor (HWIC);
- Hyderabad Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (HBIC);
- Odisha Economic Corridor (OEC); and
- Delhi Nagpur Industrial Corridor (DNIC).

About ADB

- ◆ ADB was established in 1966.
- ◆ ADB, a regional development bank, is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ◆ It has 68 members—49 from the Asia.
- ◆ India is also a member of the bank.

9. Herbicide Tolerant (HT) Bt Cotton

Why in News?

- ◆ The illegal cultivation of herbicide tolerant (HT) Bt cotton has seen a huge jump this year.
- ◆ The seed manufacturers claiming that the sale of illegal seed packets has more than doubled from 30 lakh last year to 75 lakh this year.

What is HT Bt cotton?

- ◆ Herbicide-tolerant Bt (HT Bt) Cotton is genetically modified crop of unapproved genes which is not permissible in India.
- ◆ Technically, herbicide is like a poison which is used to destroy unwanted vegetation. The HTBt cotton variant adds another layer of modification, making the plant resistant to the herbicide glyphosate, but has not been approved by regulators.
- ◆ Fears include glyphosate having a carcinogenic effect, as well as

the unchecked spread of herbicide resistance to nearby plants through pollination, creating a variety of superweeds.

- ◆ Bt cotton is the only transgenic crop that has been approved by the Centre for commercial cultivation in India.
- ◆ It has been genetically modified to produce an insecticide to combat the cotton bollworm, a common pest.

Arguments in-favour

- ◆ According to supporters of HT Bt Cotton, its preferred to reduce the cost of labour as de-weeding is an extremely labour intensive activity involving 40 per cent of the total cost for growing cotton.
- ◆ A section of farmers who demand approval for cultivation of HT Bt Cotton say that they should be allowed to use the latest technologies in the agriculture including genetically modified (GM) crops.

- ◆ Further, farmers' organization like Maharashtra Shetkari Sanghatana has urged the government to allow the farmers to undertake field trial for HT Bt cotton to further improve their cotton production.

Argument against

- ◆ Leading farmers' organizations in Haryana have strongly opposed the idea of HT Bt cotton and Bt brinjal.
- ◆ Farmers are at risk with such illegal cotton seed sale as there is no accountability of the quality of seed, it pollutes the environment, the industry is losing legitimate seed sale and the government also loses revenue in terms of tax collection.
- ◆ Further, such seeds will cause more diseases among humans and animals apart from causing damage to the environment.

10. Delta Plus Variant of Coronavirus

Why in News?

- ◆ A new variant, "Delta Plus" of the coronavirus has been detected in some states.

What is Delta Plus Variant?

- ◆ The variant, called "Delta Plus (B.1.617.2.1/(AY.1))" in India, was first reported in a Public Health England bulletin on June 11.
- ◆ It is a sub-lineage of the Delta variant first detected in India and has acquired the spike protein mutation called K417N which is also found in the Beta variant first identified in South Africa.
- ◆ Some scientists worry that the mutation, coupled with other existing

features of the Delta variant, could make it more transmissible.

- ◆ Some reports claim that the Delta plus (AY.1) is resistant to monoclonal antibodies cocktail, but more research is required in this area.

What is Delta Variant?

- ◆ Delta is one of several "variants of concern," as designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.
- ◆ It has spread rapidly through India and Britain.
- ◆ Delta, formerly known as B.1.617.2, is believed to be the most transmissible variant yet, spreading more easily than

both the original strain of the virus and the Alpha variant first identified in Britain.

Concerns

- ◆ Studies are ongoing in India and globally to test the effectiveness of vaccines against this mutation.
- ◆ There are worries Delta Plus would inflict another wave of infections on India after it emerged from the world's worst surge in cases only recently.
- ◆ Further, the mutation itself may not lead to a third wave in India — that also depends on Covid-appropriate behaviour, but it could be one of the reasons.

11. End of Second Ebola Outbreak in Guinea

Why in News?

- ◆ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the second Ebola outbreak in Guinea is officially over.
- ◆ The disease outbreak had erupted in the west African state on February 14.

What is Ebola Virus?

- ◆ Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- ◆ The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human

transmission.

- ◆ Ebola spreads through human-to-human transmission via direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with:
 - Blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola
 - Objects that have been contaminated with body fluids (like blood, feces, vomit) from a person sick with Ebola or the body of a person who died from Ebola
- ◆ The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.

Symptoms

- ◆ Ebola is a highly contagious hemorrhagic fever that causes a range of symptoms including fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, generalized pain or malaise and in many cases internal and external bleeding.

Prevention

- ◆ Early supportive care with rehydration, symptomatic treatment improves survival. Two monoclonal antibodies (Inmazeb and Ebanga) were approved for the treatment of Zaire ebolavirus (Ebola virus) infection in adults and children by the US Food and Drug Administration in late 2020.

12. Great Barrier Reef

Why in News?

- ◆ Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation committee, which sits under UNESCO, said the world's biggest coral reef system should be added to the UNESCO's list of World Heritage 'in Danger'.

Background

- ◆ Australia has for years been battling to keep the Great Barrier Reef, a major tourist attraction that supports thousands of jobs, off the "in danger" list.
- ◆ In 2015, UNESCO noted the outlook for the reef was poor but kept the site's status unchanged. Since then, scientists say it has suffered three major coral bleaching events due to severe marine heatwaves.

What is Coral Bleaching?

- ◆ According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), when corals are stressed by changes in conditions such as temperature, light or nutrients, they expel the algae living in their tissue, causing them to turn

white, hence bleached.

- ◆ Coral bleaching does not mean the corals are dead, but make them vulnerable, hence increasing their mortality.
- ◆ Warm ocean temperatures are one condition that could lead to coral bleaching.
- ◆ Even so, NOAA says that not all bleaching events are due to warmer temperatures.
- ◆ In January 2010, cold water temperatures in the Florida Keys caused a coral bleaching event that resulted in some coral deaths.
- ◆ Coral Bleaching and Great Barrier Reef
- ◆ The Great Barrier Reef, which covers an area of 344,400 sq km makes up roughly 10 per cent of the world's coral reef ecosystems.
- ◆ In the 2019 Outlook Report prepared by the Australian government, it said that climate change was the greatest threat to the Reef.
- ◆ Other threats included coastal development, land-based run-off and direct human use, such as activities

like illegal fishing.

- ◆ Significantly, coral bleaching events such as the ones that took place in 2016 and 2017 have had severe impacts on the Reef, causing changes in its ecosystem.
- ◆ However, some parts of the reef that escaped the impact of the bleaching and cyclones still remain in good condition.

Criticism

- ◆ Some environmental groups are criticizing the Australian government.
- ◆ Australia, one of the world's largest carbon emitters per capita, has remained reluctant to commit to stronger climate action and its conservative government has cited jobs as a major reason to back the country's fossil fuel industries.
- ◆ It has not updated its climate goals since 2015.
- ◆ But the threat of losing the World Heritage Site could also impact thousands of jobs dependent on about 5 million people who visit the Great Barrier Reef each year.

13. Rising Sea Levels Threaten to Flood Lakshadweep Islands

Why in News?

- ◆ A group of scientists at IIT-Kharagpur, in a study carried out under the Department of Science and Technology, have found that sea levels around Lakshadweep are estimated to rise between 0.4 mm and 0.9 mm annually, causing coastal erosion in many of the islands, and possibly submerging the smaller islets.

Key Points of the Report

- ◆ The range of rise in sea levels has been ascertained based on different climate change models and the study has been conducted projecting different greenhouse gas scenarios.
- ◆ While the study has found that some islands will be affected more than others, all islands will be affected by the sea level rise.
- ◆ Lakshadweep islands are already facing the impact of sea level rising which is taking place even now. By 2030, the islands will face major coastal erosion.
- ◆ The study estimated that smaller islands Chetlat and Amini are expected to have major land-loss. Projection mapping indicated that about 60%-70% of existing shoreline would experience land-loss in Amini and about 70%-80% in Chetlat.
- ◆ The present work highlights that, larger islands Minicoy and the capital Kavaratti are also vulnerable to sea-level rise, and expected to experience land-loss along 60% of the existing shoreline.
- ◆ Sea-level rise effects are seen to have the least impact on Androth Island under all emission scenarios.

- ◆ The only airport in the archipelago, located on the southernmost tip of Agatti Island, is likely to experience damage due to inundation.
- ◆ The land use pattern in the islands is such that most of the residential areas occur along the periphery of the islands and cultivation in the centre, increasing the vulnerability of the islands to rising sea levels and erosion.
- ◆ Fisheries, agriculture and tourism are the three main economic sectors of the islanders, all of which are also vulnerable.”
- ◆ Coastal protection measures need to be taken now.
- ◆ There are two kinds that the government can adopt – soft measures, that is, the creation of mangroves, which we think is more effective.
- ◆ Other is hard engineering solutions including the building of sea walls – a proposition which is extremely expensive.

Other Causes

- ◆ Usually calmer than the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea is getting more active with the rapid intensification of cyclones due to climate change; cyclone Ockhi and Tauktae were the most recent ones.
- ◆ High energy waves that pound the shores during these events also contribute to eroding the coasts.
- ◆ Additionally, climate change together with human-caused actions has disrupted the status quo of the cyclical process of erosion (shoreline retreat) and accretion (accumulation) so much so that the shorelines are not able to accrete mass at the same pace as they lose.



Impact on Coral Reefs

- ◆ Lakshadweep has experienced three major bleaching events from 1998, 2010 and 2016 corresponding to the El Niño events of those years.
- ◆ While the reefs recovered from the 1998 event, recovery following the 2010 event was slower.
- ◆ Just when the reefs were showing signs of recovery from the 2010 bleaching, the El Niño hit the reefs in 2016.
- ◆ Cyclones, including Ockhi in 2018, followed this collapse of coral.
- ◆ Coupled with the narrowing of the intervals between the bleaching events, commercial reef fishery in recent years has undermined the resilience of these ecosystems.

About Lakshadweep Archipelago

- ◆ The Lakshadweep archipelago comprises 36 islands of coral and reef formation in the Arabian Sea, spanning just over 32 sq km. However, only 10 islands are inhabited.
- ◆ The islands are characterized by low elevations, with maximum elevation ranging from 4-6 metres above Mean Sea Level and minimum elevations lower than 1 metre.

14. Stygarctus Keralensis: New Tardigrade Species named after Kerala

Why in News?

- Recently, a research team has discovered a new Tardigrade species, *Stygarctus keralensis*, from Vadakara in north Kerala.

Key Points

- Stygarctus keralensis* - the new species - is the first taxonomically described marine tardigrade from the Indian waters, which makes the discovery a significant one.
- Stygarctus keralensis* is the eighth species named under the genus *Stygarctus*, which grows up to a length of 130 micrometres (0.13 mm).

- The present discovery is an outcome of an ongoing Ministry of Earth Sciences-National Centre for Earth Science Studies study on the ecology and diversity of submarine groundwater habitats of Kerala.

- Globally, scientific interest in tardigrades has grown, but in India it is still in the nascent stages. Therefore, there is a need for further explorations on tardigrade-meiofauna from India.

About Tardigrades

- Tardigrades are very tough animals and are found everywhere on Earth, from mountain tops to deep sea.
- They have survived five mass

extinctions. They are also related to insects, spiders, and crustaceans and are the lesser known taxa of invertebrates.

- Commonly called 'water bears' and 'moss piglets', they also rank among the hardiest animals on planet earth despite their minuscule size.
- Tardigrades employ a curious process, 'cryptobiosis' to deal with environmental stress. This process brings their metabolic activities to a reversible standstill. A death-like state, more or less.
- Certain tardigrade species can withstand extreme temperatures, pressures, radiation, and dehydration.

15. Summit on Green Hydrogen Initiatives

Why in News?

- A two-day summit on green hydrogen of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations was organized by India.
- The Summit was organized by NTPC, one of India's largest power producers.

What is Hydrogen?

- Hydrogen is the lightest and first element on the periodic table.
- Hydrogen is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water.
- Hydrogen can be produced from a variety of domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind.



- Types of Hydrogen

Grey Hydrogen

- The most common form of hydrogen, it's created from fossil fuels and the process releases carbon dioxide which is not captured.

Blue Hydrogen

- Blue hydrogen uses the same process as grey, except this time the carbon is captured and stored.

Green Hydrogen

- Hydrogen when produced by

electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint.

What is Green Hydrogen?

- ◆ As the world rapidly moves to decarbonise the entire energy system, hydrogen is poised to play a vital role and build on the rapid scale-up of renewable resources across the world.
- ◆ Hydrogen when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint.
- ◆ This gives Hydrogen the edge over other fuels to unlock various avenues of green usage.

Applications

- ◆ Green hydrogen has innumerable applications.
- ◆ Green Chemicals like ammonia and methanol can directly be utilized in existing applications like fertilizers, mobility, power, chemicals, shipping etc.

- ◆ Green Hydrogen blending up to 10% may be adopted in city gas distribution (CGD) networks to gain widespread acceptance.
- ◆ Further scaling up with greening of hard to abate sectors (like steel and cement) through hydrogen is to be explored.
- ◆ Many countries have brought out their strategies and defined targets and roadmaps based on their resources and strengths.
- ◆ Inclusion of “Hydrogen” as an energy carrier in the future energy portfolio presents a unique opportunity to address emerging energy vectors, including power to gas, power to power, and power to mobility and even vehicle to grid applications.

India and Green Hydrogen

- ◆ Recently, the US-India hydrogen taskforce was launched under the aegis of US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership.
- ◆ India is also planning to extend

the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing electrolyzers, which are used for producing green hydrogen.

- ◆ Government of India has announced the ‘National Hydrogen Mission’ in the Union Budget 2021 for making a hydrogen roadmap for the country.
- ◆ India is currently working on a pilot project on Blue Hydrogen, Hydrogen CNG (H-CNG) and Green Hydrogen.
- ◆ • In the past six years, India has increased its renewable power portfolio from 32 GW to almost 100 GW. While, India is also on track to achieve 450 GW target of renewable energy generating capacity by 2030.
- ◆ • Hydrogen is also capable of aligning with the Ministry’s other flagship schemes, like the promotion of compressed biogas under the Sustainable Alternative for Affordable towards Transportation (SATAT) scheme or promoting the gas-based economy or other initiatives on Waste-to-Energy.



Persons of the Week

Shyam Sundar Jyani



Ebrahim Raisi



Laurel Hubbard



Justice Mahmud Jamal



Kenneth Kaunda



Milkha Singh



Jamsetji Tata



1. Shyam Sundar Jyani

- ◆ Shyam Sundar Jyani, a Rajasthan-based climate activist, has won the prestigious United Nations' Land for Life Award for his environment conservation concept, 'Familial Forestry'.
- ◆ The UNCCD praised Familial Forestry of Rajasthan as "a unique concept of Shyam Sunder Jyanithat relates a tree with a family, making it a green family member".
- ◆ More than a million families from more than 15,000 villages of desert-prone northwest Rajasthan in over 2.5 million saplings have been planted in the past 15 years, with active participation of students and desert dwellers.



2. Ebrahim Raisi

- ◆ Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline cleric close to the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has won Iran's presidential election.
- ◆ Iran is run according to conservative Shia Islamic values, and there have been curbs on political freedoms since its Islamic Revolution in 1979.
- ◆ Raisi's career began after the Islamic Revolution in 1979, when he was appointed prosecutor general of Karaj, a suburb of Tehran, at the age of 20.
- ◆ He later became a judge, and since 2019 he has headed up the country's judiciary.



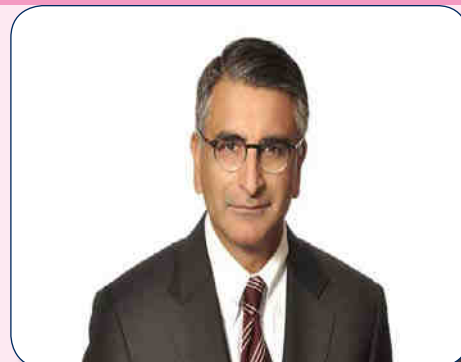
3. Laurel Hubbard

- ◆ Weightlifter Laurel Hubbard will become the first transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics after being selected by New Zealand for the women's event at the Tokyo Games 2020.
- ◆ Hubbard will compete in the super-heavyweight 87-kg category, her selection made possible by updated qualifying requirements.
- ◆ In 2015, the International Olympic Committee issued guidelines allowing any transgender athlete to compete as a woman.



4. Justice Mahmud Jamal

- ◆ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has nominated Indian-origin Justice Mahmud Jamal to the Supreme Court of Canada, becoming the first person of colour to be named to the apex court of the country.
- ◆ He will replace Rosalie Silberman Abella, the first refugee and first Jewish woman to sit on the top court.
- ◆ Justice Jamal had a distinguished career as a litigator with a deep commitment to pro bono work prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 2019.
- ◆ He served as a law clerk to Justice Melvin Rothman of the Quebec Court of Appeal and Justice Charles Gonthier of the Supreme Court of Canada.



5. Kenneth Kaunda

- ◆ Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's first president and one of the last of the generation of African leaders who fought colonialism, has died aged 97.
- ◆ In the 1950s, Kaunda was a key figure in what was then Northern Rhodesia's independence movement from Britain. He became president following independence in 1964.
- ◆ Kaunda - popularly known as KK - was a strong supporter of efforts to end apartheid in South Africa. He was also a leading supporter of liberation movements in Mozambique and what is now Zimbabwe.
- ◆ In later life Kaunda turned his attention to the fight against HIV after one of his sons, Masuzyo, died from an Aids-related disease.



6. Milkha Singh

- ◆ Milkha Singh, the Flying Sikh, has died recently after a month-long battle with COVID-19.
- ◆ Milkha Singh, born in Gobindpura – in present day Pakistan – was the first Indian track and field athlete to win gold in the then British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Cardiff in 1958.
- ◆ While he had also won four Asian Games gold medals – 200m and 400m in 1958, and 400m and 4x400m relay in 1962.
- ◆ Singh's most memorable moment came at the 1960 Rome Olympics where he finished fourth in the 400m final in a photo-finish.
- ◆ Singh's then national record timing of 45.6 seconds, set in Rome, was broken by Paramjeet Singh in 1998.



7. Jamsetji Tata

- ◆ Jamsetji Tata, the founder of the \$200-billion Tata conglomerate, has emerged the top philanthropist in Edelgive Hurun India's list of philanthropists of the century, bettering the likes of Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffet, Henry Hughes and George Soros.
- ◆ India's largest conglomerate by market capitalisation has made donations worth \$102.4 billion over the past century followed by Bill and Melinda Gates, who have made donations worth \$74.6 billion.
- ◆ Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata was an Indian pioneer industrialist, who founded the Tata Group, India's biggest conglomerate company. He established the city of Jamshedpur.
- ◆ He founded what would later become the Tata Group of companies. Jamsetji Tata is regarded as the legendary "Father of Indian Industry".
- ◆ He was so influential in the world of industry that Jawaharlal Nehru referred to Tata as a One-Man Planning Commission.



Places of the Week

Kerala



Botswana



Gulf of Aden



Jorhat, Assam



**Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife
Sanctuary, Rajasthan**



**Manas National
Park, Assam**



Colombia



1. Kerala

- ◆ The Kerala cabinet has given the green light to begin acquiring land for SilverLine, its flagship semi high-speed railway project aimed at reducing travel time between the state's southern end and state capital Thiruvananthapuram with its northern end of Kasaragod.
- ◆ Kerala is a state on the Malabar Coast of India.
- ◆ It was formed on 1 November 1956, following the passage of the States Reorganisation Act, by combining Malayalam-speaking regions of the erstwhile regions of Cochin, Malabar, South Canara, and Travancore.
- ◆ Kerala is the twenty-first largest



Indian state by area. It is bordered by Karnataka to the north and northeast,

Tamil Nadu to the east and south, and the Lakshadweep Sea to the west.

2. Botswana

- ◆ One of the world's largest diamonds has been unearthed in Botswana. The 1,098-carat stone, believed to be the third largest "gem-quality" diamond ever found.
- ◆ At present, the largest diamond ever recorded is the 3,106-carat Cullinan Diamond, found in South Africa in 1905.
- ◆ The second largest discovery is believed to be the Lesedi La Rona, a 1,109-carat stone found also in Botswana, in 2015.
- ◆ Botswana, officially the Republic of Botswana, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa.
- ◆ Botswana is topographically flat, with up to 70 percent of its territory being the Kalahari Desert.
- ◆ It is bordered by South Africa to the



south and southeast, Namibia to the west and north, and Zimbabwe to the northeast.

- ◆ It is connected to Zambia across the short Zambezi River border by the Kazungula Bridge.

3. Gulf of Aden

- ◆ The first ever Indian Navy - European Union Naval Force (IN-EUNAVFOR) Exercise was held in the Gulf of Aden.
- ◆ EUNAVFOR and the Indian Navy see eye-to-eye on multiple issues including counter piracy operations and protection of vessels deployed under the charter of World Food Programme (UN WFP).
- ◆ The Indian Navy and EUNAVFOR also have regular interaction through SHADE (Shared Awareness and De-confliction) meetings held annually at Bahrain.
- ◆ The Gulf of Aden also known as the Gulf of Berbera is a deepwater gulf



between Yemen to the north, the Arabian Sea to the east, Djibouti to the west, and the Guardafui Channel, Socotra (Yemen), and Somaliland to the south.

- ◆ In the northwest, it connects with the Red Sea through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, and it connects with the Arabian Sea to the east. To the west, it narrows into the Gulf of Tadjoura in Djibouti.

4. Jorhat, Assam

- ◆ The first International Tea Day special auction conducted on a digital platform in eastern Assam's Jorhat, considered the tea capital of the region, fetched record prices.
- ◆ Jorhat city is the 2nd largest city in the Assam state. It is situated in the central part of the Brahmaputra Valley.
- ◆ The district is bounded by Majuli on north, Nagaland state on the south, Charaideo on the east and Golaghat on the west.
- ◆ On the north of the district, the river Brahmaputra forms the largest riverine island of the world.



5. Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan

- ◆ Recently, Rajasthan's Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary has become the India's 52nd Tiger Reserve as well as 4th Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan. Others are Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra tiger reserves.
- ◆ Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary acts as a cushion for the Ranthambore National Park and is spread over an

area of 252 square kilometers.

- ◆ It is located almost 45 kilometers from Bundi on Bundi-Nainwa Road.
- ◆ The core area of the Ramgarh Vishdhari has eight villages. The sanctuary currently has leopards, sambhars, chitals, wildboars, smaller cats, caracals, chinkaras and nilgai.



6. Manas National Park, Assam

- ◆ A dozen of the world's smallest pigs have been released into the wild in northeastern India as part of a conservation programme to boost the population of a species once thought to have become extinct.
- ◆ The pygmy hog, which has the scientific name *porcula salvania*, lives in tall, wet grasslands and was once found along plains on the Himalayan foothills in India, Nepal and Bhutan.
- ◆ Manas National Park or Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve in Assam.



- ◆ It is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.

- ◆ The park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as

the Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog.

7. Colombia

- ◆ According to the study published by the Natural History Museum in London, Colombia is home to the

world's largest variety of butterflies, approximately 20% of all known species.

- ◆ Colombia, officially the Republic of Colombia, is a country in South America.

- ◆ It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, the northwest by Panama, the south by Ecuador and Peru, the east by Venezuela, the southeast by Brazil, and the west by the Pacific Ocean.
- ◆ Bogota is the capital city of Colombia.
- ◆ It shares its maritime limits with Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

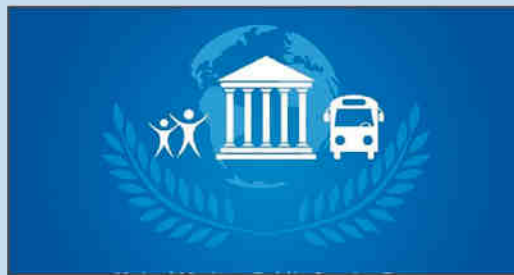


International/National Days of the Week

**Juneteenth
Independence Day**



**United Nations
Public Service Day**



**Summer
Solstice**



**International Day
of the Seafarer 2021**



**World Music
Day 2021**



**International Olympic
Day 2021**



**International Widows
Day 2021**



1. Juneteenth Independence Day

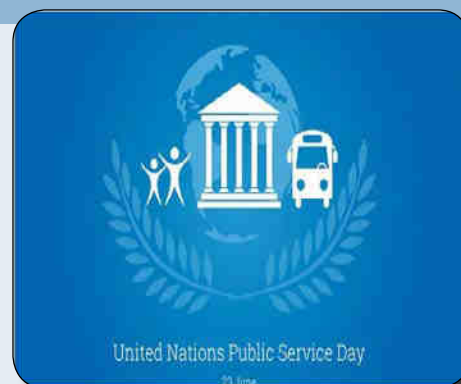
- ◆ The term Juneteenth is a blend of the words June and nineteenth. The holiday has also been called Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day.
- ◆ Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States (US), observed on June 19 every year.
- ◆ On January 1, 1863, then-president Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that “all persons held as slaves” within the states in rebellion “are, and henceforward shall be free.”
- ◆ Even so, more than two years after Lincoln’s proclamation, many slave owners continued to hold their slaves captive by hiding this information from them and keeping them for one more harvest season, as per the Congressional Research Service (CRS).
- ◆ On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and announced the end of both the



Civil War and slavery. Since then, Juneteenth has become a largely symbolic date representing freedom for African Americans.

2. United Nations Public Service Day

- ◆ The United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated on June 23 every year.
- ◆ The day highlights the value and virtue of public service to communities and development, as well as recognizes the work of public servants and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.
- ◆ The theme for this year is "Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs".
- ◆ The history of UN Public service day starts from 2002, on December 20th.
- ◆ On the same day, Africa celebrates their Public Service Day as well.



3. Summer Solstice

- ◆ June 21 is the Summer Solstice, which is the longest day of the summer season and takes place in the northern hemisphere when the Sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer.
- ◆ Summer Solstice signals the start of the summer season in the northern hemisphere and the beginning of winter in the southern hemisphere.
- ◆ At the time of Summer Solstice, Earth’s North Pole is tipped directly towards the Sun more than any other time of the year. Also the South Pole is away from the Sun.



- ◆ As a result of this, sunlight falls for longer periods on regions located in

the northern hemisphere and for fewer hours on places south of the Equator.

4. International Day of the Seafarer 2021

- ◆ Each year, June 25 is observed as the "Day of the Seafarer."
- ◆ On this day, people pay respect to Seafarers and recognize the invaluable contribution they make to international trade and the world economy.
- ◆ The World Maritime Theme for 2021, "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's

future" seeks to increase the visibility of seafarers by drawing attention to the invaluable role they play now and will continue to play in the future.



5. World Music Day 2021

- ◆ World Music Day is known as 'Fête de la Musique' in France and is celebrated across the world on June 21 every year.
- ◆ In the year 1982, this day was first celebrated in France with free live music played on the streets, shops, and roads to the mountain tops.
- ◆ The first all-day music celebration on this day is traced back to Jack Lang, minister of culture of France, and

composer Maurice Fleuret, who organised it in Paris.

- ◆ The festival gained international recognition and the day began to be celebrated in nearly 120 countries.



6. International Olympic Day 2021

- ◆ World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day is celebrated on June 23 all around the world.
- ◆ The day embraces all through pure Olympic values. Athletes from every nation participate in sports activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music, and educational seminars on this day.
- ◆ Olympic Day is based on three pillars – Move; Learn; and Detect.
- ◆ World Olympic Day was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on June 23, 1894, at the Sorbonne in Paris.



OLYMPIC DAY

- ◆ The theme for this year is Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with

the #OlympicDay workout on 23 June.

7. International Widows Day 2021

- ◆ International Widows Day is observed on June 23 every year to draw attention towards the voices of widows and highlight their problems.
- ◆ The first International Widows Day was observed in 2011. The day was established by The Loomba Foundation to raise awareness about the matter of widowhood.
- ◆ June 23 was chosen to mark International Widows day as it was on this day in 1954 that Shrimati Pushpa Wati Loomba, mother of Lord Loomba, became a widow.
- ◆ This day is a United Nations (UN)



approved one that addresses "poverty and injustice faced by millions of

widows and their dependents in many countries".



Brain Boosters

01

Delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir

1. Why in News?

- Recently, Prime Minister of India held a meeting with 14 key political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) to chalk out the future course of action in the union territory.



2. Background

- On 2020 Independence Day, Prime Minister had said elections would be held in J&K after the delimitation process in the Union Territory was over.
- Delimitation is crucial for kick-starting the political process in J&K.

3. What is Delimitation?

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time.
- Given the political sensitivity of the exercise, no government — central or state — can carry it out, and after every census, Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act under Article 82 of the Indian Constitution.
- This exercise is carried out by a Delimitation Commission, whose orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned before any court.
- The objective is to redraw boundaries (based on the data of the last Census) in a way so that the population of all seats, as far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.
- Aside from changing the limits of a constituency, the process may result in change in the number of seats in a state.

4. Delimitation in J&K

- A delimitation commission was first constituted for J&K in 1952. Subsequently, they were constituted in 1963, 1973 and 2002.
- Delimitation in J&K has followed a slightly different trajectory than in the rest of the country, due to the special status it was accorded under Article 370.
- In August 2019, the government of India has scrapped the Article 370.
- Until then, delimitation of Lok Sabha seats in J&K was governed by the Constitution of India, but the delimitation of the state's Assembly seats was governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution and Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.
- According to the last delimitation process, J&K Assembly had 87 seats — 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu and 4 in Ladakh — 24 were reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

6. Related Controversy

- As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the seats for Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be increased by seven seats, in effect they will go up from 83 to 90 post-delimitation.
- The concern for several mainstream political parties in the Valley has been that representation may be increased for Jammu after the delimitation exercise, and not Kashmir, thereby weakening their electoral fortunes.

5. Latest Delimitation Commission

- On March 6, 2020, the government set up the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.
- After the abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019, delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in the newly-created Union Territory would be as per the provisions of the Indian Constitution.

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has proposed new changes to the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020.

**4. Government Initiatives**

- ◆ Since 2014, the government of India has announced various initiatives, namely Digital India, Make in India, Start-up India, Skill India and Innovation Fund.
- ◆ National Retail Policy: The government had identified five areas in its proposed national retail policy—ease of doing business, rationalisation of the licence process, digitisation of retail, focus on reforms and an open network for digital commerce—stating that offline retail and e-commerce need to be administered in an integral manner.
- ◆ In order to increase the participation of foreign players in E-commerce, Indian Government hiked the limit of FDI in E-commerce marketplace model to up to 100% (in B2B models).
- ◆ Heavy investment made by the Government in rolling out fiber network for 5G will help boost E-commerce in India.

2. Key Highlights of the Draft Rule

- ◆ The draft rules released recently are broadly in line with the IT intermediary rules announced for social media companies earlier this year.
- ◆ According to the new provisions, e-commerce companies would need to register with the Department of Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ◆ New provisions proposed that the information sought by the Government agency will have to be produced by the e-commerce company “within 72 hours of the receipt of an order from the said authority”.
- ◆ On the lines of IT intermediary rules, the Consumer Affairs Ministry has proposed to mandate e-commerce companies to appoint a grievance officer, a chief compliance officer, and a nodal contact person “for 24×7 coordination with law enforcement agencies”.
- ◆ The rules are applicable for all goods and services bought or sold over digital or electronic networks, including digital products.
 - They are valid for all models of e-commerce, including marketplace and inventory models, including multi-channel single brand retailers and single brand retailers.
- ◆ Furthermore, to make the existing e-commerce norms more stringent, the Ministry is looking to ensure that these firms do not use data collected through their business for “unfair advantage” and prevent any possible links they may have with traders selling goods and services on their platforms.
 - On this front, the Government has called for disallowing “specific flash sales” on e-commerce platforms.
- ◆ Conventional e-commerce flash sales are not banned. An only specific flash sales or back-to-back sale which limit customer choice, increase prices and prevents a level playing field are not allowed.
 - A “flash sale” is defined as a sale organised by an e-commerce entity at significantly reduced prices, high discounts or any other such promotions or attractive offers for a predetermined period of time.
- ◆ Additionally, the proposed rules also look to add to the Centre’s push behind domestic goods.
 - They propose that e-commerce firms should mention the name and details of any importer from whom it has purchased such goods or services.
 - These firms will also have to provide alternative suggestions to customers before they make a purchase “to ensure fair opportunity for domestic goods”.

3. Indian E-commerce Industry

- ◆ The Indian E-commerce market is expected to grow to US\$ 200 billion by 2026 from US\$ 38.5 billion as of 2017.
- ◆ Much of the growth for the industry has been triggered by an increase in internet and smartphone penetration.

03

Reform Linked Borrowing

1. Why in News?

- Under the reform-linked borrowing window, Indian states were able to borrow an extra Rs. 1.06 lakh crore in 2020-21 (FY21).



2. Key Points

- In May 2020, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package, the Centre had permitted States governments to borrow an additional 2% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), but half of it (1%) was contingent on implementation of four specified reforms.
 - Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System,
 - Ease of doing business reform,
 - Urban Local body/ utility reforms and
 - Power Sector reforms.
- Twenty three States availed of additional borrowings of Rs. 1.06 lakh crore out of a potential Rs. 2.14 lakh crore.

3. 'One Nation One Ration Card' Reforms

- The first reform under the 'One Nation One Ration Card' policy required State Governments to ensure that all ration cards in the State under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) were seeded with the Aadhaar number of all family members and that all Fair Price Shops had Electronic Point of Sale devices.
- The main benefit from this is that migrant workers can draw their food ration from anywhere in the country. Apart from these benefits to citizens, there is the financial benefit from the elimination of bogus cards & duplicate members.
- 17 states completed this reform and were granted additional borrowings amounting to Rs. 37,600 crores.

6. Power Sector Reforms

- The fourth reform was introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in lieu of free electricity supply to farmers. The requirement was for formulation of a state-wide scheme with actual implementation in one district on a pilot basis by year end.
- Additional borrowing of 0.15% of GSDP was linked to this.
- A component was also provided for reduction in technical & commercial losses and another for reducing the gap between revenues and costs (0.05% of GSDP for each).
- This improves the finances of distribution companies, promotes conservation of water and energy and improves service quality through better financial and technical performance.
- 13 states implemented at least one component, while 6 states implemented the DBT component.

4. Ease of Doing Business

- The second reform, aimed at improving ease of doing business, required states to ensure that renewal of business-related licences under 7 Acts is made automatic, online and non-discretionary on mere payment of fees.
- Another requirement was implementation of a computerized random inspection system and prior notice of inspection to reduce harassment and corruption under a further 12 Acts.
- This reform (covering 19 laws) is of particular help to micro and small enterprises, who suffer the most from the burden of the 'inspector raj'. It also promotes an improved investment climate, greater investment and faster growth.
- 20 states completed this reform and were allowed additional borrowing of Rs. 39,521 crores.

5. Urban Local body/ utility Reforms

- The third reform required states to notify floor rates of property tax and of water & sewerage charges, in consonance with stamp duty guideline values for property transactions and current costs respectively, in urban areas.
- This would enable better quality of services to the urban poor and middle class, support better infrastructure and stimulate growth.
- Property tax is also progressive in its incidence and thus the poor in urban areas would benefit the most. This reform also benefits municipal staff who often face delay in payment of wages.
- 11 states completed these reforms and were granted additional borrowing of Rs. 15,957 crores.

04

Seven New Doppler Radars in Maharashtra

1. Why in News?

- ◆ In 2021, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will install seven new doppler radars in Maharashtra, including Mumbai.



2. Key Points

- ◆ Four X-band and one C-band radar will be deployed over Mumbai.
- ◆ Ratnagiri will get a new C-band and Vengurla will get an X-band radar, each of which will operate for multiple purposes.

3. About Doppler Radars

- ◆ Doppler radars of varying frequencies — S-band, C-band and X-band — are commonly used by the IMD to detect and track the movement of weather systems, cloud bands and gauge rainfall over its coverage area of about 500 km.
- ◆ An X-band radar is used to detect thunderstorms and lightning whereas C-band guides at the time of cyclone tracking.
- ◆ The radars guide meteorologists, particularly in times of extreme weather events like cyclones and associated heavy rainfall.
- ◆ With the radar observations, updated every 10 minutes, forecasters can follow the development of weather systems as well as their varying intensities, and accordingly predict weather events and their impact.
- ◆ The radars can oversee an area of up to 500 km, with effective range of up to 250 km.

4. Existing Radars

- ◆ India's east coast, which is frequently affected by the cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal, has radars operational at eight locations — Kolkata, Paradip, Gopalpur, Vishakhapatnam, Machilipatanam, Sriharikota, Karaikal and Chennai.
- ◆ Along the west coast, there are radars at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Goa and Mumbai.
- ◆ Other radars are operating from Srinagar, Patiala, Kufri, Delhi, Mukteshwar, Jaipur, Bhuj, Lucknow, Patna, Mohanbar, Agartala, Sohra, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Nagpur.

05

G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting

1. Why in News?

- ◆ Union Minister for Labour and Employment Santosh Gangwar has participated in the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting.



2. Key Highlights

- ◆ The Employment Working Group deliberated upon key issues, including women employment, social security and remote working.
- ◆ In 2014, G20 Leaders pledged in Brisbane to reduce the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women by 25% by 2025, with the aim of bringing 100 million women into the labour market, increasing global and inclusive growth, and reducing poverty and inequality.
- ◆ In recent years, almost all G20 countries made progress in terms of equal opportunities, participation of women in the labour market and reduction of the gender pay gap.
- ◆ The process of reducing gender inequalities has slowed down due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy.
- ◆ The measures implemented by G20 countries helped to mitigate the employment and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Yet, evidence from many countries shows a disproportionate impact on women.
- ◆ Acknowledging the risk of increasing gender inequalities in labour markets and societies, G20 Leaders at the Riyadh Summit called for a roadmap to achieve the Brisbane goal along with improving the quality of women's employment.
- ◆ In response to this call, the G20 Roadmap Towards and Beyond the Brisbane Target has been set as:
 - Increasing the quantity and quality of women's employment;
 - Ensuring equal opportunities and achieving better outcomes in the labour market;
 - Promoting a more even distribution of women and men across sectors and occupations;
 - Tackling the gender pay gap;
 - Promoting a more balanced distribution of paid and unpaid work between women and men; and
 - Addressing discrimination and gender stereotypes in the labour market.

4. About G20

- ◆ The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.
- ◆ The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

3. Efforts by Government of India

- ◆ India is making collective efforts to reduce gender gaps in labour force participation.
- ◆ The country is also ensuring education, training, skilling, entrepreneurship development and equal pay for equal work.
- ◆ The duration of paid maternity leave has been increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- ◆ Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana provides financial support to women entrepreneurs to start small enterprises.
- ◆ Collateral free loans worth Rupees 9 thousand billion have been disbursed under this scheme. There have been around 70% accounts of women in this Scheme.
- ◆ The new Code on Social Security may now include even self-employed and all other classes of work force into the folds of social security coverage.
- ◆ A voluntary and contributory pension scheme introduced in 2019 for the unorganised sector workers provides for minimum assured pension after the age of 60 years.

06

60th Anniversary Antarctic Treaty

1. Why in News?

- ◆ On 23 June, the 1959 Antarctic Treaty has celebrated its 60th anniversary.



2. About the Treaty

- ◆ The Antarctic Treaty was signed in Washington on 1 December 1959 by the twelve countries whose scientists had been active in and around Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957-58.
- ◆ The twelve original signatories are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the UK and the US.
- ◆ It entered into force in 1961 and has since been acceded to by many other nations.
- ◆ The total number of Parties to the Treaty is now 54.
- ◆ The treaty is remarkably short and contains only 14 articles. Principal provisions include promoting the freedom of scientific research, the use of the continent only for peaceful purposes, and the prohibition of military activities, nuclear tests and the disposal of radioactive waste.

3. Significance of the Treaty

- ◆ It remains the only example of a single treaty that governs a whole continent.
- ◆ It is also the foundation of a rules-based international order for a continent without a permanent population.

5. Indian Antarctic Programme

- ◆ The Indian Antarctic expeditions began in 1981.
- ◆ The Indian Antarctic programme has now credited to have built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica—named Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri, and Bharati.
- ◆ As of today, India has two operational research stations in Antarctica named Maitri and Bharati.
- ◆ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, manages the entire Indian Antarctic program.

4. Treaty about Territorial Claims

- ◆ The most important provision of the treaty is Article IV, which effectively seeks to neutralise territorial sovereignty in Antarctica.
- ◆ For the Antarctic territorial claimants, this meant a limit was placed on making any new claim or enlargement of an existing claim.
- ◆ Likewise, no formal recognition was given to any of the seven territorial claims on the continent, by Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom.
- ◆ Russia, the United States and China — signatories with significant Antarctic interests who have not formally made territorial claims — are also bound by the limitations of Article IV.
- ◆ And one sector of Antarctica is not subject to the claim of any country, which effectively makes it the last unclaimed land on earth.
- ◆ The treaty also put a freeze on any disputes between claimants over their territories on the continent.

07

Guidelines for Other Service Providers

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The Department of Telecommunication has further liberalised the guidelines for Other Service Providers (OSPs), enabling business process management (BPM) firms' employees to work from home and provide voice-based services in India and abroad.



2. Key Changes

- ◆ The government has removed the distinction between domestic and international OSPs, which means a BPM centre with common telecom resources will now be able to serve customers located worldwide including in India.
- ◆ It also means interconnectivity between all types of OSP centres is now permitted.
- ◆ Now, EPABX (Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange) of the OSP can be located anywhere in the world.
- ◆ OSPs apart from utilising EPABX services of the telecom service providers can also locate their EPABX at third-party data centres in India.
- ◆ It also allowed a BPM employee sitting anywhere to now connect directly with the centralised exchange of the customer using any technology including Broadband over wireline/ wireless.
- ◆ The government has removed restrictions for data interconnectivity between any OSP centres of same company or group company or any unrelated company. It also removed penalties for violations.

3. Significance

- ◆ The guidelines will make it easier for BPOs and ITes firms in many ways, such as cutting down on the cost of location, rent for premises and other ancillary costs such as electricity and internet bills.
- ◆ With the government recognising OSP employees as extended or remote agent, companies providing such services will no longer have to carry the additional compliance burden of providing the details of all such employees to the DoT.
- ◆ The doing away of registration norms will also mean that there will be no renewal of such licenses and therefore will invite foreign companies to set up or expand their other service providing units in India.
- ◆ An important change, which takes data-based OSPs completely out of the ambit of BPOs would mean that such firms can function like any other service firm without the strict and cumbersome guidelines such as presence of agent on location.
 - This change, in line with the norms of countries in the West can also allow employees to opt for freelancing for more than one company while working from home, thereby attracting more workers in the sector.

4. About OSPs

- ◆ OSPs or other service providers are companies or firms which provide secondary or tertiary services such as telemarketing, telebanking or telemedicine for various companies, banks or hospital chains, respectively.

Self Assessment (Objective Questions)



1. Process of Recusal of Judges

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the process of recusal of judge:

1. Article 125 of the Indian Constitution deals with the process of recusal of judge.
2. Once a request is made for recusal, the decision to recuse or not rests with the judge.

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)

2. Draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. The new draft proposed to divide the certificate categories into further age-based groups: U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+.
2. The new rules gives the power to the central government to reverse the decision of the Board.

3. The draft proposed to add Section 6AA that will prohibit unauthorised recording.

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)

3. UN General Assembly Resolution on Myanmar

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).
2. India chairs the UNGA for the year 2021-22.

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

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

Ans: (a)

4. Children and Digital Dumpsites Report

Q. With reference to the 'Children and Digital Dumpsites Report', consider the following statements:

1. This report has been released by the World Health Organization.
2. More than 18 million children and adolescents working at e-waste dumpsites in low- and middle-income countries are potentially at the risk of severe health hazards.

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)

5. Mangrove and Casuarinas Plantation in Odisha

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Odisha has the longest mainland coastline in India.
2. Odisha also has the highest mangrove cover in 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: (d)

6. Hallmarking of Gold

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The government of India has mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery with effect from March 2022.
2. Hallmarking in India is available for jewellery of only three metals—gold, silver and diamond.
3. As per BIS standards, there are three categories of

hallmarking based on purity of gold—22 carat, 18 carat and 14 carat.

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)

7. Space-time Induces Neutrino Oscillations

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the neutrinos:

1. The neutrino, a tiny elementary particle is also a part of the atom.
2. Neutrino has a very tiny mass, no charge and spins half.

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)

8. Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu.
2. Government of India is developing various Industrial Corridor Projects as part of National Industrial Corridor programme.

3. 11 Industrial Corridors Projects are being set up by the government of India.

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

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

Ans: (d)

9. Herbicide Tolerant (HT) Bt Cotton

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the herbicide tolerant (HT) Bt cotton:

1. Herbicide-tolerant Bt (HT Bt) Cotton is genetically modified crop of approved genes which is only permissible crop in India.
2. It has been genetically modified to produce an insecticide

to combat the cotton bollworm, a common pest.

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)

10. Delta Plus Variant of Coronavirus

Q. With reference to the 'Delta plus variant of Coronavirus', consider the following statements:

1. It is a sub-lineage of the Delta variant first detected in India and has acquired the spike protein mutation called K417N.
2. Recently, it has been declared 'variant of concern' by the Ministry of Health.

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)

11. End of Second Ebola Outbreak in Guinea

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Ebola virus:

1. Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.
2. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.

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)

12. Great Barrier Reef

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation committee has put Great Barrier Reef into UNESCO's list of World Heritage 'in Danger'.
2. Great Barrier Reef is the world's biggest coral reef system.

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

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

Ans: (d)

13. Rising Sea Levels Threaten to Flood Lakshadweep Islands

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Lakshadweep archipelago comprises 36 islands of coral and reef formation in the Arabian Sea.
2. According to the study, sea levels around Lakshadweep are estimated to rise between 0.4 mm and 0.9 mm annually, causing coastal erosion in many of the islands, and possibly submerging the smaller islets.

3. The only airport in the archipelago is located on the southernmost tip of Agatti Island.

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 only

Ans: (d)

14. Stygarctus Keralensis: New Tardigrade Species named after Kerala

Q. The term 'Stygarctus keralensis' is seen in news recently. It is:

- a. A new species of Tardigrade
- b. a new variety of Cardamom Elaichi

c. A new variety of Kerala's Banana

d. None of the above

Ans: (a)

15. Summit on Green Hydrogen Initiatives

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the summit on green hydrogen of BRICS:

- 1. It was hosted by China.
- 2. BRICS nations have set up a target to achieve 450 GW of renewable energy from Hydrogen by 2030.

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

a. 1 only

b. 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

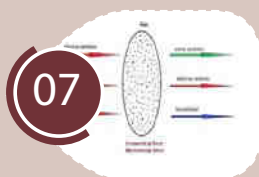
d. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)



Self Assessment (Subjective Questions)





- 01 Why does a judge recuse? What is the process for recusal? Discuss.
- 02 “The draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 could be a “super censor”, adding one more layer of censorship to the already existing process.” Critically evaluate.
- 03 Critically discuss the policy of India on Myanmar.
- 04 Discuss the risk associated with children working in the informal processing faced due to discarded electronic devices or e-waste.
- 05 The Odisha government has proposed to raise mangrove and casuarinas plantation in the coastal belt. Highlight the key benefits of the mangroves.
- 06 Why the government of India is implementing the mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery throughout the country. Discuss.
- 07 What is Neutrino Oscillation? Also discuss the role of space-time in neutrino oscillation.
- 08 Discuss the rationale behind the developing of industrial corridor projects in India.
- 09 Write a short note on ‘Herbicide-tolerant Bt (HT Bt) Cotton’.
- 10 Write a short note on ‘Delta Plus of the coronavirus’.
- 11 Why does Ebola virus showing up in African region? Discuss the reasons behind it.
- 12 What is Coral Bleaching? Discuss the impact of coral bleaching on ‘Great Barrier Reef’.
- 13 Discuss the natural and human caused actions behind the threat of rising sea level in Lakshadweep.
- 14 Write a short note on ‘Stygartus Keralensis: New Tardigrade Species named after Kerala’.
- 15 What is Green Hydrogen? Also discuss its future applications.

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

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

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