





# **DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION**



Vinay Kumar Singh Founder & CEO

he 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 wellrounded personality development of the students and also in inculcating the values of honesty and integrity in them.



Q.H. Khan Managing Director

hyeya IAS is an institution that a i m s 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 multidisciplinary 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

ith 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.



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#### Ashutosh Singh Managing Editor

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.



PREFACE

hyeya 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



s a proud jewel of Dhyeya IAS, **'Perfect 7'** now comes in a new coloured avatar. **'Perfect 7'** is a quintessential part of your preparation strategy for Civil Services Examination. A

regular and manageable dose of current affairs will now reach you in new format, making it more reader friendly. Our humble attempt to serve you is surely rewarded by your appreciations. It encourages us to innovate and provide the best as per our ability.

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

#### **Rajat Jhingan**

Editor Dhyeya IAS

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Weekly Current Affairs

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Hindi & English Current Affairs Monthly News Paper



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# Death Sentence in India : Moral and Constitutional Dilemma

#### Why in News?

- Shabnam Ali, a death row convict in Uttar Pradesh, is on course to become Independent India's first woman to be executed. Shabnam is likely to be hanged at Uttar Pradesh' Mathura jail — the only prison with a separate execution room for women convicts in the country.
- However, the death warrant consisting of the date and time of the hanging is yet to be issued by an Amroha sessions court. Senior prison officials of Uttar Pradesh say they have reminded the court on at least two occasions. The Supreme Court had upheld Shabnam's death sentence in January last year.

#### Background

In India, the motive behind giving the punishment is based on two aspects, the first one is that the wrongdoer should have to suffer and the other is to discourage others from doing wrong by imposing punishment on wrongdoers. Amongst the different kinds of punishment for a crime in India, this article focuses on Capital Punishment which is also known as the death Penalty which is awarded by the court in the rarest of the rare cases.

- Death Penalty or Capital Punishment has always been a point of contradiction not only in the Indian Judiciary but also in most developed countries. The state's authority is both questioned and established after the execution of Capital Punishment. India has made its stance clear on this matter in December 2007 and despite its stance, the Judiciary spares it for extraordinary infringement of the law.
- The Indian Criminal jurisprudence is based on the combination of two theories: one is the Reformative theory, according to which crime seems like a disease. This theory believes that "You cannot cure by killing". The main aim of this theory is to bring a change in the personality and character of the offender, to make him a useful member of society. The other theory which is followed is Preventive Theory, which says 'Prevention is better than cure'. It's better to take prevention before the commitment of a crime. This

theory aims at preventing crime by disabling crime by imposing the death penalty on the criminal, or by confining him in prison or by suspending his driving license as the case may be.

 The Indian Constitution likewise offered forces to the President and representative to suspend or exculpate capital punishment. In India, the death penalty is granted for the most genuine and horrifying offenses.

#### **Death Sentences in India**

- According to a study, "755 people have been hanged to death in independent India until now".
- In 2018, the High Court has sentenced death to 23 convicts whereas the lower court has sentenced death to 162 convicts.
- The previous highest record of court sentencing convicts to death was 154 in the year 2007. In 2019, the courts sentenced 378 prisoners in death row. The highest number of convicts executed was 354 which were found in Uttar Pradesh. Hanging is the only capital punishment given in India.



- In the last 20years, 8 convicts have been hanged to death. In 1995, a serial killer named Gouri Shankar was hanged to death for killing 6 people in India. Dhananjoy Chatterjee was accused of murder and rape of a 14 year's old girl and he was the first man to be hanged to death in the 21st century in India.
- Ajmal Kasab was found guilty of 80 offences under the Indian Penal Code 1860 for murder (Section 302), terrorism, waging war (Section 121), etc. He was the only terrorist who was caught redhanded and hanged to death in 2012.
- Afzal Guru was convicted for his involvement in the 2001 parliament attack. Afzal was hanged to death in 2013.
- In the year 2015, Yakub Menon was hanged to death for his involvement in the 1993 Mumbai blast case.
- In Nirbhaya case 4 convicts were hanged to death on 20th March, 2020. The convicts were accused of brutally raping a paramedical student. The court observed, "Question of awarding sentence is discretion and exercised on consideration of aggravate situation." This court should not only keep or watch on the rights of criminals as well as the victim. The minor involved in the crime was sent for 3years to shelter home and was acquitted later on.

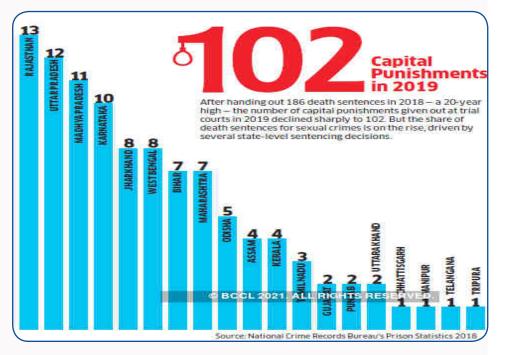
#### **Position in India**

- India opposed a UN resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty because it goes against the Indian statutory legislation as well as against each country's sovereign right to establish its own legal system.
- In the case of Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab, the court had made it clear that capital punishment is given in rarest of rare cases. The precedents were used as an exasperating and mitigating factor before awarding any individual with a death sentence.
- In the case of Devender Pal Singh Bhullar vs. State of NCT of Delhi, Bhullar was convicted in a bomb blast case by TADA Court. The incident took place in New Delhi (1993). 9 people were killed in the cruel act by Bhullar. The convict was mentally tortured in prison till his death sentence was converted to life imprisonment in 2014.

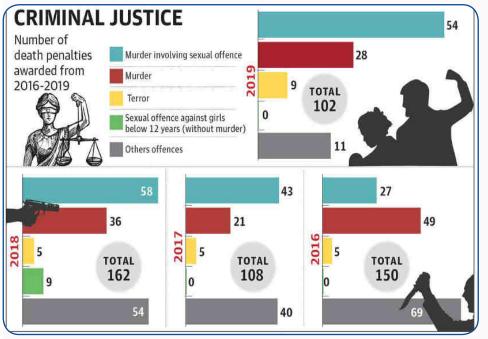
In Jagmohan v. State of U.P, the Supreme Court held that Articles 14, 19 and 21 of Indian Constitution did not violate the death penalty. The judge was said to make the choice between the death penalty and life imprisonment based on circumstances, facts, and the nature of the crime recorded during

nature of the crime recorded during the trial. The decision to award the death penalty was therefore made in accordance with the procedure laid down by law as required by Article 21.

But, in Rajendra Prasad v. State of U.P, the judge held that unless it was shown that the criminal was dangerous to society, capital punishment would not be justified. The learned judge pleads that the death penalty is abolished and said that it should be retained only for "white collar crimes". It was also held that the death penalty for the murder offence awarded pursuant to I.P.C. Section 302 did not violate the constitution's basic feature.







- In India, there are also certain circumstances where less punishment can be given in case of death row convicts.
- There is also a Section in the Criminal Procedure Code which states that "if a woman who is awarded hang till death couldn't be executed if she is pregnant".
- The High Court has to order the postponement of the execution.
- Only the president has the power to confer mercy in cases related to death sentences. Under Article 72 of the Constitution of India, the President has the power to grant pardon, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or reduce the sentence of any person who has been convicted of an offence.

#### **Process for a Death Sentence**

- Once a convict has been sentenced to death in a case by the Sessions Court, it must be confirmed by the High Court.
- If the appeal to the Supreme Court made by the convict fails then he may submit a 'mercy petition' to the President of India.
- Detailed instructions on the procedure are to be followed by States to deal with petitions for mercy from or on behalf of deathsentenced convicts.
- Appeals to the Supreme Court and requests for special leave to appeal to that court by such convicts shall be set out by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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Way Forward

For an offence to be the "rarest of the rare", the emphasis cannot just be on the brutality of the offence, sentencing guidelines also require the State to furnish proof that the accused is beyond reform. As per Bachan Singh, "A real and abiding concern for the dignity of human life postulates resistance to taking a life through law's instrumentality". Although the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that life imprisonment should be the rule and death penalty an exception, failure to give mitigating circumstances sufficient consideration leads to a travesty of justice. Capital punishment is the toughest form of punishment the State can impose on its peoplethis process must withstand the highest levels of scrutiny. 000

#### **General Studies Paper- II**

#### Topic

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

#### **Topic:**

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

*Q.* Capital punishment is both a moral and a constitutional dilemma. Though India has adopted a very justified approach, there is always a controversy around this topic. Comment.







# Sexual Harassment at Workplace : Infringement of the Fundamental Rights

#### Why in News?

- A Delhi court acquitted former journalist Priya Ramani in a defamation case filed by former Union minister MJ Akbar. The latter had sued Ramani after she accused him of sexual harassment. The court said that a woman has the right to voice grievance several years after the alleged crime took place.
- The verdict urged society to "understand that sometimes a victim may for years not speak up due to mental trauma," and underlined that a woman has a right to speak up about the abuse, even after decades. It pointed out that since sexual harassment typically takes place in private, women's testimonies cannot be dismissed as untrue or defamatory simply because they are unable to provide other witnesses to back their allegations.

#### Background

- Institutional mechanisms have systemically failed to protect women or provide justice, the verdict reasoned, and, therefore, survivors are justified in sharing their testimonies on media or social media platforms as a form of selfdefence. This insightful reasoning is possibly the most significant and precious part of the verdict.
- Men from privileged classes, when accused of sexual violence, are quick to accuse women of injuring their reputation and status. There have even been campaigns (across political aisles) claiming that the amendments to India's sexual violence laws in 2013 are

"draconian" when applied to privileged men. The unspoken (and sometimes outspoken) assumption has been that these laws were meant to be used only to convict slum or street-dwelling "thugs" like the accused in the 2012 Delhi bus rape case. When women professionals seek justice against "respectable" and even celebrated men, their influential friends raise a cry of outrage, and promptly accuse the complainants (and their feminist supporters) of injuring the reputations of such men. (The reputations of the women are held as too puny to count).

- In India and Bangladesh, at least 60 per cent of garment factory workers experience harassment at work. In Guangzhou, China, a survey found that 70 per cent of female factory workers had been sexually harassed at work, and 15 per cent quit their jobs as a result.
- The women who spoke were unanimous that individual complaints were not an option: they needed unions to fight collectively. The Labour Codes passed by the central government make it all but impossible for workers to unionise. Women workers fighting sexual harassment, who stand to be silenced by these codes, need more support and attention.

# Sexual Harassment as a Violation of Fundamental Rights

 Sexual harassment is a violation of the fundamental rights of woman to equality and live with dignity. As per Articles 14, 15 and 21 of Indian Constitution every woman has fundamental rights to equality and to live with dignity. In 1997 Supreme Court issued guidelines and acknowledged the Sexual harassment is a violation of human rights. Extension to Vishakha guidelines, Government of India enacted the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act, 2013) which is notified on 9th Dec 2013. Objective of the act is making workplaces sexual harassment free by preventing, prohibiting and redressing inappropriate conducts against women in the workplace. POSH Act, 2013 is applicable to all workplaces in India.

- Regardless of employee count, POSH Act, 2013 imposes certain obligations on every employer to provide a safe workplace. In accordance with Section 19 of the POSH Act, 2013 all employers are required to comply with the obligations.
- Every employer is required to implement Anti sexual harassment policy to prevent the occurrences of workplace sexual harassment and to provide safe workplace to women.
- Every employer shall conduct sensitisation programmes, workshops periodically for employees. In order to create awareness among employees and any other person visiting the workplace, employers must display notices/posters at any conspicuous place in the workplace.
- Under the law submitting annual report pertaining to workplace sexual harassment cases to District Officer is mandatory for all employers.



 Under section 4 of the POSH Act, 2013 every organisation employing 10 or more employees must constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). ICC is a redress mechanism which handles complaints of workplace sexual harassment against the woman.

#### **Defining Sexual Harassment**

- The POSH Act has defined what constitutes sexual harassment under Section 2 (n) and states that any of the following (directly or by implication) shall mean sexual harassment: (1) physical contact and advances; (2) a demand or request for sexual favours; (3) making sexually coloured remarks; (4) showing pornography; (5) any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.
- The Act, under Section 3, has further widened the definition of sexual harassment by providing that any of the following circumstances, related to sexual harassment, may also amount to Sexual Harassment: (1) implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in the victim's employment; (2) implied or explicit threat of detrimental the treatment in victim's employment; (3) implied or explicit threat about the victim's present or future employment status; (4) interferes with the victim's work or creating an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment for her and (4) humiliating treatment likely to affect the victim's health or safety.

#### The Act and India's International Obligations

- By passing the Act, the Government of India has fulfilled its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women ("CEDAW"), adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in 1979, which had been ratified by Indian Government on June 25, 1993 and which provides that protection against sexual harassment is universally recognized human right.
- CEDAW had. in January 1992, adopted the General Recommendation No. 19 which recognized the ill effects of sexual harassment at the workplace, and subsequently provided for measures, to be taken by respective states for elimination of such practices.
- Such practices have to be outlawed not only because they result in gender discrimination, but also since they create a hostile work environment, which undermines the dignity, self-esteem and confidence of the female employees, and tends to alienate them.

# Sexual Harassment and the Law in other Countries:

While the Vishaka Guidelines were laid down by the Supreme Court of India in 1997, in the United States of America ("USA"), one of the first cases to be decided by the US Supreme Court, was in the year 1986, i.e. Meritor vs. Vinison, 1986 (477) US. The Congress had enacted Section 703, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 1964, to address the issue of sexual harassment at the workplace.

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 Australia has enacted the Sex Discrimination Act, 1984; the United Kingdom has enacted the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, and also framed the Sexual Discrimination and Employment Protection (Remedies) Regulations, 1993.

#### Way Forward

Sexual Harassment cases are not rare and never have been. It is tough to see a bright future of a country where cases of sexual harassment at workplaces hinder the well-being of the victim. Firm implementations of the Act and stringent actions being taken by the authorities are some of the least actions that can be taken to safeguard workers against sexual predators. The patriarchal mindset and courts and institutions led by people having similar stance dilutes or makes any law ineffective. There is need for women leading such organisations or more effective implementation of these acts. 000

#### **General Studies Paper- II**

#### **Topic:**

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

**Q.** 'Sexual harassment at a workplace keeps a major population of the country out of the economic cycle and is also an infringement on the fundamental rights of the citizen.' In the light of the above statement, discuss the laws, guidelines etc. related to sexual harassment at workplace.

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PERFECT





# Health Budget : Towards Health and Well-being

#### Why in News?

- The Budget proposals for the financial year (FY) 2021-12 rests on six pillars - health and wellphysical and financial being, capital and infrastructure, inclusive development for aspirational India, human reinvigorating capital, innovation and research and development (R&D), minimum maximum government and governance.
- During the times of the pandemic, the expenditure on health and related budget allocation for the healthcare comes to the foreground.

#### Background

- Health care has taken centre stage due to an unfortunate novel coronavirus pandemic that has devastated lives and livelihoods across the globe. Although India has performed relatively better in its COVID-19 management, even compared to countries with highly developed health systems, the impact of the outbreak on society and the economy is undeniable.
- As per National Health Profile (NHP) data of 2019, India spends just over one percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on public health, which is drastically low considering the country's population, demographics and ever-increasing disease burden. In light of this, the Finance Minister's allocation of Rs 2,23,846 crore towards healthcare, a whopping 137% rise from the budget last year, is worthy of applause.
- Despite the gung-ho around increasing the healthcare allocation considerably, the fact can't be brushed aside that some budgetary

supports are only meant for one time such as Finance Commission grant of Rs 13,000-crore and earmarking of Rs 35,000 crore for COVID-19 vaccination efforts. The allotted budget of Rs 21,158 crores for water and sanitization is also bundled in the healthcare outlay, resulting in overall 137% hike.

- Enhancing healthcare infrastructure in the country requires more than just one-time support and far more concerted efforts to meet the committed increase in healthcare spend to 2.5 percent of GDP by 2025.
- Even if the increased allocations are more than that meets the eye, it is a welcome start. The pandemic was a wake-up call towards particularly investing in Research and Development (R&D), immunization, nutrition programs and preventive and curative healthcare. It drew attention of the government towards the fragile healthcare infrastructure that we have and the gaps in the sector that need to be filled to ramp up the overall system.
- The healthcare industry welcomed the government's increased allocation for the healthcare sector and said that the move will provide access to medical care for all in the country, fuel job creation and boost economic momentum.

#### **Uptakes in Health Spending**

The spending will include a new centrally sponsored scheme—the PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana—to strengthen the health infrastructure of the country. The government plans to spend Rs 64,180 crore on the scheme spanning over six years.

- The health scheme, the finance minister said, is in addition to the government's existing National Health Mission, and will focus on three areas—preventive, curative and well being.
- Under the scheme, more than 17,000 rural and 11,000 urban health and wellness centres will be supported. Besides, integrated public health laboratories will be set up in all districts; and 3,382 block public health units will be established in 11 states.
- Critical care hospital blocks will be created in 602 districts and 12 central institutions.
- Sitharaman also proposed spending Rs 35,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccines in the next fiscal, and announced the rollout of pneumococcal vaccines. Such vaccines, she said, can help India avoid more than 50,000 annual child deaths.
- Besides, the plan includes the government tripling its spending on drinking water and sanitation to Rs 60,030 crore from Rs 21,5218 crore in last year's budget.
- Another important public healthrelated announcement in Budget 2021 was the government's decision to expand the coverage of the pneumococcal vaccine across the country. Pneumococcal pneumonia is a major killer of children under the age of five years. Once universalised, this indigenously developed vaccine could save up to 50,000 lives annually.
- The Centre has set a target to eradicate TB from the country by 2025.

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#### Science and Health Budget

- Integrated public health labs to be set up in each district; 3,382 block public health units in 11 states.
- Government to spend Rs 1.41 lakh crore for Urban Clean India Mission.
- The Urban Swachh Bharat 2.0 Mission to be launched at an outlay of Rs 1.41 lakh crore over five years and will focus on complete faecal sludge management, wastewater treatment, source segregation, management of waste from urban construction, bioremediation of legacy dump sites.
- Jal Jeevan Mission Urban to have an outlay of Rs 2.87 lakh crore, with 2.86 crore households to get tap connections in 500 Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) cities, over five years.
- New health infrastructure scheme with a higher outlay of Rs 61,000 crore.
- Government to set up 17,000 rural and 11,000 urban health and wellness centres.
- Integrated public health labs will be set up in each district.
- New portal to collect data on gig workers, migrant labourers, and construction workers which will be used to provide health and insurance facilities.
- 42 urban centres with a population of million people and more will be allocated 2,217 crores to deal with air pollution.

- The government of India will also set up a regional World Health Organisation office, nine biosafety level 3 laboratories and four regional National Institutes of Virology.
- Deep Ocean Mission with outlay of more than Rs 4,000 crore over five years, to be launched, for deep-ocean exploration and ocean biodiversity conversation.
- Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas scheme (SVAMITVA) to be extended during 2021-22 to cover all states and union territories.
- An infusion of Rs 1,000 crore will be injected into the Solar Energy Corporation of India and Rs 1,500 crore to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited to boost the green energy sector.
- A pneumococcal vaccine which is limited to just five States will be rolled out across the country, preventing more than 50,000 child deaths annually.

#### **Promoting Ayurveda**

- A less talked about aspect of the health Budget is the nearly 40% hike for the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).
- The pandemic has catalysed a behavioural shift in favour of preventive care, holistic health and wellness.
- There is considerable potential for promoting ayurveda and yoga as well as integrative health-care approaches in the post-COVID-19

scenario, especially for stress reduction and the management of chronic diseases.

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#### Way Forward

- The health sector has found place in prominent the а government's agenda over the last few years, with the implementation of a series of well-thought-out and carefully sequenced reforms. While much remains to be done, the Union Budget 2021-22 has laid a strong foundation to increase the resilience of the sector in the post-COVID-19 era and achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.
- The onus of increasing health spending, however, does not lie with the Centre alone but also with the States also. In fact, as elucidated in the National Health Accounts 2017, 66% of spending on health care in India is done by States. It is imperative, therefore, that States increase expenditure on health to at least 8% of their budget by 2022 as recommended by the National Health Policy (NHP), 2017 and the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

#### **General Studies Paper- II**

#### Topic:

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

**Q.** Discuss the budgetary allocation towards the health care sector in the backdrop of the pandemic. Also comment on the need to integrate health and other policies relating to science and urban developmentl.







### Australia vs Big Techs : Impact on Media

#### Why in News?

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison has launched a global diplomatic offensive to drum up support for Australia's proposed law to force Internet giants Facebook and Google to pay media companies for the news content that is published on their platforms. He had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a range of issues, and also "discussed progress of our media platform bill" and has also talked with the heads of governments of UK and Canada.

#### Background

- The proposed law, News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code Bill, 2020, mandates a bargaining code that aims to force Google and Facebook to compensate media companies for using their content. The legislation sets a precedent in regulating social media across geographies, and is being closely watched the world over.
- Australia's opposition Labour supported the Bill in the House of Representatives, paving the way for it to clear the Senate and possibly become law soon.
- Meanwhile, even as Google moved to sign a deal with Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, Facebook

   which has 17 million users
   Australia — retaliated with
   news blackout, blocking all

news links on its platform. In the process, it also ended up silencing some emergency services, and reportedly removed posts from Australia's Bureau of Meteorology, state health departments, fire and rescue services, charities, and emergency and crisis services.

- Back in 2017, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommended a voluntary code with an aim to address the negotiating skew between major digital platforms and media businesses. Based on these recommendations, the Australian government in 2019 asked various stakeholders and the ACCC to develop this voluntary code.
- The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), however, pointed out in April 2020 that the businesses were not likely to reach an agreement voluntarily. The government then asked it to draft a mandatory code. The draft law was released in July, and the government subsequently introduced the Bill after carrying out some significant amendments.
- The provision requiring Google and Facebook to enter into payment negotiations with media companies

   with an arbiter mandated to adjudicate if no agreement is reached — or face heavy fines, has met with resistance. The arbiter is deemed important mainly for smaller publishers who may

face a negotiation skew with the platforms.

#### **Bone of Contention**

- Paying for news feed in itself appears to be less of an issue for the tech giants, given that Google agreed to pay news publications in France just hours before threatening to remove its search functions in Australia.
- The fight in Australia is in fact, centred on how much control these companies would be able to retain on their payout process

   operational aspects such as deciding the quantum of payments for news feed sources, and having to reveal changes in their algorithms.
- European authorities have specifically linked payments to copyright, without putting a forcing device into the agreements.
- Australia's code, on the other hand, is almost entirely focused on the bargaining power of news outlets vis-à-vis the tech majors, and has some coercive features as well.
  - It is more of a competition issue in Australia, of power equations between traditional news outlets and tech platforms, with the question of abuse of dominance by the latter hanging in the balance.

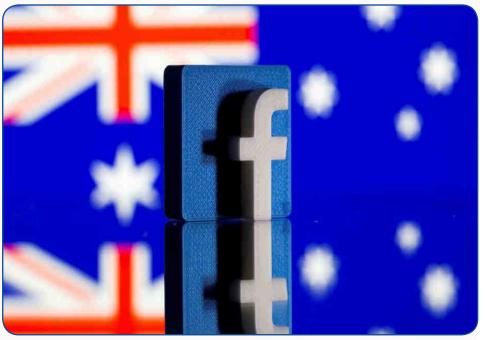
#### The GAFA Tax and its Rationale

 The French parliament in 2019 approved a law that made France the first major economy to impose



a tax on internet heavyweights. Dubbed the GAFA Tax – an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon – the legislation will impose a 3% levy on the total annual revenues of the largest technology firms providing services to French consumers.

- Plans by several Latin American countries to raise taxes on highincome earners, and Indonesia's move to raise value-added tax on digital platforms — because, in the words of its finance minister, "their sales have soared amid the COVID-19 outbreak."
- The European Union is mulling a series of taxes, to be raised directly by its executive arm in Brussels, to help fund the pandemic recovery in the 27-nation bloc. They include a tax on high-carbonemission imports, a tax on digital firms and a tax on 70,000 large multinational companies that access the European Union (EU's) single market and its 450 million consumers.
- Some other EU member states such as Britain, Spain and Italy are also working on national versions of a digital tax, with Singapore and India also planning their own schemes.
- Columbia University economics professor Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate has highlighted that the pandemic ironically has helped the very companies that have been the tax avoiders i.e. the internet companies.
- Amazon, for example, whose market cap was just \$197 billion in



June 2015. Five years on, is market cap is now about \$1.26 trillion about \$260 billion more than it was barely five years ago. Revenues have soared as billions of people, under lockdown and working from home, have taken to ordering a raft of items online.

The report, published by the International Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation, an independent group of top economists, argues for a global minimum corporate tax rate of 25%, as well as proposing that the super-rich pay more taxes in the countries where they live. The minimum corporate tax, they say, would halt the practice of companies funneling revenues into low-tax jurisdictions, like Ireland and Luxembourg, through a set of complex financial maneuvers.

#### **Situation in India**

 Realising the fact that India was losing out on revenue from digital firms billed overseas, the government in June 2016 introduced a 6% tax in the form of an equalisation levy or known as Google tax on the amount paid to internet companies by advertisers.

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- In the Union Budget 2018-19, the government also proposed to amend the Income Tax Act to tax digital entities with a large user base or significant economic presence in the country.
- In fiscal 2018, Google India reported a 30% increase in revenues to Rs 9,337.7 crore with profit after tax rising 33% to Rs 407.2 crore. The amount transferred for "purchase of advertising space", increased by 36% to Rs 4,949.6 crore, according to regulatory filings.
- The government's push for internet companies to host data of Indian users in local servers is due to data security and privacy and also due to concerns that they deliver services mostly from overseas, outside India's tax jurisdiction.





#### America vs Big Tech

- For much of their existence, the big four US tech giants—Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google—have been viewed as scrappy startups. Consumers loved their products, regulators largely looked away, and competitors either got acquired or fell by the wayside. That run of good fortune has been under threat for a while, but 2020 may well mark the beginning of the end.
- In USA, a 16-month congressional investigation into Amazon, Apple, Google and Facebook has found that the tech giants hold "monopoly power" in key business segments and have abused their dominance in the marketplace, in a full-throated condemnation of the giants.
- The findings set the stage for possible future legislation designed to rein in Big Tech, even as antitrust enforcers at the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission gear up for potential litigation against some of the companies.
- US politicians are of course divided along party lines and are driven by motivations that don't necessarily align, but strangely, there is almost complete unanimity on one aspect: Big Tech has a track record of anti-competitive behaviour and something must be done.

- While one of the proposed solutions in the US Congress' report is a structural break up of these firms into multiple entities in order to restrain their market power, it also hints at possible new trigger points for anti-competitive investigations in the future. In effect, a legal update for the internet age is in the works.
- US action also sends an important signal to other regulators. Europe is reportedly preparing a "hit list" of 20 large tech firms that could potentially face tougher regulations. Amazon and Google have, meanwhile, had recurrent run-ins with the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

#### **Way Forward**

- Policymakers in India have so far focused on the dominance of intermediaries such as Google and Facebook, which are positioned in a way that service providers cannot reach customers except through these platforms. A substantial discussion on the impact of intermediary platforms on the health of news media outlets is yet to begin in any meaningful way.
- According to a FICCI-EY report for 2020, there are 300 million users of online news sites, portals



and aggregators in the country — making up approximately 46% of Internet users and 77% of smartphone users in India at the end of 2019. With 282 million unique visitors, India is the second largest online news consuming nation after China. Seems in a logical conclusion, India too is moving in a direction where news aggregators are needed to pay to the sources that generate and curate news.

#### **General Studies Paper- II**

#### **Topic:**

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

#### **Topic:**

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

Q. Big tech firms earning huge profits by displaying the content of other news/ media websites without sharing revenue is a predatory and economically exploitative model. The Australian battle against Facebook exposes the media giant's model to exploit news outlets and paying nothing in return. Discuss.







# Regulation on Digital Media and OTT Content : An Understanding

#### Why in News?

 The government has unveiled new policies for social media and over the top (OTT) platforms. In a press conference, IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the new guidelines will keep an eye on the web content/OTT content and empower social media users.

#### Background

- Balancing the need for regulation to keep out obnoxious online content that promotes violence and vulgarity with the need to preserve our constitutional values and freedom of expression is at the core of the new rules which have been formulated by the Union government to address concerns regarding new media.
- The policy has tried to create the much-needed level-playing field between online news platforms and print media on the one hand and online and television news media on the other. It has also tried to bring online news portals within the ambit of the code of ethics that governs print media. These include the norms of journalistic conduct drawn up by the Press Council Act and the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Rules, 1994. This was long overdue because of the recklessness and irresponsibility that is on display on some of these platforms.
- Similarly, while the cinema industry has a film certification agency with oversight responsibilities, OTT platforms have none. However, in order to ensure artistic freedom, the government has proposed selfregulation and has said that the OTT entities should get together, evolve a code and come up with content

classification so that a mechanism is evolved to preclude non-adults from viewing adult content. They must get down to do it.

Online platforms are wary of rules that seek verification of accounts, access control etc., but these issues need to be resolved within the framework of India's laws. For example, while mainstream media is conscious of provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that deal with the promotion of violence, enmity among communities, defamation etc., the content on online platforms seems to be oblivious of all this.

#### **New Rules**

- The Centre notified new guidelines for intermediaries in "soft touch oversight" rules, saying these were needed to hold social media and other companies accountable for "misuse and abuse".
- Digital news organisations and OTT platforms will now have to follow the broad content guidelines meant for TV and print media, while social media intermediaries will have to set up a grievance redressal mechanism to resolve complaints from users.
- The rules also call for a three-tier regulation mechanism for OTT platforms like Netflix, YouTube, etc. and require them to self-classify their content into five categories based on age suitability.
- These will require Big Tech platforms to set up stronger grievance redressal mechanisms, and appoint executives to coordinate with law enforcement in India.
- For social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, etc., the guidelines essentially remove the

"safe harbour" provided to these companies — it limited their liability over content that users posted on their platforms — if the platforms do not comply with due diligence norms.

- The rules also empower the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) secretary to block public access to specific content in case of an emergency.
- Digital news websites will have to follow the programme code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act and Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India, which broadly guide the content put out in television and print media.
- These are part of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021
- The rules mandate OTT platforms to classify their content into five age-based categories — U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult), and implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as "A".
- According to the rules, the platforms will have to put in place other access control mechanisms, prominently display the classification rating specific to each content or programme — together with a content descriptor informing the user about the nature of the content.
- They should also put in place viewer description (if applicable) at the beginning of every programme, enabling the user to make an informed decision, prior to watching the programme, according to a government statement.

PERFECT 7

#### **Guidelines for Intermediaries**

- Online intermediaries to establish a grievance redressal mechanism to resolve complaints from the users or victims.
- Intermediaries shall appoint a 'Grievance Officer' to deal with such complaints, and share the name and contact details of such officers.
- The Grievance Officer shall acknowledge the complaint within 24 hours and resolve it within 15 days from its receipt.
- The rules stated that intermediaries shall remove or disable access within 24 hours of receipt of complaints of content that exposes the private areas of individuals, including women, show such individuals in full or partial nudity or in sexual act or is in the nature of impersonation, including morphed images, etc.
- The rules also make a distinction between social media intermediaries and significant social media intermediaries, which is based on the number of users on the social media platforms.
- Significant social media intermediaries will have to follow additional due diligence.
- The rules also stated that an intermediary upon receiving actual knowledge in the form of an order by a court or being notified by the appropriate government authority should not host or publish any information, which is prohibited under any law in relation to the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, friendly relations with foreign countries etc.

#### **Evolving Practices Globally**

- The Indian digital and OTT players can draw lessons from the concerted action taken by digital companies in Australia, which have come together and drawn up a code to deal with fake news and disinformation. This is called the Australian Code of Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation and was released only recently by the Digital Industry Group.
- The Australian Communications ٠ and Media Authority (ACMA) has welcomed the initiative and said that more than two-thirds of Australians were concerned about "what is real or fake on the internet". In response, the ACMA says that digital platforms agreed to a self-regulatory code "to provide safeguards against serious harms arising from the spread of dis-and misinformation". Some of the actions promised by the digital platforms include disabling accounts and removal of content.
  - In the UK, the government is all set to bring in a law to make online companies responsible for harmful content and also to punish companies that fail to remove such content. The aim of the proposed "Online Safety Bill" is to protect internet users and deal firmly with platforms that promote violence, terrorist material, child abuse, cyber bullying, etc. Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden was quoted as saying, "I'm unabashedly pro-tech but that can't mean a tech free-for-all". This, in a sense, sums up the current mood on this issue across democracies. In the UK, selfregulation governs print media

most trusted since 2003 and private television and radio are regulated by the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority as provided by a statute.

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#### Way Forward

- For companies should operate in India, they must function with the laws of the land. Media companies and social media platforms recently behaved in a way of challenging the sovereign right of a democratically elected Indian government and flouted the laws of the land by either delaying the action mandated by the government or outrightly rejecting the orders.
- The new guidelines place more onus on nearly all such companies which provide a platform to host, share, view or modify content, while also including for the first time, entities which are in the business of either creating or distributing news online under the ambit of an online intermediary.
- Among the first, the government has made social media intermediaries more liable for the content being shared on their platform by following due diligence, failing which the "safe harbour provisions" will not be applicable to them.

#### **General Studies Paper- II**

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

*Q.* Freedom of Speech is not an absolute right, but a right with reasonable restrictions. In the guise of absolute freedom of expression, no media platform or content delivery system, be it print, digital media or OTT can operate with absolute immunity and no responsibility. Discuss.

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# **Draft National Migrant Labour Policy : An Introduction**

#### Why in News?

 The draft national policy on migrant labour, prepared by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), may be the first important step taken by the government for recognition of the rights of migrant workers and formulation of specific measures for their welfare.

#### Background

- It took a lockdown for the country to see the precarious existence of the large migrant workforce that provides cheap labour to the industry and urban services sectors. At least 26 lakh migrant workers were stranded across the country, according to the Chief Labour Commissioner's Office, and the government told Parliament that at least 10 lakh of them returned home during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Though migrant workers are everywhere and are an important part of the economy, they are neglected as workers and even as members of society. But they are important in the places where they work and more important in the places where they come from, as whole families depend on them for livelihood.
- Last year's March across the country of lakhs of migrant workers brought into national focus the human, social and economic aspects of the migrant workers' situation like never before.
- The lockdown exposed the fact that migrant workers did not have the minimum social and economic security, and the policy aims to take some steps to ensure this.
- A key proposal is to evolve mechanisms to "enable voting" so that political inclusion will

"enhance accountability of political • leadership towards welfare of migrant workers of their respective states." Since migrant workers are a disaggregated and dispersed population, they don't have the agency and opportunity to attract political attention.

#### A Rights-based Approach

- The draft describes two approaches to policy design: one focussed on cash transfers, special quotas, and reservations; the other which "enhances the agency and capability of the community and thereby remove aspects that come in the way of an individual's own natural ability to thrive".
- The policy rejects a handout approach, opting instead for a rights-based framework. It seeks "to remove restrictions on true agency and potential of the migrant workers"; the goal, it says, "should not be to provide temporary or permanent economic or social aids", which is "a rather limited approach".

#### Migration as Inevitable in Integrated Economy

- Migration, the draft says, "should be acknowledged as an integral part of development", and "government policies should not hinder but...seek to facilitate internal migration". This compares with the approach taken in the Report of the Working Group on Migration, released in January 2017 by the then Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
- The report argued that the movement from agriculture to manufacturing and services was inherently linked to the success of migration in the country.

- Typically, it is thought that most migration happens when people from rural areas move to urban areas. That is incorrect. The most dominant form of migration is from rural to rural areas. Only about 20% of the total migration (600 million) is from rural to urban areas.
- 20% of the total migration is from one urban area to another urban area. As such, urban migration (rural to urban as well as urban to urban) accounts for 40% of the total migration.
- But even at these staggeringly high absolute numbers, India's proportion of internal migrants (as a percentage of the overall population) is much lower than some of the comparable countries such as Russia, China, South Africa and Brazil — all have much higher urbanisation ratios, which is a proxy for migration level.
- In other words, as India adopts a strategy of rapid urbanisation

   for example, by building socalled smart cities and essentially using cities as centres of economic growth
   levels of internal migration will increase further.

#### **Major Recommendations**

 Both the 2017 report and the new draft stress the need for credible data. The draft calls for a central database to help employers "fill the gap between demand and supply" and ensures "maximum benefit of social welfare schemes". It asks the Ministries and the Census office to be consistent with the definitions of migrants and subpopulations, capture seasonal and circular migrants, and incorporate migrantspecific variables in existing surveys.



- It also asked the National Sample Survey Office to include questions related to migration in the periodic labour force survey, and to carry out a separate survey on migration.
- The draft asks the Ministries of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Housing and Urban Affairs to use Tribal Affairs migration data to help create migration resource centres in high migration zones. It asks the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to focus on skillbuilding at these centres.
- The Ministry of Education should take measures under the Right to Education Act to mainstream migrant children's education, to map migrant children, and to provide local-language teachers in migrant destinations.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs should address issues of night shelters, short-stay homes, and seasonal accommodation for migrants in cities.
- The National Legal Services authority (NALSA) and Ministry of Labour should set up grievance handling cells and fast track legal responses for trafficking, minimum wage violations, and workplace abuses and accidents for migrant workers.

#### **Steps for Reducing Migration**

- Source states to raise minimum wages to "bring major shift in local livelihood of tribals... (that) may result in stemming migration to some extent".
- The "long term plan" for community building organisations (CBO) and panchayats should be to "alleviate distress migration policy

initiatives" by aiming "for a more pro-poor development strategy in the sending areas...that can strengthen the livelihood base in these areas".

- Alongside the long-term goal, policies should "promote the role of panchayats to aid migrant workers" and integrate urban and rural policies to improve the conditions of migration.
- Panchayats should maintain a database of migrant workers, issue identity cards and pass books, and provide "migration management and governance" through training, placement, and social-security benefit assurance.

#### **Identifying Migrants**

- Data on internal migration in India is principally drawn from two main sources – the decennial population Census and the quinquennial migration surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Office. Both these sources provide a wealth of data on migration.
- The Census defines a migrant as a person residing in a place other than his/her place of birth (Place of Birth definition) or one who has changed his/ her usual place of residence to another place (change in usual place of residence or (Usual Place of Residence) UPR definition). The NSS confines itself to the UPR definition.
- In both the surveys, a resident is defined as one who has been staying in a location for six months or more (except newly born infants).
  - Migration can result in the permanent relocation of an

individual or household, which we may term permanent migration.

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- But if individuals migrate leaving their families and land and property in the area of origin, they may do so with the intention of reverting back to the area of origin.
- One of the main lacunae of both the Census and NSS surveys is their failure to adequately capture seasonal and/or short-term circular migration, and their coverage is best for permanent migrants and reasonably adequate for semi permanent migrants.

#### Way Forward

- The draft migrant workers policy describes two approaches regarding the policy design. The first approach focuses on cash transfers, special quotas, and reservations for the labours. The other approach seeks to enhance the agency and capability of community. Thus, in turn removes any of the aspects coming in the way of natural ability of the individual to prosper.
- The policy further rejects the handout approach and opts for a rights-based framework. Policy also seeks to remove the restrictions on true agency and potential of the migrant workers.

#### General Studies Paper- III

#### Торіс

 Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

Q. Migrants are capable citizens of the nation belonging to a productive economic class. They must be empowered rather be treated as vulnerable population. Discuss the given statement in the light of the Draft National Policy on Migrant Labour.







### 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission's Recommendations on Local Governance

#### Why in News?

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) has recommended grants of Rs 4,36,361 crore from the Union government to local governments for 2021-26. This is an increase of 52 per cent over the corresponding grant of Rs 2,87,436 crore by its predecessor for 2015-20.

#### Background

- It's been more than two decades since the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments were passed by Parliament, which accorded constitutional status to local administration bodies across India.
- Criticisms of bureaucratic hassles and delays apart, the importance of local bodies cannot be discounted, especially in the context of their role in the public delivery of services such as the Public Distribution System, pension schemes, and mitigation of disease outbreaks and disasters.
- India had 262,771 elected rural local bodies and 4,657 urban ones in 2017. The rural bodies implement around 70 per cent of India's rural development programmes with an annual budget over Rs 2 lakh crore.
- Of the total grant, Rs 236,805 crore is for rural bodies for local governments (Panchayat institutions) while urban bodies (municipal corporations, municipalities, etc.) get Rs 121,055 crore. An additional Rs 70,051

crore is earmarked as health grants for such local governments.

- Overall, in this five-year period the country's gross tax revenue has been estimated at around Rs 135.2 lakh crore. The divisive tax pool in it is Rs 103 lakh crore. Of this, the states receive 41 per cent, or Rs 42.2 lakh crore, during 2021-26.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> FC has also awarded Rs 106,606 crore grants-in-aid to support the health sector. The unconditional grant aims at strengthening local health infrastructure. Local bodies will get Rs 70,051 crore from it.
- In 2020-21, as per the 15th FC recommendation, local bodies have received Rs 90,000 crore. Of this, Rs 60,750 crore is for rural local bodies and Rs 29,250 crore for urban bodies.
- The FFC has included all levels of rural panchayats and also the panchayats in scheduled areas as mentioned above, besides cantonment boards.

#### **Some Important Recommendations**

The Finance Commission is a constitutional body formed by the President of India to give suggestions on centre-state financial relations. The 15th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of N. K. Singh was required to submit two reports. The first report, consisting of recommendations for the financial year 2020-21, was tabled in

Parliament in February 2020. The final report with recommendations for the 2021-26 period was tabled in Parliament on February 1, 2021.

# Key recommendations in the report for 2021-26 include:

- Local Governments
  - The total size of the grant to local governments should be Rs. 4,36,361 crore for the period 2021-26.
  - Of these total grants, Rs. 8,000 crore is performance-based grants for incubation of new cities and Rs. 450 crore is for shared municipal services. A sum of Rs. 2,36,805 crore is earmarked for rural local bodies, Rs.1,21,055 crore for urban local bodies and Rs. 70,051 crore for health grants through local governments.
  - Urban local bodies have been categorised into two groups, based on population, and different norms have been used for flow of grants to each, based on their specific needs and aspirations. Basic grants are proposed only for cities/towns having a population of less than a million. For Million-Plus cities, 100 per cent of the grants are performance-linked through the Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund (MCF).
- Revenue Deficit Grants
  - Based on uniform norms of assessing revenues and expenditure of the States and the



Union, FFC has recommended total revenue deficit grants (RDG) of Rs 2,94,514 crore over the award period for seventeen States.

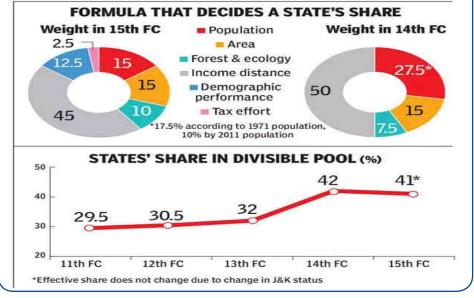
- Performance Incentives and Grants
  - FFC has recommended grants of Rs. 4,800 crore (Rs. 1,200 crore each year) from 2022-23 to 2025-26 for incentivising the States to enhance educational outcomes.
  - FFC has recommended Rs. 6,143 crore for online learning and development of professional courses (medical and engineering) in regional languages (matribhasha) for higher education in India.
  - FFC has recommended that Rs. 45,000 crore be kept as performance-based incentive for all the States for carrying out agricultural reforms
    - for amending their landrelated laws on the lines of NITI Aayog's model law;

- incentive-based grants to
   States that maintain and
   augment groundwater stock;
- growth in agricultural exports; and
- production of oilseeds,
   pulses and wood and woodbased products.

# Issues in the Financing Structure of Local Bodies

- The efficiency, smooth functioning and accountability of local bodies have been plagued by:
  - (i) lack of readily accessible and timely audited accounts,
  - (ii) absence of timely recommendations of StateFinance Commissions and suitable actions thereon, and
  - (iii) inadequate mobilisationof property tax revenues(especially in ULBs).
- Finance Commissions in the past have drawn pointed attention to these issues, but with limited success. These entry-level conditions for availing any grants

# HOW THE BOOTY IS DIVIDED



and their applicability to all local governments is the fourth innovation.

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#### Allocations

- The allocations for the incubation of new cities and shared municipal services are designed to foster innovations in urban governance to transform our cities with speed and scale. They are seed or venture capital for innovations. The expectation is that state governments would complement these with larger outlays.
- There is an urgent need for synergistically combined areabased development to spur economic growth and job creation, and decongesting through the development of satellite townships.
- Separately, the massive scaling of capacities in municipalities, particularly the 4,000-odd smaller ones, cannot be done by building capacities in each one of them, but through institutional and technological innovations, without compromising their autonomy.
- The shared municipal services model, with mobile internet, maps, platform thinking, and outsourced services all taken together, can help us fast-track the creation of municipal capacities at scale. This is one of the innovations in the FFC recommendations.
- The three tiers in the panchayats are parts of one system and interlinked through backward and forward linkages. Funds to all three can improve functional coordination and facilitate the creation of

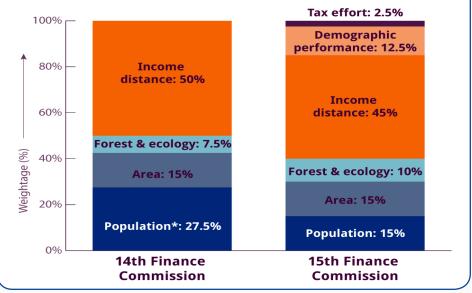




assets collectively across smaller jurisdictions. Similarly, for urban local bodies, the FFC grants cover cantonment boards also. This is the second new aspect of the FFC recommendations.

- For the urban component of local governments, the FFC calls for a focus on urban agglomerations (UAs) that include urban local bodies, census towns and outgrowths. In 2011, out of the total urban population of 377 million, 61 per cent lived in UAs. For 2021-26, there is a Million-plus Challenge Fund of Rs 38,196 crore that can be accessed by million-plus cities only through adequate improvements in their air quality and meeting service level benchmarks for drinking water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management. This focus on metropolitan governance through substantive but 100 per cent outcome-based grants is the third innovation.
- For ULBs other than the millionplus category, the total grants are Rs 82,859 crore. The grants to local governments, both urban (less than a million category) and rural, contain a mix of basic, tied as well as performance grants. For both, 40 per cent of total grants are basic or untied and can be used by them for felt needs under the 29 subjects

# Revenue-sharing formulas in the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions



enshrined for panchayats in the Eleventh Schedule, and 18 for urban local bodies in the Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution, except for salaries and other establishment costs.

#### **Way Forward**

Local governance in India at a grassroot level is often market by lack of transparency and accountability. Though the Right to Information Act and the periodic audits in gram sabha's has enabled a newer form of governance, but the allocation and further direction by the state governments. Also, there is a lack of dedicated audit and oversight mechanisms. Increased spending at the grassroots by the FFC has enabled the benefits of the development to reach at the last man. Often the local democratic governance has claimed lack of funds as a major lacuna, but with current allocation, the governance can be strengthened and made more effective and far reaching.

#### **General Studies Paper- III**

#### **Topic:**

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

**Q.** Discuss the significant aspect of increased allocation to local governance bodies by the Fifteenth Finance Commission and highlight the main features of such allocation.

# IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

# ) Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

#### 1. Why in News?

The States/Union Territories (UTs) have rolled out the first phase of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 to cover children and pregnant women who missed the routine immunisation during the COVID-19 pandemic.



#### 4. Significance

- Every year, the UIP caters to the vaccination needs of 2.65 crore children and 2.9 crore pregnant women against 12 vaccine preventable diseases. Despite these efforts by all the states and Union territories, some children and pregnant women get missed out from this network.
- Mission Indradhanush aims to reach out to every dropped out and left out child and pregnant woman. There has been remarkable improvement in the immunisation coverage, which is also evident in the NFHS-5 data as available for 22 states.
- On the massive push to provide affordable healthcare facilities to the last citizen, the minister observed that implementing large campaigns like IMI 3.0 even during the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines is a clear indication of India's health system getting stronger day by day.
- IMI 3.0 aims to reach the unreached population with all the available vaccines under the UIP and thereby, accelerate the full immunisation coverage of children and pregnant women.

#### 2. Background

- Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization' (EPI) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
   In 1985, the programme was modified as 'Universal Immunization Programme' (UIP) to be implemented in phased manner to cover all districts in the country by 1989-90 with the one of largest health programme in the world.
- Mission Indradhanush: To strengthen and re-energize the programme and achieve full immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women at a rapid pace, the Government of India launched "Mission Indradhanush" in December 2014.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush : To further intensify the immunization programme, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) on October 8, 2017. Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child up to two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme/UIP.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 : To boost the routine immunization coverage in the country, Government of India has introduced Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 to ensure reaching the unreached with all available vaccines and accelerate the coverage of children and pregnant women in the identified districts and blocks from December 2019-March 2020.

#### 3. Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on 19th February 2021 has launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0.
- The Union Minister also launched the IMI 3.0 portal and released the Operational Guidelines for IMI 3.0 and the awareness material/IEC package developed as part of the campaign.
- Focus of the IMI 3.0 will be the children and pregnant women who have missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be identified and vaccinated during the two rounds of IMI 3.0. Each round will be for 15 days each. Beneficiaries from migration areas and hard to reach areas will be targeted as they may have missed their vaccine doses during COVID19
- The IMI 3.0 will have two rounds starting from February 22 and March 22, 2021, and will be conducted in pre-identified 250 districts/urban areas across 29 States/UTs in the country.
- According to the guidelines released for IMI 3.0, there are 313 low-risk, 152 medium-risk and 250 high-risk districts.





# Karalapat Wildlife Sanctuary

#### 1. Why in News?

- According to a preliminary report by a central team set up by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the death of six elephants at Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi in January-February was due to haemorrhagic septicemia caused by bacteria Pastuerella multoceda.
- The elephants are likely to have contracted the bacteria from cattle residing in a village, inside the sanctuary.



#### 2. About the Disease

- Pastuerella multoceda is a common bacteria found in the respiratory tract of herbivores, especially in cattle. Only in times of stress in the animal, or when the animal has low immunity or is unhealthy as is the case with the cattle in this particular village that the bacteria multiplies rapidly and moves from the respiratory tract to the bloodstream.
- This then causes diarrhoea and often haemorrhagic septicemia, which can be fatal.
  - Haemorrhagic septicaemia is a contagious bacterial disease which infects animals that come in contact with contaminated water or soil.
  - The respiratory tract and lungs of the animals are affected, leading to severe pneumonia.
  - The disease generally spreads in the period right before and after the monsoons. It can affect cattle, buffalo and other animals.
- The disease affects mainly water buffaloes, cattle, and bison in tropical areas of Southeast Asia where the population of water buffaloes is high.
- Acute infection can persist up to three days and less often 5 days. The disease and is characterised by high fever ranging 104°–106°F, restlessness and reluctance to move, hypersalivation and nasal discharge.

#### 3. Contamination

- The cattle would have passed on the disease to the elephants through contamination of the soil through their faecal droppings or contamination of the water bodies.
- The disease is then believed to have swept through the herd through direct contact. There are nine elephants in this particular herd, out of which seven are dead from the disease.

#### 4. About Sanctuary

- Karlapat sanctuary is spread over an area of 175 square km in Odisha's Kalahandi district.
- Karlapat wildlife sanctuary home to tigers, leopards, sambars, nilgais, barking deer, mouse deer and a wide variety of birds like green munia, great eared-nightjar and various reptiles, apart from elephants.
- This apart a variety of birds like peafowl, peacock, hornbill, Red jungle fowl, partridges, Spurfawl, Hill Myna, Brahminy kite and reptilian fauna includes Mugger, crocodile, monitor lizard, snakes both poisonous and non-poisonous are found in the sanctuary.
- > The forest consists of flora like Sal, Bija, Asan, Harida, Amala, Bahada and Bamboo and varieties of medicinal plants.

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# Amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act

#### 1. Why in News?

Recently, Union Cabinet has approved amendments to Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2015, empowers District Magistrates (DMs) to issue adoption orders.

#### 2. Background

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act was introduced and passed in Parliament in 2015 to replace the Juvenile Delinquency Law and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2000.
- One of the main provisions of the new Act was allowing the trial of juveniles in conflict with law in the age group of 16-18 years as adults, in cases where the crimes were to be determined.
- The nature of the crime, and whether the juvenile should be tried as a minor or a child, was to be determined by a Juvenile Justice Board.
- This provision received an impetus after the 2012 Delhi gangrape in which one of the accused was just short of 18 years, and was therefore tried as a juvenile.
- The Juvenile Justice Act divided the crimes into three different categories i.e. the petty
  offence, serious offences and heinous offences.



#### 3. Key Amendments

- Child victims of trafficking, drug abuse and those abandoned by their guardians will be included in the definition of "child in need of care" and protection under the amended law.
- The amendments also include authorising district magistrate, additional district magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the Juvenile Justice Act in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- The district magistrates have been further empowered under the act to ensure its smooth implementation as well as garner synergised efforts in favour of children in distress conditions.
- According to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, juveniles charged with heinous crimes and who would be between the ages of 16-18 years would be tried as adults and processed through the adult justice system. The amendment included for the first time the category of "serious crimes" differentiating it from heinous crimes, while retaining heinous crimes. Both heinous and serious crimes have also been clarified for the first time, removing any ambiguity.

#### 4. Issues Related to Child Care

- The amendment has been brought in based on a report filed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in 2018-19 in which the over 7,000 Child Care Institutions (or children's homes) were surveyed and found that 1.5 per cent do not conform to rules and regulations of the Juvenile Justice Act and 29 per cent of them had major shortcomings in their management.
- The NCPCR report also found that not a single Child Care Institution in the country was found to be 100 per cent compliant to the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act.
- CCIs can be government-run, government-aided, privately run or run through government, private or foreign funding.
- These institutions, while falling under the CWC and the state child protection units had very little oversight and monitoring. Even to receive a license, after an application was made, if the children's home were to not receive a reply from the government within 3 months time, it would be "deemed registered" for a period of six months, even without government permission.
- The new amendment ensures that this can no longer happen and that no new children's home can be opened without the sanction of the DM.
- DM's are also responsible now for ensuring that CCIs falling in their district are following all norms and procedures.
- The DM will also carry out background checks of CWC members, who are usually social welfare activists, including educational qualifications, as there is no such provision currently to check if a person has a case of girl child abuse against him.





# Greater Tipraland

#### 1. Why in News?

Three months before elections to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), the state's royal scion and former state Congress president Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma has given a call for a 'Greater Tipraland', covering Tripuris in and outside of the district council and even the Tripuri diaspora.

#### 2. What is Tipraland?

- 'Greater Tipraland has been a political demand on the lines of 'Greater Nagalim', and seeks to – in a democratic manner – cater to the aspirations of Tripuris in Mamit of Mizoram, Kachar and Hailakandi in Assam, and even in Khagrachari, Bandarban, and Chittagong of Bangladesh.
- Tripuris are 19 indigenous clans, most of whom live in the TTAADC areas which make up two-thirds of the state's geographical area.
- Greater Tipraland is essentially an extension of the ruling tribal partner Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura – IPF's demand of Tipraland, which sought a separate state for tribals of Tripura. The new demand seeks to include every tribal person living in indigenous area or village outside the TTAADC under the proposed model.

#### 3. The TTAADC Poll

- TTADC was constituted on January 18, 1982. It covers 68% of the total geographical area of the state and is home to over one-third of the total population of Tripura. The district council has a total of 30 seats, of which 28 are for elected members, while two are nominated by the governor of Tripura. It was ruled by the CPI (M).
- On March 26 last year, the BJP-led Tripura government deferred the election of the district council 'indefinitel', though its tenure expired on May 17, 2020, citing the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The tribal council's charge was assumed by the gubernatorial head, as per a decision of the state cabinet, till the next election.
- The tenure was later extended for another six months.
- After the Tripura government extended the tenure of district council twice, an individual from the district council and a regional political party named Tripura People's Front (TPF) filed a PIL last year seeking immediate polls in the council.
- On January 12, the Tripura high court had directed the state government to conduct the polls before May 17, 2021.

#### 4. Political and Geographical Composition

- Tripura ADC Areas (Autonomous District Council) is spread across 7,132.56 square km and covers nearly 68% of the state's geographical area.
- However, tribals comprise only one-third of the state's population of 37 lakh people. 70 percent land under the TTAADC is covered by hills and forests and most inhabitants are prone to 'jhum' (slash and burn) cultivation.
- Apart from the tribal council's 28 seats, 20 seats in the state legislative assembly are reserved for Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates while tribal voters are a deciding factor in at least 10 more seats.

#### 5. Sixth Schedule

- The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.
- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC). ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.
- The governors of these states are empowered to reorganise boundaries of the tribal areas. In simpler terms, she or he can choose to include or exclude any area, increase or decrease the boundaries and unite two or more autonomous districts into one. They can also alter or change the names of autonomous regions without a separate legislation.

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# The Transatlantic Alliance

#### 1. Why in News?

During Munich Security Conference, United States (US) President Joe Biden has sent a clear message that America is back and the transatlantic alliance is back as it is the foundation on which the collective security and shared prosperity of the US and Europe are built.

#### 2. NATO Concerns about Russia and China

- The Western allies and close partners must forge stronger ties to counter the threat posed by China's rise for the transatlantic security, said Jens Stoltenberg, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) chief.
- NATO calls for strong alliance as China's rise has 'Speaking at the virtual conference. As per NATO, "The rise of China is a defining issue for the transatlantic community, with potential consequences for our security, our prosperity and our way of life."
- According to an official release by NATO, in view of global challenges such as the rise of China, cyber attacks, disruptive technologies, climate change, Russia's destabilising behaviour and the threat of terrorism, Stoltenberg underlined that "no country - and no continent - can go it alone. On the contrary, we must do more together."
- China and Russia are trying to "re-write the rules of the road to benefit their own interests".



#### 5. About NATO

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries.
- The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.
- NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- NATO's Headquarters are located in Evere, Brussels, Belgium, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium.

#### 3. US Stance

- US President Joe Biden has said the US is returning to the transatlantic partnership and will address global challenges like climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The United States is determined, determined to reengage with Europe, to consult with you, earn back our position of trusted leadership.
- Collective strength is the only way to succeed when a worldwide contest between democracy and autocracy is at an "inflection point."
- Biden said he was not seeking a return to "the rigid blocs of the Cold War," insisting that the international community must work together on issues like the coronavirus pandemic and climate change, even where deep disagreements exist on other issues.

#### 4. About Munich Security Conference

- The Munich Security Conference is an annual conference on international security policy that has taken place in Munich, Bavaria since 1963.
- It is the world's largest gathering of its kind.
- Former names are Wehrkundetagung and Münchner Konferenz für Sicherheitspolitik.
- Each year it brings together about 350 senior figures from more than 70 countries around the world to engage in an intensive debate on current and future security challenges.
- The list of attendees includes heads of states, governments and international organizations, ministers, members of parliament, high-ranking representatives of armed forces, science, civil society, as well as business and media.
- The conference is held annually in February. The venue is the Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich, Bayaria, Germany.
- Due to the pandemic, the 2021, conference was held virtually.



06



# Digital Intelligence Unit

#### 1. Why in News?

- The government is planning to set up a nodal agency called Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) to work with law enforcement agencies, financial institutions, and telecom service providers for investigating fraudulent activities involving telecom resources.
- The new move is aimed to help better deal with digital frauds in India.



#### 5. Lack of Implementation

- The digital payments major Paytm filed a writ petition last year against telecom sector regulator, telcos - Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (Vi) among others.
- Paytm moved courts alleging lax implementation of the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation, 2018 (TCCCPR).
- As per the TCCCPR introduced in 2018, all business entities that send promotional and transactional SMSes must register their headers and content on a blockchain-based platform operated by telcos.
- Paytm in its writ petition, filed last year, had contended that telecom operators had been lax in the implementation of the new rule, which allowed fraudsters to manipulate their customers by sending fake messages under duplicate headers.
- Telcos and the regulator had denied the allegations.
- The Delhi High Court directed the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to ensure "strict and complete" enforcement of regulations by telcos on this matter.

#### 2. Background

- Given the quantum leap in digital transactions in India, there is an urgent need to focus on fraud prevention.
- Though most online transaction tools come with superior fraud-checks, the fact that scammers are innovating constantly and responding to evolving checks make the DIU an imperative.
- For effective handling of unsolicited commercial communication (UCC) and also financial frauds through misuse of telecom resources, a web/mobile application and SMS-based system will be developed for redressal.
- At high-level meeting the Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Law & Justice, has addressed the rising concern of consumers over unsolicited messages on mobile phones, loan frauds and above all to make digital transaction safe.
- There was also a proposal directed to devise special strategies including blocking of telecom operations due to rising concern in Jamtara and Mewat region for curbing of fraudulent activities involving usage of telecom resources.

#### 3. The Nodal Body

- The main function of DIU will be to coordinate with various financial institutions and telecom service providers in investigating any fraudulent activity involving telecom resources.
- At License Service Area level, Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAFCOP) system will also be created. This will enable telecom subscribers to lodge their complaints related to matters involving UCC including messages and calls.
- In case of any violation, it was proposed to impose financial penalty against the telemarketers voiding the DND service rules.
- The government is also planning to build a Web/ mobile app and SMS-based system for effective handling of UCC and financial frauds being done through misuse of telecom resources. This system is aimed to enable telecom subscribers to lodge their complaints related to matters involving UCC.

#### 4. Rising Awareness

- Several people have also brought into notice issues with loan apps that led to even suicides and have been investigated by various state police departments.
- Similarly, Google took action against some of those apps that were violating its user safety policies and were allegedly harassing their clients.
- The Reserve Bank of India also set up a working group to explore possibilities to regulate digital lending platforms in the country.
- Ministry Officials pointed out that even the subscribers registered in Do-Not Disturb (DND) service by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) receive commercial communication from registered tele-marketers (RTMs) and further unregistered tele-marketers (UTMs) are also sending commercial communication to the subscribers.





# Taiwan and US-China Tensions

#### 1. Why in News?

As Taiwan's security situation worsens amidst mounting economic, political and military pressure from China, one countervailing factor appears to be preventing the crisis from boiling over into a full-scale war that could draw the US and Japan into it. It is Taiwan's so-called "silicon shield".

#### 2. Beijing Testing US

- Beijing's attempts to test the United States (US) relationship with Taiwan in the days after President Joe Biden's inauguration appear only to have strengthened an unofficial alliance that has blossomed since Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016.
- China sent dozens of warplanes into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on January 23 and 24. The incursions, which increased in frequency after two high-level US official visits to Taiwan, continued through the end of the month.
- The US dramatically increased its arms sales to Taiwan during the term of former President Donald Trump.



#### **3. Bone of Contention**

- The fight dates to the Chinese Civil War in 1949, when American ally Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalists abandoned the mainland to Mao Zedong's Communists.
- The US backed Chiang as China's rightful leader until former President Richard Nixon sought to establish ties with Beijing in the 1970s.
- The result was the "One China policy," in which Washington recognized the People's Republic as the "sole legal government of China," without clarifying its position on Taiwan's sovereignty.
- China agreed to tolerate informal US relations with Taipei, including arms sales under certain conditions, but has since affirmed the right to take Taiwan by force to prevent its independence.

#### 6. Deterrence for China

- China, which imports nearly \$300 billion worth of chips annually, has big plans to become self-reliant. Despite massive investments, China might not be able to catch up quickly on advanced chip production.
- Any Chinese attack on Taiwan that disrupts the flow of semiconductors would produce significant challenges not only for the US but also China that relies on semiconductor supplies from Taiwan.
- Taiwan's position as a semiconductor superpower opens the door for more intensive strategic-economic cooperation between Delhi and Taipei.
- The NDA government has made a special effort to woo Taiwanese companies that are moving some of their production away from China to other destinations in Asia.

#### 4. Rising Tensions

- Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's election in January 2016 upended Beijing's plans for reconciliation with the Nationalists.
- Tsai, whose Democratic Progressive Party was founded on the promise of independence, refused to accept Ma's position that both sides belong to "One China."
- Beijing responded by cutting off communication, curbing travel and resuming efforts to lure away Taiwan's few remaining diplomatic partners.
- Beijing has also withdrawn its support for Taipei's participation in global bodies such as the World Health Assembly and pressured airlines, retailers and other multinationals to revise policies that treat Taiwan as a country.

#### 5. Taiwan: A Semiconductor Superpower

- Taiwan is the world's leading producer of semiconductors and other electronic components.
- The global division of labour in the age of electronics has seen a significant concentration of chip production in Taiwan.
- China has been the factory for the global economy, Taiwan is the world's foundry for semiconductors.
- The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TMSC) has more than 55 per cent of the global market share in the production of high-end custom-made chips.

# MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS (Based on Brain Boosters)

# 01 Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

- Q. With reference to the Intensified Mission Indradhanush3.0, consider the following statements:
  - It aims to reach the unreached population with all the available vaccines under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and thereby, accelerate the full immunisation coverage of children and pregnant women.
  - Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization' (EPI) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### Answer: (c)

**Explanation: Both the statements are correct.** IMI 3.0 aims to reach the unreached population with all the available vaccines under the UIP and thereby, accelerate the full immunisation coverage of children and pregnant women.

Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In 1985, the programme was modified as Universal Immunization Programme to be implemented in phased manner to cover all districts in the country by 1989-90 with the one of largest health programme in the world. (02)

### Karalapat Wildlife Sanctuary

#### **Q.** Consider the following statements:

- Haemorrhagic septicaemia is a contagious bacterial disease which infects animals that come in contact with contaminated water or soil.
- 2. This bacterial disease is the main reason behind the death of six elephants at Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation: Both the statements are correct.** Pastuerella multoceda is a common bacteria found in the respiratory tract of herbivores, especially in cattle. This then causes diarrhoea and often haemorrhagic septicemia, which can be fatal. Haemorrhagic septicaemia is a contagious bacterial disease which infects animals that come in contact with contaminated water or soil.

According to a preliminary report by a central team set up by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the death of six elephants at Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi in January-February was due to haemorrhagic septicemia caused by bacteria Pastuerella multoceda.



### Amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act:

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act was passed in Parliament in 2015 to replace the Juvenile Delinquency Law and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2000.
- 2. The Juvenile Justice Act divided the crimes into two different categories i.e. the petty offence, and heinous offences.

Neither 1 nor 2

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only b) 2 only
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c) Both 1 and 2 d)

#### Answer: (a)

**Explanation: Statement 1 is correct.** The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act was introduced and passed in Parliament in 2015 to replace the Juvenile Delinquency Law and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act), 2000. Child victims of trafficking, drug abuse and those abandoned by their guardians will be included in the definition of "child in need of care" and protection under the amended law.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Juvenile Justice Act divided the crimes into three different categories i.e. the petty offence, serious offences and heinous offences.

Greater Tipraland

#### Q. Consider the following statements:

- 1. 'Greater Tipraland' has been a political demand on the lines of 'Greater Nagalim'.
- The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTADC) covers 68% of the total geographical area of the state and is home to over one-third of the total population of Tripura.
- 3. The Seventh Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only d) All of the above
- Answer: (a)

**Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct.** 'Greater Tipraland' has been a political demand on the lines of 'Greater Nagalim', and seeks to – in a democratic manner – cater to the aspirations of Tripuris in Mamit of Mizoram, Kachar and Hailakandi in Assam, and even in Khagrachari, Bandarban, and

The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTADC) was constituted on January 18, 1982. It covers 68% of the total geographical area of the state and is home to over one-third of the total population of Tripura.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.

# 05) The Transatlantic Alliance

#### Q. Consider the following statements:

Chittagong of Bangladesh.

- 1. During Munich Security Conference 2021, US President Joe Biden has said the US is returning to the transatlantic partnership.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called the North Atlantic Alliance is an economic block of 30 European nations and North American nations which are meant to foster economic prosperity and free trade.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### Answer: (a)

**Explanation: Statement 1 is correct.** President Joe Biden sent a clear message that America is back and the transatlantic alliance is back as it is the foundation on which the collective security and shared prosperity of the US and Europe are built. President Biden made these remarks at the 2021 virtual Munich Conference.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.



06



# Digital Intelligence Unit

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU):

- The main function of DIU will be to coordinate with various financial institutions and telecom service providers in investigating any fraudulent activity involving telecom resources.
- 2. At License Service Area level, Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAFCOP) system will also be created.
- 3. As per the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation, 2018 (TCCCPR), all business entities that send promotional and transactional SMSes must register their headers and content on a blockchain-based platform operated by telcos.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

#### Answer: (d)

**Explanation: All the statements are correct.** The main function of DIU will be to coordinate with various financial institutions and telecom service providers in investigating any fraudulent activity involving telecom resources.

At License Service Area level, Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAFCOP) system will also be created. This will enable telecom subscribers to lodge their complaints related to matters involving unsolicited commercial communication (UCC) including messages and calls.

As per the TCCCPR introduced in 2018, all business entities that send promotional and transactional SMSes must register their headers and content on a blockchain-based platform operated by telcos.



### ) Taiwan and US-China Tensions

#### Q. Consider the following statements:

- Taiwan's position as the largest producer of semiconductors in the world has made it a silicon superpower.
- Current Taiwanese leadership has rejected One China policy and has denied to accept China's position that China and Taiwan belong to same 'One China'.

# Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation: Both the statements are correct.** Taiwan is the world's leading producer of semiconductors and other electronic components. Any Chinese attack on Taiwan that disrupts the flow of semiconductors would produce significant challenges not only for the US but also China that relies on semiconductor supplies from Taiwan.

The fight dates to the Chinese Civil War in 1949, when American ally Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalists abandoned the mainland to Mao Zedong's Communists. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's election in January 2016 upended Beijing's plans for reconciliation with the Nationalists. Tsai, whose Democratic Progressive Party was founded on the promise of independence, refused to accept Ma's position that both sides belong to "One China."





### Gay Marriage is not a Fundamental Right : Centre to Delhi HC

The central government has submitted before the Delhi High Court that a same sex couple cannot claim fundamental right for their marriage - despite the Supreme Court decriminalising homosexuality in 2018 - saying that marriage in India is a "bond between a biological man and a biological woman".

#### **Key Highlights**

- The Centre, in an affidavit, said the petitioners "cannot claim a fundamental right for same sex marriage being recognised under the laws of the country". It further asserted that the question as to whether same sex marriage can be given legal recognition should be left to the legislature.
- The submissions were made in response to a petition filed last year, demanding marriage rights for the gay community under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
- The affidavit also referred to terms like "bride", "bridegroom", "father", "mothers" etc. used in the laws, to assert that "in India, marriage is a bond between a biological man and a biological woman".

#### 'SEC 377 IRRATIONAL, INDEFENSIBLE'

ection 377 is irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary. Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Justice A.M. Khanwilkar



It is difficult to right a wrong by history. But we can set the course for the future. This case involves much more than decriminalizing homosexuality. It's about people wanting to live with dignity. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

History owes an apology to the members of this community and their families, for the delay in providing redressal for the ignominy and ostracism that they have suffered through the centuries. Justice Indu Malhotra

In India marriage is not just a matter of union of two individuals but solemn institution а between a biological man and biological woman. Despite а the decriminalisation of section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, the petitioners cannot claim a fundamental right for same-sex marriage being recognised under the laws of the country.

#### Introduction of Section 377

Section 377 was introduced by British India, modelled on the Buggery Act of 1533. This section of the Buggery Act was drafted by Thomas Macaulay in 1838 and was brought into effect in 1860. It defined 'buggery' as an unnatural sexual act against the will of God and man, thus, criminalising anal penetration, bestiality and homosexuality, in a broader sense. Over the years, Section 377 had sparked numerous controversies with activists challenging it in various ways.

Persons

homosexual

fraternity.

fundamental right to live with dignity, which, in the

larger framework of the

Preamble of India, will

constitutional value of

Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman

assure the cardinal

who are

have a

However, in 2018, the Supreme Court held that discrimination on the premise of sexual orientation was in violation of the right equality that criminalizing to consensual sex between adults in private and was also in violation of the right to privacy, that sexual orientation forms an inherent part of self identity and denying the identity would be in violation of the right to life, also fundamental rights can't be denied on the basis that they only affect a minuscule section of the population.

DHYEYA IAS



# 02

## India and Pakistan have agreed to Observe 2003 Ceasefire

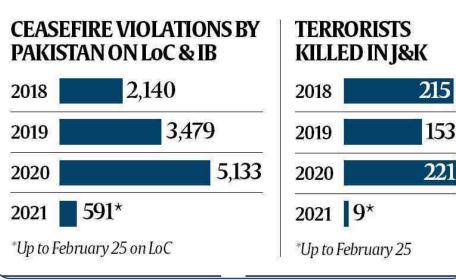
In a first joint statement issued by the two sides in years, India and Pakistan have said they have agreed to a "strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the Line of Control (LoC) and all other sectors" with effect from the midnight of February 24/25. The decision was announced after discussions between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGsMO) over the established hotline on February 22.

#### What is LoC?

 The Line of Control is a de facto border that divides the disputed Kashmir Valley between the two countries and the Working Boundary, which separates the two neighbours.

#### Background

 India and Pakistan had agreed to a ceasefire on the LoC in November 2003.



Tensions between the two nuclear neighbours have failed to ease after 19 Indian soldiers were killed in Indian-administered Kashmir in September 2016 by an armed group India has claimed to have links with Pakistan. Since then, over 150 civilians and troops from both sides have been killed in border clashes.

 According to data provided by the Ministry of Defence in Parliament earlier this month, there were 5133 instances of ceasefire violations (CFVs) along the LoC and other areas in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in 46 fatal casualties in 2020, and 3,479 CFVs in 2019. In May 2018, the DGsMO agreed during a similar hotline conversation to observe the ceasefire strictly, but subsequent tensions over the Pulwama attack, Balakot air strikes and the Article 370 move led to a sharp spike in CFVs.



### **Aerial Mapping of Ocean Floor: INCOIS**

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is planning to take the help of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) for airline mapping of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshwadeep to get a better picture of the ocean floor, also called 'bathymetric' study.

#### Key Highlights

- NRSC has already done a similar high resolution topographic Airborne Laser Terrain Mapping (ALTM) for entire coastal areas of the country and NRSC is in the process of integrating the data for a 3D multi-hazard mapping of both the east and west coastline for a more precise picture of the ocean floor.
- INCOIS, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, had also identified 'gaps' across the coast of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha for installing more tide gauges for better monitoring of the sea and more accurate prediction of impending disasters like cyclones. This is in addition to the 36 already floating on the Bay of Bengal.



- INCOIS In the meantime, scientists in association with their counterparts in the Chennaibased National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and an United States independent scientific Massachusetts-based agency, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), have been mining the data recorded by a unique 'Flux Buoy' retrieved from the Bay of Bengal off the Kolkota coast, a few months ago.
- The buoy was dropped off into the sea to monitor the temperatures, pressures, salinity, radiation and geo-chemical changes at various depths in a high resolution scale,

compared to other buoys in the seas. "It was 'installed' on the far seas in May 2019 and was supposed to have been retrieved in May 2020 but due to lockdown and restricted



overseas travel conditions, the US scientists could not come, so INCOIS took it out in October.

#### Need

 Such a study has become imperative in view of the recent tsunamis of the Indonesian coasts where more than the quake related high waves, damage was due to landslides that had under the sea beds causing sudden wave surge leading to much damage without giving sufficient time to alert people.

ost trusted since 2003



- Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive a shipment of coronavirus vaccines under the COVAX program. About 600,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune (the largest vaccine manufacturer in the world), were sent to Accra in Ghana on February 23.
- The AstraZeneca vaccine (known as Covishield in India) was given Emergency Use Listing (EUL) by the WHO this month. AstraZeneca and SII will together work with the COVAX facility to begin supplying the vaccine globally.

#### What is COVAX?

The COVAX program is led by
 the vaccine alliance GAVI, the

### **COVAX** Program and Ghana

- World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) in partnership with UNICEF, vaccine manufacturers and the World Bank, among others. The aim is to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally in what is being called the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history.
- The program wants to vaccinate roughly 20 per cent of the population in the 92 Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries, which include middle and lower-income nations that cannot afford to pay for COVID-19 vaccines.
- In 2021, the programme expects to vaccinate nearly 550 million, the

equivalent of roughly 8.52 per cent of India's population.

- Oxford-AstraZeneca became the first vaccine manufacturer to sign up under the programme in June 2020, and has guaranteed to supply 300 million doses.
- In January, COVAX announced that it had signed an agreement with Pfizer-BioNTech to purchase up to 40 million doses of their vaccine. In addition, the program has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Johnson and Johnson for 500 million doses of their single-dose vaccine, which the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared to be safe and effective recently. COVAX also has existing agreements with SII for 200 million doses.







 Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual.

#### What is Carbon Footprint?

 Carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases-especially carbon dioxide-released into the atmosphere by a particular human activity.

#### **Key Highlights of the App**

- The app focuses on individuals' actions and calculates carbon footprint the basis on of Transport, Energy, Waste and Water consumption. lt also suggests remedial actions and sensitises people about their lifestyle emissions, their impact and possible countermeasures to mitigate the same.
- In the category of Water, the person will be required to inform about the consumption of water.

# **Carbon Watch App**



- In the Energy category, the details regarding the electricity units consumed every month at the house, monthly bill etc and usage of solar energy will have to be furnished.
- In the Waste category, the individual will need to inform about the waste generation on their part and their family.
  - In the transport section, the individual will have to inform about the mode of transport used by them- four wheeler, two-wheeler or bicycle.

#### Chandigarh and Emission Generation

- Although Chandigarh is one of the green cities, which has achieved the surplus 45 per cent green cover instead of the set target of 33 per cent. It still stands among 112 Indian cities identified as Non-Attainment Cities, for not meeting the prescribed standards of air quality.
- Chandigarh has a per capita density of 878 vehicles per 1,000 population.
   Around 11 lakh is the population of Chandigarh, a joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.



### **Pakistan to Remain on FATF Greylist**

- Global terror financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has retained Pakistan on its "grey list" till June after concluding that Islamabad failed to address its strategically important deficiencies, to fully implement the 27 point action plan that the watchdog had drawn up for Pakistan.
- Pakistan has been on the FATF's grey list since June 2018 and the government was given a final warning in February 2020 to complete the 27 action points by June in the same year.

#### **Key Highlights of the Decision**

 According to the FATF, Pakistan should continue to work on implementing the three remaining items in its action plan to address its strategically important deficiencies, including "demonstrating effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions against all 1267 and 1373 designated terrorists, specifically those acting for or on their behalf."



#### **Impact on Pakistan**

- Pakistan's continuation on the "grey" list means that it will not get any respite in trying to access finances in the form of investments and aid from various international bodies including International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The latest decision will now further exacerbate its problems given its perilous financial situation.
- A research paper by an Islamabadbased think tank recently revealed that Pakistan sustained a total of USD 38 billion in economic losses due to FATF' decision to thrice place the country on its grey list since 2008.

#### **About FATF**

• The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to

most trusted since 2003 combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

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The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organisations - the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council. India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group. 



### **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**

The old films and photographs were taken at the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO) of Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have now been digitised. From the digitised data scientists have estimated how the Sun has rotated over a century.

#### **Key Highlights**

- Researchers from the Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under Department of Science and Technology (DST), along with the collaborators from Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, Goettingen, Germany and Southwest Research Institute, Boulder, USA have studied the solar rotation by tracing sun spots from century-old digitalized films and photographs.
- The old films and photographs were taken at the KoSO of Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an

autonomous institute of DST, and What is Sunspot? have now been digitised.

- This estimation would help study magnetic field generated in the interior of the Sun, which causes sunspots and results in extreme situations like the historical miniice age on Earth (absence of sunspots). It could also help predict solar cycles and their variations in the future.
- The Sun rotates more quickly at its equator than at its poles. Over 🔸 time, the Sun's differential rotation rates cause its magnetic field to become twisted and tangled. The tangles in the magnetic field lines can produce strong localized magnetic fields. When the Sun's magnetic field gets twisted, there are lots of sunspots. The sunspots which form at the surface with an 11-year periodicity are the only route to probe the solar dynamo or solar magnetism inside the Sun and hence measure the variation in solar rotation.

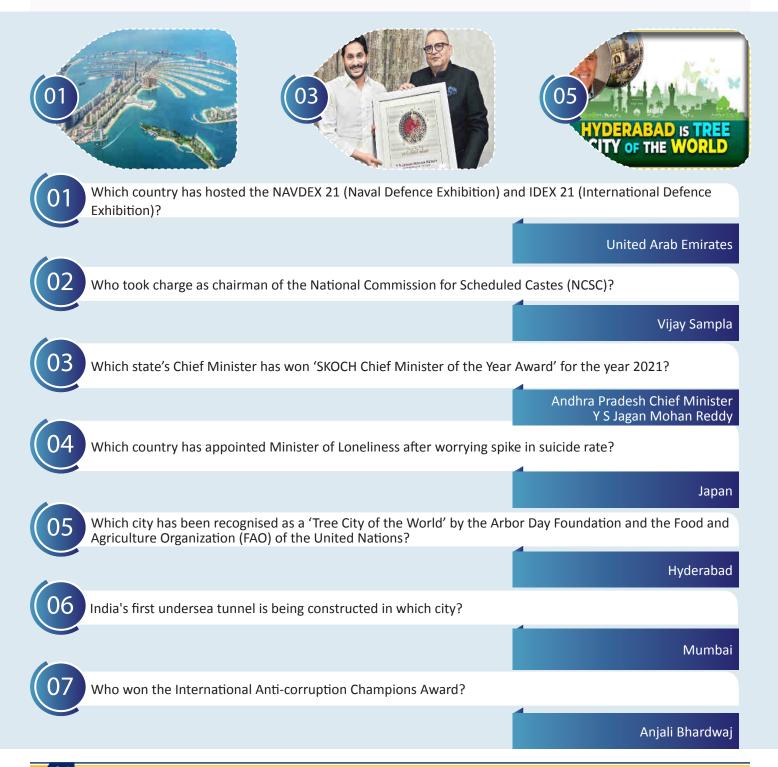
- A Sunspot is an area on the Sun that appears dark on the surface and is relatively cooler than surrounding parts. These spots, some as large as 50,000 km in diameter, are the visible markers of the Sun's magnetic field, which forms a blanket that protects the solar system from harmful cosmic radiation.
- On the photosphere- the outer surface of the Sun which radiates heat and light- Sunspots are the areas where the star's magnetic field is the strongest; around 2,500 times more than the Earth's magnetic field.
- Most Sunspots appear in groups that have their own magnetic field, whose polarity reverses during every solar cycle, which takes around 11 years. In every such cycle, the number of Sunspots increases and decreases. XXX



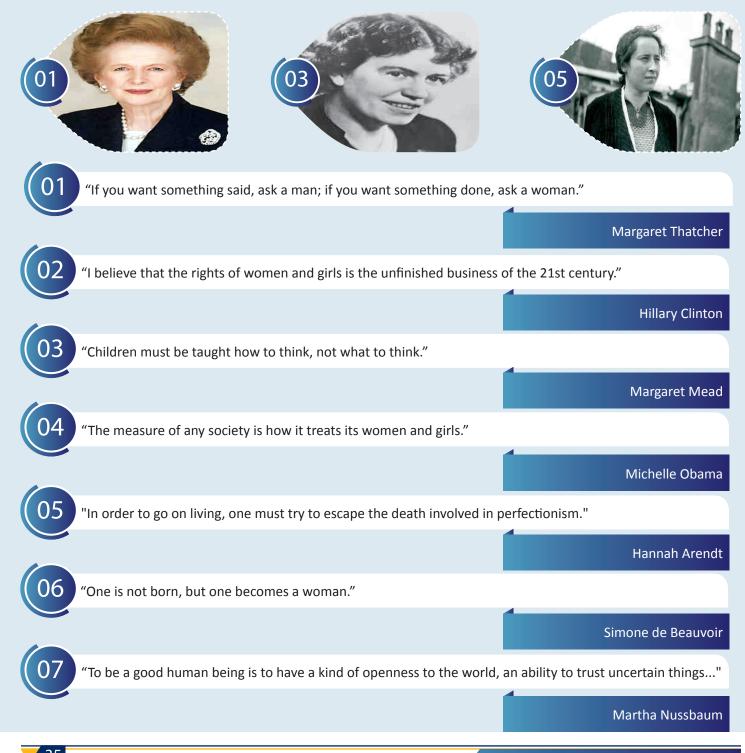
# **IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS** (For Mains)







# IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



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#### 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 unparallel 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 evidents from success stories of the previous years.

Quite a large number of students desirous of building a career fro themselves are absolutely less equipped for the fairly tough competitive tests they have to appear in. Several others, who have a brilliant academic career, do not know that competitive exams are vartly different from academic examination and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here one single move my 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 individuals capacity to focus, learn and innovate as we are comfortably aware of the fact that you can't teach a person anything you can only help him find it within himself.

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Distance learning Programme, DSDL, primarily caters the need for those who are unable to come to metros fro economic or family reason but have ardent desire to become a civil servant. Simultaneously, it also sults 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 examoriented 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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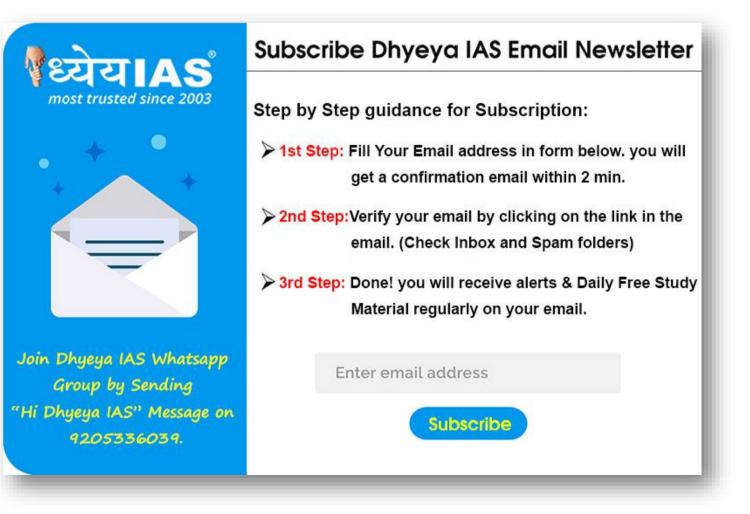


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