

The Best Weekly Current Affairs Magazine for Civil Services Exam

PERFECT

7

Weekly Current Affairs

May 2021 | ISSUE 01



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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION

Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

The guiding philosophy of the institute, throughout, has been creation of knowledge base.

Dhyeya IAS inculcates human values and professional ethics in the students, which help them make decisions and create path that are good not only for them, but also for the society, for the nation, and for the world as whole. To fulfill its mission in new and powerful ways, each student is motivated to strive towards achieving excellence in every endeavor. It is done by making continuous improvements in curricula and pedagogical tools.

The rigorous syllabi not only instills in them, a passion for knowledge but also attempts to teach them how to apply that knowledge in real-life situations. The programmes lay emphasis on well-rounded personality development of the students and also in inculcating the values of honesty and integrity in them.



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

Dhyeya IAS is an institution that aims at the complete development of the student.

Our faculty are hand-picked and highly qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multi-disciplinary institution which ensures that the students have ready access to a wide range of academic material.

Our brand of education has broad horizons as we believe in exposure. Our students are encouraged to widen their knowledge base and study beyond the confinements of the syllabus. We aim to lend a gentle guiding hand to make our students recognize their inner potential and grow on their own accord into stalwarts of tomorrow's society.

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

Issues of the Week

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 - ◆ Climate Change is causing a Shift in Earth's Axis
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- ◆ NASA's Parker Solar Probe

GS Paper-1

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

1. Mountains to Mangroves – A Journey of 1000 Kilometers

Why in News?

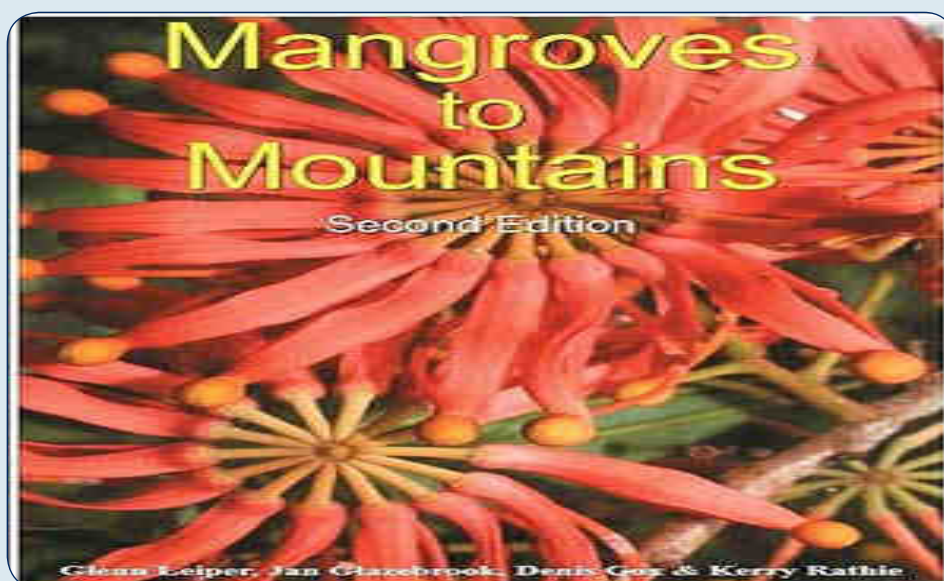
- ◆ The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series held its 86th webinar titled "Mountains to Mangroves – A Journey of 1000 Kilometers" on 24th April 2021.

Introduction

- ◆ In this webinar, the journey of 1000 kilometers from mountains to mangroves was focused on two of the most picturesque states that are West Bengal and Sikkim.
- ◆ The marvelous journey started from the Himalayan range of mountains from Sikkim through the Queen of the hills Darjeeling to the Gangetic Plains in south across the coastal region to the world's largest Delta which is known for the natural habitat of Royal Bengal tigers of Sundarbans.

About Sikkim

- ◆ The State of Sikkim is blessed with natural abundance with the magnificent Mt. Khangchendzonga, the third highest mountain of the world, flowering alpine meadows, mountain lakes etc.
- ◆ Gangtok, the capital of the State of Sikkim, Pelling, Lachung, Lachen, Yumthang, Nathula Pass,



Gurudongmar Lake are some of the famous tourist destinations in Sikkim.

- ◆ To visit Sikkim foreigners must obtain Restricted Area Permit (RAP) previously known as InnerLine Permit.

About West Bengal

- ◆ The State of West Bengal has rich history, breathtaking landscapes, heritage architecture, finery arts and crafts, vibrant folk festivals, music-theatre-drama, traditional celebrations, delicious cuisines and much more to offer.
- ◆ To name a few sites are Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Kalimpong, Dooars, Jaldapara, Malda, Bishnupur,

Santiniketan, Kolkata- the City of Joy, Sundarbans (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Digha Beach and the list is endless of this incredible state.

About Dekho Apna Desh

- ◆ The Ministry of Tourism launched the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative in January 2020 with the objective of creating awareness among the citizens about the rich heritage and culture of the country and encourage citizens to travel within the country.
- ◆ Under this initiative, the Ministry is organizing a series of Webinars under the overall theme of Dekho Apna Desh, showcasing the diverse culture, heritage, destinations and tourism products of the country.

2. Climate Change is causing a Shift in Earth's Axis

Why in News?

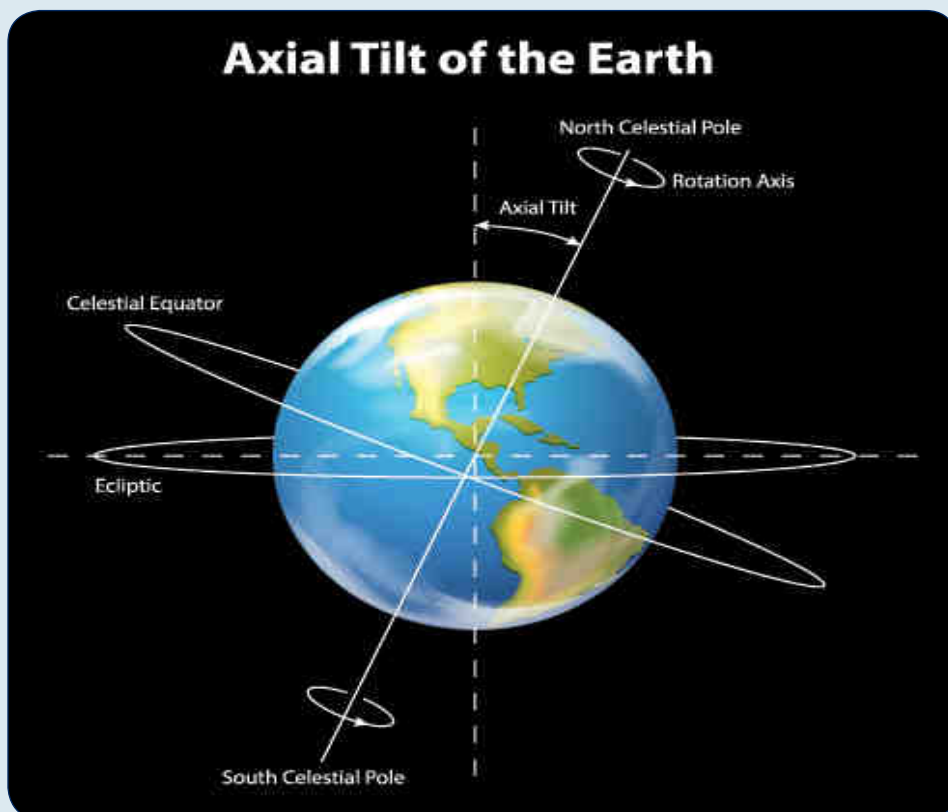
- ◆ A recent study published in Geophysical Research Letters of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) says that due to the significant melting of glaciers because of global temperature rise, our planet's axis of rotation has been moving more than usual since the 1990s.

Key Points of the Study

- ◆ Since the 1990s, climate change has caused billions of tonnes of glacial ice to melt into oceans. This has caused the Earth's poles to move in new directions.
- ◆ As per the study, the North Pole has shifted in a new eastward direction since the 1990s, because of changes in the hydrosphere (meaning the way in which water is stored on Earth).
- ◆ From 1995 to 2020, the average speed of drift was 17 times faster than from 1981 to 1995. Also, in the last four decades, the poles moved by about 4 metres in distance.
- ◆ The calculations were based on satellite data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) mission as well as estimates of glacier loss and groundwater pumping going back to the 1980s.

Possible Reasons

- ◆ According to the study, the faster ice melting under global warming was the most likely cause of the directional change of the polar drift in the 1990s.



- ◆ The other possible causes are (terrestrial water storage) change in non-glacial regions due to climate change and unsustainable consumption of groundwater for irrigation and other anthropogenic activities.
- ◆ While ice melting is the major factor behind increased polar motion, groundwater depletion also adds to the phenomenon. As millions of tonnes of water from below the land is pumped out every year for drinking, industries or agriculture, most of it eventually joins the sea, thus redistributing the planet's mass.
- ◆ The location of the poles is not fixed, however, as the axis moves due to changes in how the Earth's mass is distributed around the planet. Thus, the poles move when the axis moves, and the movement is called "polar motion".
- ◆ According to NASA, data from the 20th century shows that the spin axis drifted about 10 centimetres per year. Meaning over a century, polar motion exceeds 10 metres.
- ◆ Generally, polar motion is caused by changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, oceans, or solid Earth. But now, climate change is adding to the degree with which the poles wander.

Earth's Axis of Rotation

- ◆ The Earth's axis of rotation is the line along which it spins around itself as it revolves around the Sun. The points on

GS Paper-2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

1. National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021

Why in News?

- ◆ The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 (GNCTD Act), which gives primacy to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) over the elected government in the city, has come into force.

Introduction

- ◆ Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature and it came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991. As per the existing Act, the Legislative Assembly of Delhi has the power to make laws in all matters except public order, police and land.
- ◆ The GNCTD Act was passed simultaneously to supplement the constitutional provisions relating to the Assembly and the Council of Ministers in the national capital. For all practical purposes, the GNCTD Act outlines the powers of the Assembly, the discretionary powers enjoyed by the L-G, and the duties of the Chief Minister with respect to the need to furnish information to the L-G.

Background

- ◆ In its 2018 verdict, the five-judge Bench of Supreme Court had held that the L-G's concurrence is not required on issues other than police, public order and land. It had added that decisions of the Council of Ministers will, however, have to be communicated to the L-G. The L-G was bound by the aid and advice if the council of ministers.
- ◆ According to the bench, the status of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is not that of a Governor of a State, rather he remains an Administrator, in a limited sense, working with the designation of Lieutenant Governor". It had also pointed out that the elected government must keep in mind that Delhi is not a state.

Key Features of the Act

- ◆ The GNCTD Act outlines the powers of the Assembly, the discretionary powers enjoyed by the L-G, and the duties of the Chief Minister with respect to the need to furnish information to the L-G.
- ◆ The "government" in Delhi means the "Lieutenant Governor" and the city government will now have to seek the

opinion of the L-G before taking any executive action.

- ◆ The Act gives discretionary powers to the L-G of Delhi even in matters where the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws.
- ◆ It also seeks to ensure that the L-G is "necessarily granted an opportunity" to give her/his opinion before any decision taken by the Council of Ministers (or the Delhi Cabinet) is implemented.

Implications

- ◆ It will have far-reaching implications — beyond just the AAP-vs-BJP tussle. By making it mandatory for the elected government to route all its files through the L-G, the amendments will essentially take away the government's autonomy and the dream for full statehood for the state, which each political party — BJP, Congress and AAP have promised the electorate at various times.
- ◆ In 1993, BJP's then Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana too had raised the issue with how few powers the elected government in Delhi had.

2. India-UK Virtual Summit

Why in News?

- ◆ Recently, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson held a Virtual Summit.

Key Features of the Summit

- ◆ The two leaders discussed the Covid19 situation and ongoing cooperation in the fight against the pandemic, including the successful partnership on vaccines.
 - Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Johnson for the prompt medical assistance provided by the UK in the wake of the severe second wave of Covid19 in India.
 - Prime Minister Johnson appreciated India's role in extending assistance to the UK and other countries over the last year, including by way of supply of pharmaceuticals and vaccines.
- ◆ An ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' was adopted at the Summit to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
 - The Roadmap will pave the way for a deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years in the key areas of people to people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health.
- ◆ The two Prime Ministers launched an 'Enhanced Trade Partnership' (ETP) to unleash the trade potential between the 5th and 6th largest economies of the world and by setting an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030.
 - As part of the ETP, India and the UK agreed on a roadmap to negotiate a comprehensive and balanced Free Trade Agreement (FTA), including consideration of an Interim Trade Agreement for delivering early gains.
 - The ETP will generate several thousands of direct and indirect jobs in both the countries.
- ◆ The UK is India's second largest partner in research and innovation collaborations. A new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership' was announced at the Virtual Summit that aims to support the transfer of inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries, starting with Africa.
- ◆ Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation on new and emerging technologies, including Digital and ICT products, and work on supply chain resilience.
- ◆ They also agreed to strengthen defence and security ties, including in the maritime, counter-terrorism and cyberspace domains.
 - It includes new agreements on maritime information sharing, an invitation to the UK to join India's Information Fusion Centre in Gurgaon and an ambitious exercise programme which includes joint trilateral exercises.
- ◆ Both Prime Ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and G7. They reiterated commitment to climate action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and agreed to closely engage in the run up to Conference of Parties (CoP26) hosted by the UK later this year.
- ◆ India and the UK launched a comprehensive partnership on migration and mobility that will facilitate greater opportunities for the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.



3. Immunization Agenda 2030: A Global Strategy to Leave No One Behind

Why in News?

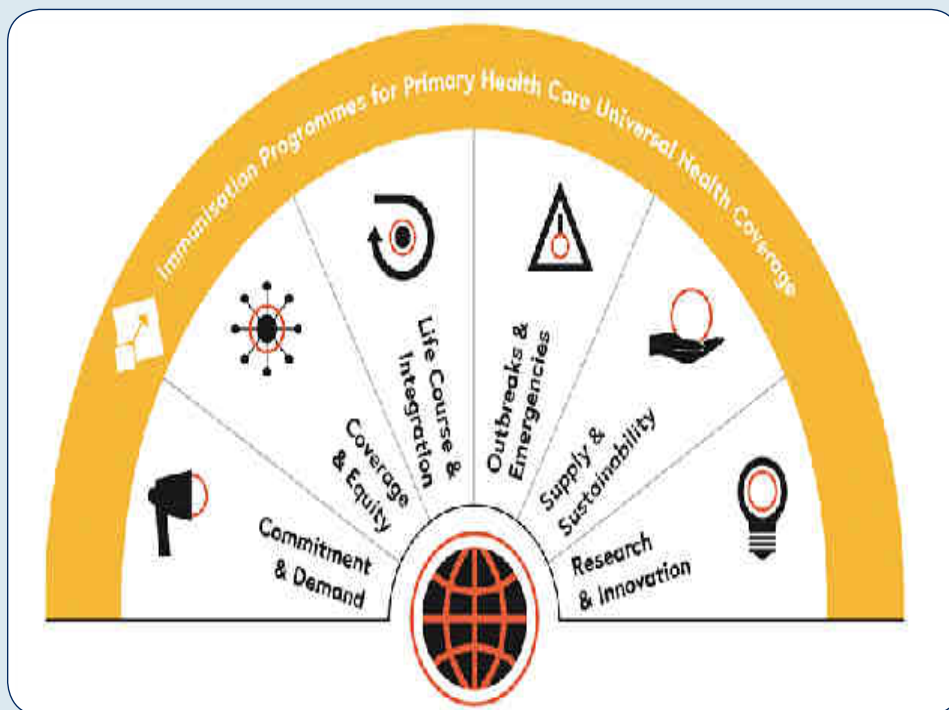
- Recently, a global strategy to leave no one behind on the front of immunization, called the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) has been launched by the World Health Assembly, with the support of countries and partners.

Introduction

- IA2030 envisions a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines to improve health and well-being.
- It aims to maintain hard-won gains in immunization, recover from the disruptions caused by COVID-19, and achieve even more – by leaving no one behind, in any situation or at any stage of life.

Strategic Priorities

- IA2030 has been developed through a “bottom-up” co-creation process, with close engagement of countries to ensure that the vision, strategic priorities and goals are aligned with country needs. As an adaptive and flexible strategy, the IA2030 framework is designed to be tailored by countries to their local context, and to be revised throughout the decade as new needs and challenges emerge.



- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework includes tailored indicators to enable the use of data for action to continuously improve immunization programs at all levels. Underneath IA2030’s three Impact Goals are seven Impact Goal Indicators to monitor progress across country, regional and global levels. The M&E framework provides strategic priority objectives and indicator options for regions and countries to inform the development of their own M&E Frameworks.
- IA2030 goals are designed to inspire action for implementation and support

efforts to improve health security, universal health coverage, access and equity for immunization and innovation.

- For countries, this could mean setting country-specific targets and milestones for the decade toward those goals. For regions, this could mean contextualising global goals and setting specific targets and milestones in Regional Vaccination Action Plans. For partner organisations, this could mean aligning organizational strategies and indicators to support the attainment of IA2030 goals.



Core Principles

- The IA 2030 strategy—to extend the benefits of vaccines to everyone, everywhere—is underpinned by four core principles: it puts people in the centre, is led by countries, implemented through broad partnerships, and driven by data.
- The IA2030 strategy systematically applies the core principles across each of the strategic priorities.

4. G7 seeks Common Front against China

Why in News?

- ◆ The Group of Seven wealthy democracies recently discussed how to form a common front towards an increasingly assertive China in the Foreign Ministers' first in-person talks in two years.
- ◆ The forum also focused on the nuclear programmes of Iran and North Korea.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The G7 discussed the China's growing military and economic clout, and willingness to exert its influence at home and abroad have increasingly unnerved Western democracies.
- ◆ The US has pledged "robust cooperation" with Britain in pressuring China over the Xinjiang region, where Beijing's incarceration of one million Uighurs and other Muslims has been labelled genocide by Washington, and over a clampdown against civil rights in Hong Kong.
- ◆ Britain has called for "holding Beijing to the commitments that they've made", including on Hong Kong, which was promised a separate system



- ◆ before London handed over the colony in 1997.
- ◆ The countries also called for "finding constructive ways to work with China in a sensible and positive manner where that's possible" — including on climate change.
- ◆ Japan has historic tensions with China but has held off on joining Western nations with sanctions.
- ◆ Italy has been seen as one of the most Beijing-friendly nations in the West, in 2019 signing up for China's massive infrastructure-building Belt and Road Initiative. But Rome joined EU peers in March in summoning the Chinese Ambassador in a row triggered by concerns over treatment of the Uighurs.
- ◆ Russia, Myanmar, Libya, Syria and climate change and among other issues on the formal agenda for the Foreign Ministers.

G7 Countries' Relation with China

- ◆ The nations of the G7 — which also include Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — mostly share concerns about China but some have different approaches.

5. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Manipur High Court

Why in News?

- ◆ The High Court of Manipur has allowed seven Myanmar nationals, who entered India secretly following the February military coup, to travel to New Delhi to seek protection from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

High Court's Observation

- ◆ According to the court, though India is not a party to the UN Refugee Conventions, the court observed that the country is a party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966.

- ◆ The far-reaching and myriad protection afforded by Article 21 of our Constitution, as interpreted and adumbrated by our Supreme Court time and again, would indubitably encompass the right of non-refoulement.

- ◆ Non-refoulement is the principle under international law that a person fleeing from persecution from his own country should not be forced to return.

India's Position on Refugees

- ◆ India has welcomed refugees in the past, and on date, nearly 300,000 people here are categorised as refugees. But India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention or the 1967 Protocol. Nor does India have a refugee policy or a refugee law of its own.
- ◆ This has allowed India to keep its options open on the question of refugees. The government can declare any set of refugees as illegal immigrants — as has happened with Rohingya

despite the UNHCR verification — and decide to deal with them as trespassers under the Foreigners Act or the Indian Passport Act.

- ◆ The closest India has come to a refugee policy in recent years is the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, which discriminates between refugees on the basis of religion in offering them Indian citizenship.

United Nations Refugee Convention, 1951

- ◆ United Nations Refugee Convention, 1951 defines who is a refugee, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum. It also

set out which people do not qualify as refugees, such as war criminals.

- ◆ Under the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and the subsequent 1967 Protocol, the word refugee pertains to any person who is outside their country of origin and unable or unwilling to return owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Stateless persons may also be refugees in this sense, where country of origin (citizenship) is understood as 'country of former habitual residence'.

6. Madras High Court, Election Commission and Supreme Court

Why in News?

- ◆ Recently, Supreme Court (SC) has declined Election Commission of India's (ECI) plea to restrain media from reporting critical remarks by Madras High Court.

Supreme Court's Observation

- ◆ The SC has lauded the efforts of various high courts of the country for effectively supervising the Covid-19 pandemic management.
- ◆ The SC has refused to expunge critical remarks of the Madras High Court

holding the poll panel responsible for the surge in COVID cases in the country. It also trashed the plea that media be restrained from reporting observations of judicial proceedings, saying it will be a "retrograde" act.

- ◆ In the judgment, Justice Chandrachud said the case posed a delicate balancing of powers between the High Court and the ECI, which were both constitutional authorities. The case also featured prominently the power of the media to report judicial proceedings honestly and fairly in real time.
- ◆ The court said that except in cases of child sexual abuse and marital issues, the phenomenon of free Press should extend to court proceedings.
- ◆ The court said that the method of the High Court was "harsh and inappropriate", but it did not direct

culpability. But it should have ensured compliance of orders. The language both by the Bench and in judgement should be sensitive to constitutional values.

Background

- ◆ Coming down heavily on the Election Commission for "not stopping political parties" from violating Covid protocols during their campaign rallies for Assembly polls in four states and a Union Territory over the last month, the Madras HC had said that murder charges should probably be imposed on the panel for being "the only institution responsible for the situation that we are in today".
- ◆ The Election Commission had said the Madras HC's comment was "uncalled for, blatantly disparaging and derogatory" and moved the apex court.



7. Universal Social Welfare

Context

- ◆ India is one of the largest welfare states in the world and yet, with COVID-19 striking in 2020, the state failed to provide for its most vulnerable citizens.

What is Social security?

- ◆ The notion of social security covers all measures providing benefits, whether in cash or in kind, to secure protection, inter alia, from: –
 - lack of work-related income (or insufficient income) caused by sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age, or death of a family member;
 - lack of access or unaffordable access to health care;
 - insufficient family support, particularly for children and adult dependants; and
 - general poverty and social exclusion.
- ◆ Social security schemes can be of a contributory (social insurance) or noncontributory nature.

Need

- ◆ The country witnessed multiple crises: mass inter- and intra-migration, food insecurity, and a crumbling health infrastructure. The extenuating circumstances of the pandemic have pushed an estimated 75 million people into poverty. The second wave has brought even the middle and upper-class citizens to their knees. Economic capital, in the absence of social capital, has proven to be insufficient in accessing healthcare facilities. Illness is universal, but healthcare is not.
- ◆ The country has over 500 direct benefit transfer schemes for which various

Central, State, and Line departments are responsible. However, these schemes have not reached those in need. The pandemic has revealed that leveraging our existing schemes and providing universal social security is of utmost importance. This will help absorb the impact of external shocks on our vulnerable populations.

India's Efforts and Challenges

- ◆ India's Pulse Polio Universal Immunisation Programme is a example of successful universal healthcare programme. In 2014, India was declared polio-free. It took a dedicated effort over a number of years. However, it shows us what is possible. With the advancements in knowledge and technology, a universal coverage of social welfare is possible in a shorter time frame.
- ◆ Existing schemes cover a wide variety of social protections. However, they are fractionalised across various departments and sub-schemes. This causes problems beginning with data collection to last-mile delivery. Having a universal system would improve the ease of application by consolidating the data of all eligible beneficiaries under one database. It can also reduce exclusion errors.
- ◆ The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) is one scheme that can be strengthened into universal social security. It already consolidates the public distribution system (PDS), the provision of gas cylinders, and wages for the MGNREGS.
- ◆ Generally, social assistance schemes are provided on the basis of an assessment of needs. Having a universal scheme would take away this access/exclusion barrier. For example, PDS can be linked to a universal identification

card such as the Aadhaar or voter card, in the absence of a ration card. This would allow anyone who is in need of foodgrains to access these schemes. It would be especially useful for migrant populations. Making other schemes/welfare provisions like education, maternity benefits, disability benefits etc. also universal would ensure a better standard of living for the people.

Case Study

- ◆ An example of such a social protection scheme is the Poor Law System in Ireland. In the 19th century, Ireland, a country that was staggering under the weight of poverty and famine, introduced the Poor Law System to provide relief that was financed by local property taxes. These laws were notable for not only providing timely assistance but maintaining the dignity and respectability of the poor while doing so. They were not designed as hand-outs but as necessary responses to a time of economic crisis. Today, the social welfare system in Ireland has evolved into a four-fold apparatus that promises social insurance, social assistance, universal schemes, and extra benefits/supplements.

Way Forward

- ◆ To ensure some of these issues are addressed, we need to map the State and Central schemes in a consolidated manner. This is to avoid duplication, inclusion and exclusion errors in welfare delivery. Alongside, a study to understand costs of welfare access for vulnerable groups can be conducted. This will help give a targeted way forward. The implementation of any of these ideas is only possible through a focus on data digitisation, data-driven decision-making and collaboration across government departments.

8. India – Japan Relations

Why in News?

- ◆ The recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to the United States has set the agenda for the wider Indo-Pacific engagement of Tokyo and its evolving priorities.

Key Highlights of the Visit

- ◆ Both sides affirmed the centrality of their treaty alliance, for long a source of stability in East Asia, and pledged to stand up to China in key regional flashpoints such as the disputed Senkaku Islands and Taiwan.
- ◆ Further, reflecting the changed nature of conflict, both sides acknowledged the importance of extended deterrence vis-à-vis China through cooperation on cybersecurity and space technology.
- ◆ Discussions also touched upon Chinese ambitions to dominate the development of new age technologies such as 5G and quantum computing. Given China's recent pledge to invest a mammoth \$1.4 trillion in emerging technologies, Washington and Tokyo scrambled to close the gap by announcing a Competitiveness and Resilience Partnership, or CoRe.
- ◆ Both sides have also signalled their intent to continue the Trump-era policy of pressure on China to reform economic practices such as "violations of intellectual property rights, forced technology transfer, excess capacity issues, and the use of trade distorting industrial subsidies".

- ◆ Tokyo and Washington also rallied around the standard of shared values. Both powers repeatedly emphasised their vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific that respects the rule of law, freedom of navigation, democratic norms and the use of peaceful means to settle disputes.

- ◆ In the aftermath of the successful Quad Summit, both parties expressed their continued support for the four-nation grouping of the United States, India, Australia and Japan.

Preview for India

- ◆ The Japanese premier is planning to visit India as soon as the situation permits following the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, his dealings with the U.S. are a preview of what New Delhi can expect from Tokyo.
- ◆ First, one can expect a continuation of the balancing security policy against China that began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe in 2014. Both countries have expressed concern over China's "unilateral" actions in the East and South China Seas, Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Crucially, India's clashes with China in Galwan have turned public opinion in favour of a more confrontational China policy.
- ◆ Second, the two powers will look to expand cooperation in sectors such as cybersecurity and emerging technologies. During the Shinzo Abe years, New Delhi and Tokyo put together a digital research and

innovation partnership that ran the gamut of technologies from AI and 5G to the Internet of Things and space research.

- ◆ Third, economic ties and infrastructure development are likely to be top drawer items on the agendas of New Delhi and Tokyo. While Japan has poured in around \$34 billion in investments into the Indian economy over the course of the last two decades, Japan is only India's 12th largest trading partner, and trade volumes between the two stand at just a fifth of the value of India-China bilateral trade.

□ A Modi-Suga summit will likely reaffirm Japan's support for key manufacturing initiatives such as 'Make in India' and the Japan Industrial Townships.

□ Further, India will be keen to secure continued infrastructure investments in the strategically vital connectivity projects currently under way in the Northeast and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- ◆ Finally, a Suga-Modi Summit would undoubtedly devote much attention to evolving a joint strategy towards key third countries and multilateral bodies. In years past, New Delhi and Tokyo have collaborated to build infrastructure in Iran and Africa, provide vital aid to Myanmar and Sri Lanka and hammer out a common Association of Southeast Asian Nations outreach policy in an attempt to counter China's growing influence in these corners of the globe.

GS Paper-3

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

1. IDBI Bank Strategic Disinvestment

Why in News?

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has given in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control in IDBI Bank.

Current Position of IDBI Bank

- ◆ The central government and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) together own more than 94% equity of IDBI Bank. LIC, currently the promoter of IDBI Bank with management control, has a 49.2% stake.

Background

- ◆ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget 2021-22 had announced the privatisation of

public sector banks (PSBs) as part of a disinvestment drive to garner Rs. 1.75 lakh crore.

What is Strategic Disinvestment or Strategic Sale?

- ◆ When the government decides to transfer the ownership and control of a public sector entity to some other entity, either private or public, the process is called strategic disinvestment.
- ◆ The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) which comes under the Finance Ministry defines Strategic disinvestment as follows: “Strategic disinvestment would imply the sale of a substantial portion of the Government shareholding of a central public sector

enterprises (CPSE) of up to 50%, or such higher percentage as the competent authority may determine, along with transfer of management control.”

Difference between Strategic Disinvestment and Disinvestment

- ◆ Selling minority shares of Public Enterprises, to another entity be it public or private is disinvestment. In this the government retains ownership of the enterprise.
- ◆ On the other hand, when the government sells majority shares in an enterprise that is strategic disinvestment. Here, the government gives up the ownership of the entity as well.

2. Network for Greening the Financial System

Why in News?

- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member.

Benefits

- ◆ The RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning from and contributing to global efforts on green finance, which has assumed significance in the context of climate change.

What is NGFS?

- ◆ The NGFS is a group of Central banks and supervisors willing to share the best practices and contribute to the development of the environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilising mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy. The System was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 2017.

- ◆ Secretariat of NGFS is hosted by the Banque de France.

What is Climate Financing?

- ◆ Climate finance refers to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.

3. Global Forest Goals Report 2021

Why in News?

- ◆ According to the report prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests.

Key Findings of the Report

- ◆ The Global Forests Goals Report 2021 is the first evaluation of where the world stands in regard to implementing the United Nations (UN) Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030.
 - Adopted four years ago, the Plan is a blueprint for forests and people, expressed through six Global Forest Goals and 26 targets. Outlining a vision for a future where all types of forests and trees are sustainably managed, the Plan is integral to the achievement of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- ◆ Forests have been a lifeline for millions of people during the pandemic. Some of the most vulnerable segments of society, especially the rural poor and indigenous peoples have turned to forests for their most essential subsistence needs.
- ◆ More than just a health crisis, Covid-19 is driving losses of lives and livelihoods, extreme poverty, inequality, and food insecurity, and it has put the 'Future We Want' further out of reach.
- ◆ According to the Global Forest Goals Report 2021, the world's gross product fell by an estimated 4.3% in 2020 — the sharpest contraction of global output since the Great Depression.
- ◆ On the economic front, they have faced job loss, reduced income, diminished access to markets and information, and for many women and youth, a contraction in seasonal employment.
- ◆ Pandemic-driven health and socio-economic outcomes have increased the pressure on forests.
- To ease their growing vulnerability, many indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as returning migrants and urban workers, have retreated deeper into the woods to seek food, fuel, shelter, and protection from the risks of COVID-19.
- ◆ Among its many findings, the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, highlighted that one million species were at risk of extinction and that 100 million hectares of tropical forest were lost from 1980 to 2000.
 - At the same time, climate change is jeopardizing the resilience of forest ecosystems and their ability to support ecosystem services worldwide.
 - Though forests offer nature-based solutions to overcome these concurrent global challenges, they have also never been more at risk.



United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030

GLOBAL FOREST GOALS



4. Asian Development Outlook 2021

Why in News?

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released its flagship Asian Development Outlook 2021.

Key Findings of the Report

- The Indian economy is projected to grow at 11 per cent in the current financial year amid the "strong" vaccine drive, while cautioning that the recent surge in COVID cases may put the country's economic recovery at "risk".
- For FY2022, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to expand at 7 per cent.
- Further, the GDP of South Asia is expected to rebound to 9.5 per cent this year, following a contraction of 6 per cent in 2020, before moderating to 6.6 per cent next year.

- The economic growth in developing Asia is set to rebound to 7.3 per cent this year, supported by a healthy global recovery and an early progress on COVID-19 vaccines. The projected resurgence follows a 0.2 per cent contraction last year.

- Developing Asia comprises 46 members of ADB list on the basis of geographic group. These include new industrialized economies, countries in Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

- China's gross domestic product (GDP) is forecast to expand 8.1 per cent in 2021 and 5.5 per cent in 2022. East Asia's GDP is expected to grow 7.4 per cent in 2021 and 5.1 per cent in 2022.

Challenges

- Progress on the production and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines has contributed

to this momentum, but the pandemic remains the biggest risk for the region as potential delays in vaccine rollouts or significant new outbreaks could undermine growth.

- Increasing geopolitical tensions, production bottlenecks, financial turmoil from tightening financial conditions, and long-term scarring like learning losses due to school closures are among other risk factors.

About ADB

- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966. ADB has 68 members —of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- India is a founding member.
- It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.

5. 1st supply of Used Cooking Oil-based Biodiesel

Why in News?

- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan has flagged off the first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel under the EOI Scheme from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.

Potential

- As much as 23 million tonnes of edible oil is consumed in the country annually. Out of this, 3 million tonnes of oil is discarded after use and is called used cooking oil.
- There is a potential to generate 222 crore litres of UCO annually but no

structure exists for collection of waste cooking oil.

Need

- Diesel, India's most used fuel, is made from crude oil, for which the nation is 85 per cent dependent on imports. Imports can be reduced if a portion of diesel extracted from fossil oil is supplemented by an equally combustible diesel.
- India consumed 72.7 million tonnes (about 8,000 crore litres) of diesel in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021.

What is Biodiesel?

- Biodiesel is an alternative fuel, similar to conventional or 'fossil' diesel. It can be produced from vegetable oils,



animal fats, tallow and waste cooking oil.

- A significant advantage of Biodiesel is its carbon-neutrality, i.e. the oilseed absorbs the same amount of CO₂ as is released when the fuel is combusted in a vehicle.
- Biodiesel is also rapidly biodegradable and completely non-toxic.

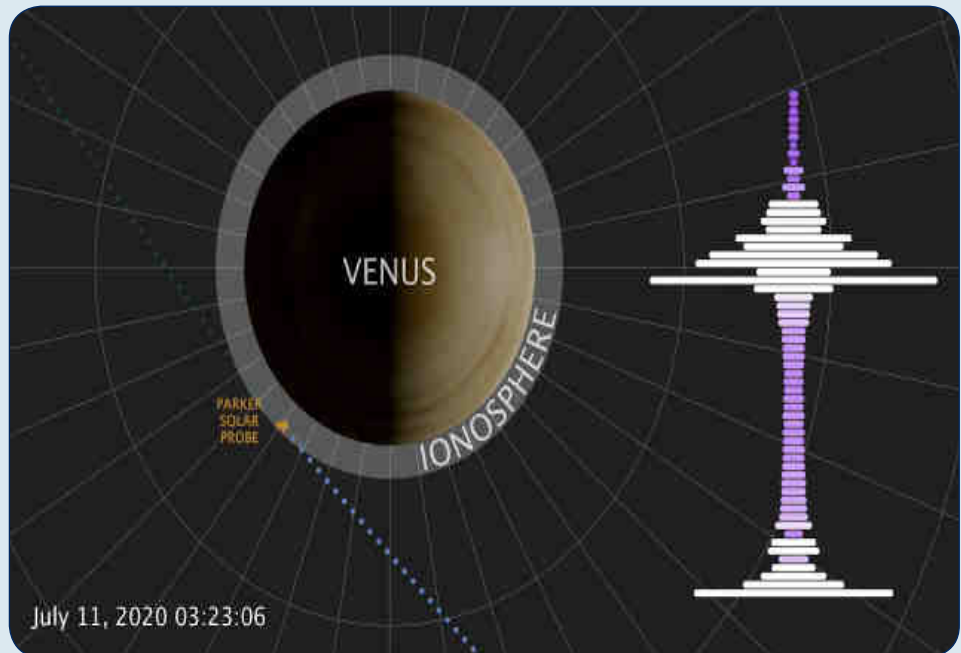
6. NASA's Parker Solar Probe

Why in News?

- ◆ NASA's Parker Solar Probe has detected a radio signal from Venus' atmosphere.

Key Findings

- ◆ The NASA spacecraft flew by Venus last summer and detected a natural radio signal from Earth's twin. This signal revealed that the probe actually passed through the upper atmosphere of Venus, collecting the first direct measurement of it in almost 30 years.
- ◆ Venus is instrumental to the probe's success. The spacecraft uses the gravity of Venus as it swings around the planet, called a gravity assist, to help bend the probe's orbit and bring it closer and closer to the Sun.
- ◆ During one of these Venusian flybys on July 11, 2020, the probe collected evidence that Venus' upper atmosphere goes through some unusual changes that are influenced by the solar cycle, or our Sun's 11-year activity cycle.



Significance

- ◆ The information gathered by Parker so far about Venus is helping scientists to understand why it's so different from Earth, even though the planets are often referred to as twins.
- ◆ Both planets are rocky and similar in size, but something happened to cause Earth and Venus to develop differently. Unlike Earth, Venus doesn't have a magnetic

field. Its inhospitable surface has blazing temperatures that can melt lead.

About Parker Solar Probe

- ◆ The solar mission, which launched in 2018, is intended to study the sun and unravel some of its mysteries.
- ◆ The probe will travel through the sun's atmosphere over the course of seven years and come closer to the surface of our star than any spacecraft before it.



Persons of the Week

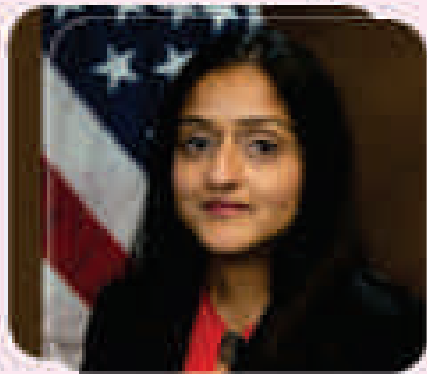
Justice P.C. Pant



Sushil Chandra



Vanita Gupta



Justice NV Ramana



T. Rabi Shankar



Justice P.C. Pant

- ♦ Mr. Justice P.C. Pant has been appointed as the Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- ♦ Prior to his appointment as Member, NHRC on 22 April, 2019, he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of India from 13th August, 2014 to 29th August, 2017.



Sushil Chandra

- ♦ Sushil Chandra has been appointed as 24th Chief Election Commissioner. He was appointed as an election commissioner on February 14, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. He would demit office on May 14, 2022.



Vanita Gupta

- ♦ The US Senate has confirmed prominent Indian-American civil rights lawyer Vanita Gupta to serve as Associate Attorney General of the United States, making her the first Indian-American to occupy the third highest position at the Department of Justice.



Justice N V Ramana

- ♦ Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana has been appointed as the 48th Chief Justice of India. Justice Ramana's will hold the post for sixteen months, until August 26, 2022.



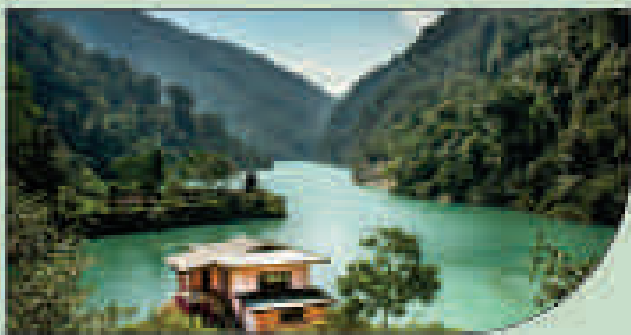
T. Rabi Sankar

- ♦ T. Rabi Sankar has been appointed to the post of deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of three years. The other three RBI deputy governors are Michael Patra, Mahesh Kumar Jain, and M. Rajeshwar Rao.



Places of the Week

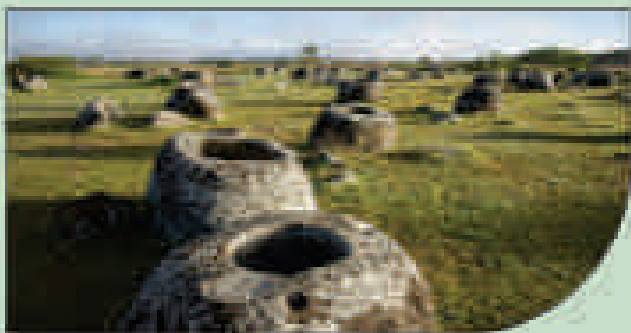
Northern Sikkim



Rushikulya River Mouth



Plain of Jars



Meghalaya



Vorukh



Northern Sikkim

- Indian Army in its quest for harnessing renewable energy for its troops inaugurated the First Green Solar Energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA using Vanadium based battery technology in North Sikkim, at an altitude of 16000 ft. Rs 5.16 crore was spent in constructing this plant that is built over five acres of land and is dedicated for the military hospital.

Benefits

- The plant will not only be environment friendly but also ensure the well-being of the army personnel who work in forward areas under challenging climate.
- 3176 Indian-origin solar panels in this project will produce 15 lakh units of electricity on an annual basis and enable the government to reduce its

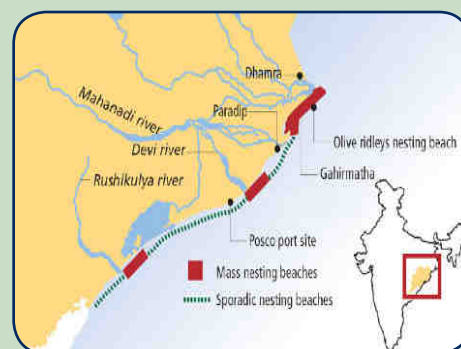


expenditure by around Rs 1 crore every year.

Rushikulya River Mouth

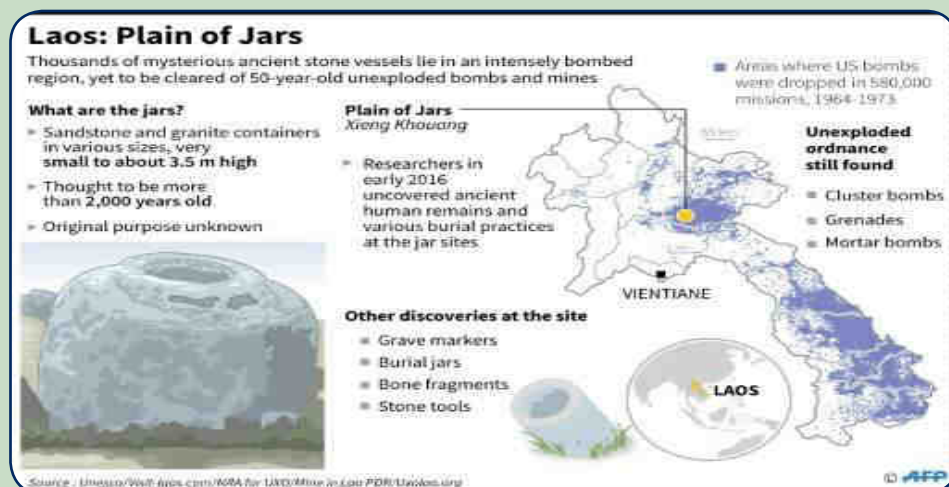
- This year the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha is likely to miss the mass nesting of millions of Olive Ridley turtles. According to the experts staying away from Rushikulya rookery in Odisha's Ganjam is a natural phenomenon and is not unusual. In 2002, 2007, 2016 and 2019, the turtles had not shown up at Rushikulya.

- The Rushikulya river mouth is considered the second-biggest rookery in India after Gahirmatha. Mass nesting in the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary occurred from March 9-23, 2021 and over 349,000 eggs were laid during this period.



Plain of Jars

- According to new research, the mysterious Plain of Jars in northern Laos — a landscape dotted with massive stone jars hewn from sandstone thousands of years ago — was likely used as a burial site for much longer than previously suspected, and perhaps for up to 2,000 years.
- The massive jars, which were likely used to expose the dead to the elements until only their bones were left to be buried, could be more than 3,000 years old. But the research also suggests that most of the human remains buried in the ground beside the ancient jars were



interred there between 700 and 1,200 years ago.

- Popularly called Laos's Plain of Jars,

this unique place became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2019, though its origins are still shrouded in mystery.

Meghalaya

- Recently, researchers have identified fossil bone fragments of sauropod dinosaurs dating back to about 100 million years from an area around West Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya. The yet-to-be-published findings were made during a recent field trip by researchers from the Geological Survey of India's (GSI) Palaeontology division in North-East.
- The GSI researchers noted that this is the first record of sauropods of probable Titanosaurian origin discovered in the region.
- The finding makes Meghalaya the fifth state in India after Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and



Tamil Nadu and the only state in the North-East to report Sauropod bones having titanosaurian affinity. Titanosaurs were a diverse group of



sauropod dinosaurs, including genera from Africa, Asia, South America, North America, Europe, Australia and Antarctica.

Vorukh

- After two days of intense fighting on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, at least 55 people were killed and injured many more. The fighting was the worst in many years, and an indication that there remain serious, unresolved issues between the countries, not the least of which is the scarcity of water resources.
- Vorukh is a jamoat in northern Tajikistan. It is an exclave of Tajik territory, surrounded by Kyrgyzstan. Jamoats are the third-level administrative divisions, similar to communes or municipalities, in the



Central Asian country of Tajikistan. Between Vorukh and the rest of Tajikistan sits the village of Ak-Sai,

a road, and a river, which have often been sparks for increasing tensions over the years.



International/National Days of the Week

World Asthma Day 2021



International Labour Day 2021



World Press Freedom Day 2021



World Red Cross Day 2021



World Asthma Day 2021

- World Asthma Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the chronic disease and how it can be controlled with proper treatment. The day is celebrated on the first Tuesday of May every year.
- This year's theme is 'Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions', which aims at clearing misconceptions related to the complications of asthma.



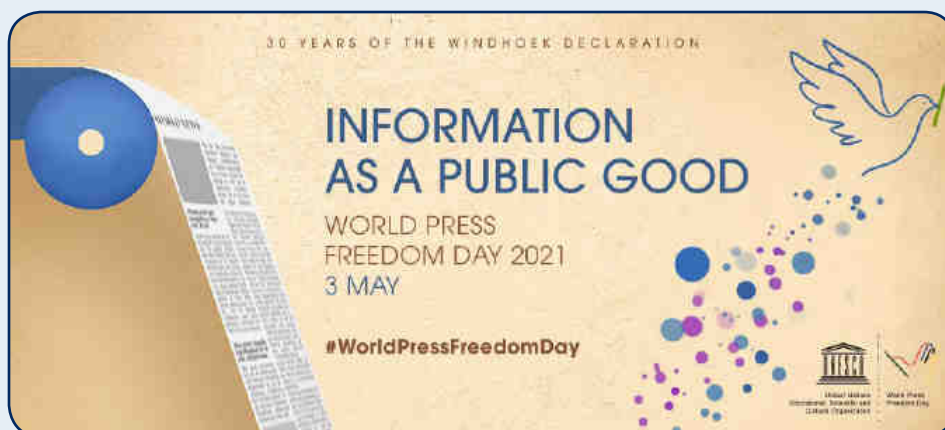
International Labour Day 2021

- International Labour Day or International Workers' Day is observed each year on 1st May to celebrate the achievements of the working class.
- The first May Day celebrations focused on workers took place on May 1st 1890 after its proclamation by the first international congress of socialist parties in Europe on July 14th 1889 in Paris, France, to dedicate May 1st every year as the "Workers Day of International Unity and Solidarity."



World Press Freedom Day 2021

- World Press Freedom Day is observed each year on 3rd May. The theme for World Press Day 2021 is "Information as a Public Good".
- The UN General Assembly proclaimed World Press Day in December 1993. Since then, May 3, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek has been celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.



World Red Cross Day 2021

- ◆ World Red Cross Day is observed each year on 8th May. The World Red Cross Day is celebrated to commemorate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- ◆ The 2021 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day theme is 'Unstoppable'.



Facts of the Week



01

The term "MACS 1407" is seen in news recently. "MACS 1407" is a?

High-yielding and Pest-resistant
Variety of Soybean

02

Recently, the term "Mayflower 400" is seen in news. "Mayflower 400" is a

World's First Artificial Intelligence
Ship

03

Who has been appointed as the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

T. Rabi Sankar

04

Which operation has been launched by the Indian Armed Forces to fight COVID-19 in India?

Operation "CO-JEET"

05

The string puppetry art 'Putola Nach' is seen in news recently. It belongs to which state?

Assam

06

Which movie has won Oscar for 'Best Picture' category?

Nomadland

07

Which state government has sought GI tag for Vilachery clay toys?

Tamil Nadu

Self Assessment (Objective Questions)



1. Mountains to Mangroves – A Journey of 1000 KM

Q. Consider the following statement with reference to “Mountains to Mangroves – A Journey of 1000 Kilometers”:

1. It has been published by Ministry of Tourism under ‘DhekoApnaDesh’ scheme.
2. ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ scheme was launched in January 2018 with the objective of creating awareness among the citizens about the rich heritage and culture of the country.

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

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: Both the statements are wrong. The Ministry of Tourism’s Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series held its 86th webinar titled “Mountains to Mangroves – A Journey of 1000 Kilometers” on 24th

April 2021. In this webinar, the journey of 1000 kilometers from mountains to mangroves was focused on two of the most picturesque states that are West Bengal and Sikkim.

The Ministry of Tourism launched the ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ initiative in January 2020 with the objective of creating awareness among the citizens about the rich heritage and culture of the country and encourage citizens to travel within the country.

2. Climate Change is causing a Shift in Earth’s Axis

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the shift in Earth’s Axis:

1. Due to significant melting of glaciers, Earth’s axis of rotation has been moving in new directions.
2. The other possible causes are (terrestrial water storage) change in non-glacial regions and unsustainable consumption of groundwater for irrigation and other anthropogenic activities.

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

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: Both the statements are correct. A recent study published in Geophysical Research Letters of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) says

that due to the significant melting of glaciers because of global temperature rise, our planet’s axis of rotation has been moving more than usual since the 1990s.

The other possible causes are (terrestrial water storage) change in non-glacial regions due to climate change and unsustainable consumption of groundwater for irrigation and other anthropogenic activities.

3. National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021

Q. Consider the following statements in regard with National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021:

1. The Act makes amendments to the Government of National Territory of Delhi Act, 1991
2. It is aimed at ending the absence of clarity on what matters or proposals are needed to be submitted to the LG before orders could be issued.

3. The Act provides discretionary powers to the LG even in matters where the Legislative Assembly is empowered to make laws.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 2 only
- c) 2 & 3 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

Ans: (d)

Explanation: All the statements are correct. The Act basically gives more power to the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and diminished the elected government’s power. The Act also seeks to bring in some clarity on certain subjects in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.

The Act makes amendments to the Government of National Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.

It gives more power to the LG in some respects while ensuring the Delhi Legislative Assembly's accountability. As per the Act's objects and reasons, it is

aimed at ending the absence of clarity on what matters or proposals are needed to be submitted to the LG before orders could be issued.

It also aims to "further define the responsibilities of the elected government and Lieutenant Governor (LG) in Delhi".

4. India-UK Virtual Summit

Q. With reference to the 'India-UK Virtual Summit', consider the following statements:

- Both countries have launched an 'Enhanced Trade Partnership' (ETP) to double the bilateral trade by 2028.
- A new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership' was announced to support the transfer of inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries, starting with Africa.
- India and the UK also launched a comprehensive partnership on

migration and mobility.

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

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong. Both countries have launched an 'Enhanced Trade Partnership' (ETP) to unleash the trade potential between the 5th and 6th largest economies of the world and by setting an ambitious target of more than

doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The UK is India's second largest partner in research and innovation collaborations. A new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership' was announced at the Virtual Summit that aims to support the transfer of inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries, starting with Africa.

India and the UK launched a comprehensive partnership on migration and mobility that will facilitate greater opportunities for the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.

5. Immunization Agenda 2030: A Global Strategy to Leave No One Behind

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Immunization Agenda 2030':

- NITI Aayog has launched a strategy to leave no one behind on the front of immunization, called the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030).
- IA2030 goals are designed to improve health security, universal health coverage, access and equity for immunization and innovation.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong. Recently, a global strategy to leave no one behind on the front of immunization, called the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) has been launched by the World Health

Assembly, with the support of countries and partners.

Statement 2 is correct. IA2030 goals are designed to inspire action for implementation and support efforts to improve health security, universal health coverage, access and equity for immunization and innovation.

The IA 2030 strategy—to extend the benefits of vaccines to everyone, everywhere—is underpinned by four core principles: it puts people in the centre, is led by countries, implemented through broad partnerships, and driven by data.

6. IDBI Bank Strategic Disinvestment

Q. Consider the following statements in regard with strategic disinvestment in IDBI Bank:

- The central government and LIC together own more than 90% equity of IDBI Bank.

2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi disapproved the strategic sale of IDBI Bank.

3. The Centre expects the strategic buyer will infuse funds and new technology for development of the bank's business potential.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 3 only
- c) 2 & 3 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 3 are correct. The central government and LIC together own more than 94% equity of IDBI Bank. LIC, currently the promoter of

IDBI Bank with management control, has a 49.2% stake. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the strategic sale of IDBI Bank. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget 2021-22 had announced the privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs) as part of a disinvestment drive to garner rupees 1.75 lakh crore.

The Centre expects the strategic buyer will infuse funds and new technology for development of the bank's business potential.

Statement 2 is wrong. The Union Cabinet on May 05, 2021 gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control in IDBI Bank in line with the Budget announcement earlier this year.

7. Network for Greening the Financial System

Q. Consider the following statements in regard with Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS):

1. The NGFS was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 2017.
2. The NGFS aims to accelerate the scaling up of green finance and develop recommendations for central banks' role for climate change.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has denied to join the Central

Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 2 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. NGFS was launched at the Paris

One Planet Summit on December 2017.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member.

Statement 3 is wrong. The NGFS is a group of Central banks and supervisors willing to share the best practices and contribute to the development of the environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilising mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.

8. Global Forest Goals Report 2021

Q. Consider the following statements in regard with Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS):

1. It has been released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. It is also the first evaluation of where the world stands in regard to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030.
3. It consist a set of six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030.

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

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong. The Global Forests Goals Report 2021 has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The Global Forests Goals Report 2021 is the first evaluation of where the world stands in regard to implementing the United Nations (UN) Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. Adopted four years ago, the Plan is a blueprint for forests and people, expressed through six Global Forest Goals and 26 targets.

Outlining a vision for a future where all types of forests and trees are sustainably managed, the Plan is integral to the achievement of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9. Asian Development Outlook 2021

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Asian Development Outlook 2021':

1. It is a flagship report of Asian Development Bank.
2. It has projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to expand at 7 per cent for FY2022.
3. ADB has 68 members.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

Ans: (d)

Explanation: All the statements are correct. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released its flagship Asian Development Outlook 2021.

The Indian economy is projected to grow at 11 per cent in the current financial year amid the "strong" vaccine drive, while cautioning that the recent surge in COVID cases may put the country's economic recovery at "risk". For FY2022, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to expand at 7 per cent.

ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966. ADB has 68 members —of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

10. NASA's Parker Solar Probe

Q. With reference to the 'Parker Solar Probe', consider the following statements:

1. NASA's Parker Solar Probe was launched in 2018 to study the mysteries of Sun and Venus.
2. Recently, it has detected a radio signal from Venus' atmosphere.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong. The solar mission, which launched in 2018, is intended to study the Sun and unravel some of its mysteries. The probe will travel through the Sun's atmosphere over the course of seven years and come closer to the surface of our star than any spacecraft before it.

Statement 2 and 3 is correct. NASA's Parker Solar Probe has detected a radio

signal from Venus' atmosphere. The NASA spacecraft flew by Venus last summer and detected a natural radio signal from Earth's twin. This signal revealed that the probe actually passed through the upper atmosphere of Venus, collecting the first direct measurement of it in almost 30 years.

Venus is instrumental to the probe's success. The spacecraft uses the gravity of Venus as it swings around the planet, called a gravity assist, to help bend the probe's orbit and bring it closer and closer to the Sun.



Self Assessment (Subjective Questions)





- 01 Recently, the High Court of Manipur has allowed seven Myanmar nationals, who entered India secretly following the February military coup, to travel to New Delhi to seek protection from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Discuss the India's stand on refugees.
- 02 India is one of the largest welfare states in the world and yet, with COVID-19 striking in 2020, the state failed to provide for its most vulnerable citizens. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
- 03 Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) seeks to mobilise mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy. Do you think that this initiative may play a vital role to achieve sustainable economy? Give reason.
- 04 What are the main concerns about Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021? Elaborate.
- 05 Privatization leads to cutting short the capital and revenue expenditure, which leads to an increase in share value in the market. Do you agree? Give your answer with special reference to strategic disinvestment in IDBI bank.
- 06 Apart from melting glaciers due to climate change, discuss the other possible reasons behind the shift of Earth's axis of rotation.
- 07 Discuss the core principles of 'Immunization Agenda 2030'.
- 08 "Media cannot be restrained from reporting observations made during hearings: Supreme Court on Election Commission Plea." Elaborate.
- 09 Discuss the importance of strong India-Japan relations for the wider Indo-Pacific engagement.
- 10 Group of Seven (G7) could be a common front towards an increasingly assertive China. Explain.

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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