

PERFECT 7

Weekly Current Affairs

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



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Bonhomie returns

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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

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PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01

Indo-Nepal Relation : Bonhomie returns

Why in News?

- ◆ Nepal Health Minister Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal reiterated Nepal's commitment towards India by saying "Gaashkatayara", which in Nepali means sacrificing for the sake of others.
- ◆ Aiming at spreading "positivity and enhance coordination between the two countries", India gifted 28 ICU ventilators to Nepal to battle with the Covid-19 pandemic despite troubled relations.

Background

- ◆ Nepal and India have a long-standing and special relationship, Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said to Indian army chief Manoj Mukund Narwane as the duo had a courtesy meeting on 6 Nov 2020. The present issues between the two countries will be resolved through dialogue, Nepal Prime Minister expressed hope.
- ◆ Gen Naravane who is on a three-day visit to Kathmandu was conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari on Thursday. He was honoured at a ceremony at the President's official residence



Shital Niwas in Kathmandu. General Naravane was also presented with a sword and scroll during the function.

- ◆ The visit is aimed at resetting the bilateral ties that came under severe strain following a bitter border row early this year. In May, Nepal came up with a new political map claiming several areas in Uttarakhand to be part of its territory. Nepal had protested after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8.
- ◆ After Nepal released the map, India reacted sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and cautioning

Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it.

Map Row

- ◆ Nepal and India share an open border of about 1,880 km (1,168 miles). The two countries have finalised maps covering 98% of the boundary, but the Lipulekh pass, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in western Nepal are among the areas that remain contested.
- ◆ Nepal and China have been angered by India's recent moves. Delhi's published its new map of the border region in November, after it divided Indian-administered Kashmir into Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The map incorporated some of the territories disputed with Nepal inside India's borders.

- ◆ In retaliation, Nepal published its revised map showing the disputed areas within Nepal, infuriating India in return.
- ◆ Nepal surrendered a part of its western territory in 1816 after its forces were defeated by the British East India company. The subsequent Sugauli treaty defined the origin of the Kali river as Nepal's border point with India. But the two countries differ on the source of the Kali river.
- ◆ India argues that the exact coordinates of the river were not mentioned in the treaty and claims that improved survey techniques have redrawn the map in the years since.
- ◆ In reality, all the three contested areas have been firmly under India's control for the past 60 years or so and the people living in those areas are now Indian citizens, pay taxes in India and vote in the Indian elections.
- ◆ Delhi had then expressed its disappointment, especially about the Nepali government caving in to popular reservations about BIMSTEC as an anti-China military alliance driven by India.
- ◆ Similarly, the Nepali Communist Party has also created obstacles to the implementation of a United States-sponsored MCC grant that will upgrade Nepal's electricity transmission system and connect it to the Indian power grid.
- ◆ Only China has been spared from such Nepali political protests, which is paradoxical given that Beijing has hardly delivered on any of its many BRI promises.
- ◆ The presence of Nepali citizens in the Indian Army — some from the country have given their lives for the security of India — is a remarkable testament to the trust between the two countries; and India, even as it respects Nepali sovereignty, sees the Nepal army as a friend which will respect its security sensitivities, while for the Nepal army, the Indian Army has been the first port of call during crises.
- ◆ This relationship has assumed importance in the last two decades — both during the civil war in Nepal and during the peace process. It was on the then Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran's advice that the then Royal Nepalese Army chief, Pyar Jung Thapa, went to the autocratic monarch, Gyanendra Shah, in 2006, and told him that the military could not suppress popular aspirations anymore. This led to the restoration of democracy. And it was when the Nepal army was concerned about attempts by Maoists to "politicise" its structure and alter the chain of command that India stepped in and encouraged the ouster of the Maoist-led government in 2008. It was because of this depth of ties that General Naravane's public suggestion — it was unwarranted, coming from him — that Kathmandu was raising the border dispute at Chinese prodding had an impact on the relationship.

Armies Repairing the Relationship

- ◆ In a bid to improve the strained bilateral ties between the two countries, visiting Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane met with his Nepali counterpart General Purna Chandra Thapa in Kathmandu.
- ◆ During their meeting, the two army chiefs discussed ways to enhance bilateral defence cooperation. The meeting between Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane and his Nepali counterpart General Purna Chandra Thapa aims at repairing the ties which were strained due to a row over Nepal's new political map that showed parts of India as its own territory.
- ◆ The ties between the two armies are a fundamental pillar which is based on history, contemporary partnership, symbolic respect and organic ties. The Indian and Nepali army chiefs are honorary generals of each other's armies.
- ◆ India conveyed New Delhi's displeasure over the communist

Nepal's Internal Politics Dictating its Diplomacy

- ◆ Nepal has one of the world's youngest populations and, especially after India's implicit support for the 2015 blockade on the landlocked country, anti-Indian sentiments have been running high. This offers a new generation of Nepali politicians a powerful fuel to mobilise the electorate.
- ◆ This is one of the reasons why Nepal chose not to attend a multilateral BIMSTEC counter-terrorism exercise hosted by India, in 2018.

Mending Ties

- ◆ India conveyed New Delhi's displeasure over the communist



government's move to issue a new political map that included a slice of land including the Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani areas to the west of Nepal. New Delhi had rejected the map, brushing away what it had said was Nepal's effort at a cartographic expansion.

- ◆ Nepal had been working at mollifying New Delhi for some time and had withdrawn school textbooks that contained the new political map. Last month, Research and Analysis Wing chief Samant Kumar Goel had done the groundwork for restoring ties during his quiet visit to Nepal.
- ◆ KP Sharma Oli, who also holds the defence portfolio after shunting out Pokhrel, did make

a pointed reference to the fallout of the row over Nepal's political map, describing it as a "misunderstanding". At the same time, he did underline that Nepal takes its sovereignty very seriously, a remark that is being seen in New Delhi to explain his decision to issue a fresh political map.

Chinese Angle

- ◆ As a landlocked nation, Nepal depended for many years on Indian imports, and India played an active role in Nepal's affairs. But in recent years Nepal has drifted away from India's influence, and China has gradually filled the space with investments, aid and loans.

- ◆ China considers Nepal a key partner in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and wants to invest in Nepal's infrastructure as part of its grand plans to boost global trade.
- ◆ Nepal stands to benefit immensely if it can steer the India-China rivalry to its advantage, but it also risks getting caught in the middle of the great Asian power game.

Way Forward

- ◆ For India, the Lipulekh pass has security implications. After its disastrous 1962 border war with China, it was concerned about a possible Chinese intrusion through the pass, and has been keen to hold on to the strategic Himalayan route to guard against any future incursions.
- ◆ The pass has proved a point of contention since. In May this year, the Indian defence minister, Rajnath Singh, inaugurated an 80km (50-mile) upgraded road on the pass. India has to give primacy to its defence needs and cannot allow friends to carry Chinese expansionist agenda



General Studies Paper- II

Topic

- India and its neighborhood-relations.

Q. India and Nepal share boundaries and has much in common in terms of both values and cultures. Though India aims to mend ties with Nepal, but India cannot let its leniency to be pushed and taken granted threatening its territorial integrity. Discuss.

02

Pakistan Usurping Gilgit-Baltistan

Why in News?

- ◆ India has fiercely rejected Pakistan's move of granting provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). In a strongly worded reply, spokesperson of the ministry of external affairs Anurag Srivastava said "the area of so-called Gilgit-Baltistan" are an integral part of India.
- ◆ Underlining India's stand on the issue, MEA officials said that the territory has been illegally and forcibly occupied by Pakistan.

➤ To Gilgit-Baltistan's west is Afghanistan, to its south is Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and to the east J&K. The plan to grant G-B provincial status gathered speed over the last one year. While some commentary links it to CPEC and Chinese interest, others in Pakistan say the push might have well come from India's reassertion of its claims after the August 5, 2019 re-organisation of Jammu & Kashmir.

Background

- ◆ The political nature of Gilgit-Baltistan has been directionless from the beginning. Pakistan initially governed the region directly from the central authority after it was separated from 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' on April 28, 1949.
- ◆ During the first Indo-Pak war of October 1947, Pakistan occupied 78,114 sq km of the land of Jammu and Kashmir, including the 'Northern Areas'. The Northern

Areas is the other name of Gilgit-Baltistan that Pakistan has used for administrative reasons because it was a disputed territory.

- ◆ Following the raiders' attack on Jammu and Kashmir on 22 October 1947, involving 20,000 armed tribesmen equipped by Pakistani arms and ammunition, progressing towards Srinagar to occupy it and cut it off from the rest of India, Pakistan began to launch an operation to attack G-B.
- ◆ As the Indian Army was engaged to vacate the Kashmir valley from the raiders, Pakistan sensed an opportunity and the Pakistani government pocketed Major William Brown, who was the commander of the Gilgit Scouts under Maharaja Hari Singh. He led a coup on 1 November 1947, to capture Governor Ghansara Singh. Mirza Hassan Khan, a radical Muslim of the Jammu and Kashmir 6th Infantry assisted Brown.
- ◆ All happened under the command of Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, a defected leader of the Congress Party, who later defected to the Muslim League. He helped establish a temporary government with Raja Shah Rais Khan as the president and Mirza Hassan Khan as the Commander-in-chief. Political agent appointed by Pakistan, Khan Mohammad Alam Khan, arrived on 16 November with the Pakistani Army and took over the administration of Gilgit. Gilgit Scouts along with tribal raiders advanced towards Baltistan and Ladakh and captured Skardu by May 1948. The Indian Army vacated regions of Ladakh during Autumn 1948.

- ◆ Pakistan's operation was entirely led by the military and tribals and the public of G-B was not at all involved. Soon after the constitution of the provisional government, locals came out to protest the Pakistani occupation, only to be met with atrocities.
- ◆ On March 2, 1963, Pakistan gave away 5,180 sq km of the region to China, despite local protests. Under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the name of the region was changed to the Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA).

GB: Linking Pakistan with China

- ◆ Pakistan does not have territorial contiguity with China; it is only through the Occupied Kashmir and Northern Areas, precisely through the territories of Gilgit-Baltistan, that Pakistan has been able to link with China.
- ◆ Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was most worried about Chinese reaction when India announced abrogation of Article 370, which altered Jammu and Kashmir's status in August last year. After all, Pakistan had lured China into its fold under the pretext of showing Jammu and Kashmir as part of its territory.
- ◆ Earlier, Chinese interest in the area was limited to Shakshgam Valley as it wanted continuous connectivity through the area to its Xinjiang region. Pakistan was only too happy to comply with the Chinese request and handed it over 5180 sq km of its territory in 1963.
- ◆ Pakistan abrogated many of the privileges associated with erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in the region, including abolition of state subject law in 1974, and making the home of Shias into a Sunni majority

area. The people of G-B still do not have even the most basic rights and privileges.

- ◆ Pakistan got China to construct Karakoram highway in order to have a backup plan for the region. The ecologically fragile region witnessed the folly of human intervention when in 2010 in Hunza, a landslide killed 20 people and blocked the flow of River Hunza. The resultant flooding displaced more than 6,000 people and inundated about 20 km of the Karakoram highway.
- ◆ China has other interests in the Gilgit-Baltistan region as well - the projects financed and undertaken by it include Sust Dry Port, upgradation of Karakoram Highway (KKH), 820 km OFC project connecting Khunjerab to Rawalpindi and Jaglot-Skardu road. All these projects can be seen to be actually catering to the Chinese interests, a fact gradually sinking into the minds of an average Pakistani, who does not see any opportunity coming his way.
- ◆ The Chinese banks finance the projects undertaken by their companies involving their engineers and machinery and even labour. The markets in Pakistan are flush with Chinese goods and the Chinese people never deny an opportunity to snub a local in Pakistan even forcing pork markets in Pakistan.

India's First Reaction

- ◆ "the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the

area of so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan", are an integral part of India by virtue of the legal, complete and irrevocable accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Union of India in 1947. The Government of Pakistan has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it," a statement released by MEA stated.

- ◆ Such attempts by Pakistan, MEA said, 'intended to camouflage its (Pakistan) illegal occupation, cannot hide the grave human rights violations, exploitation and denial of freedom for over seven decades to the people residing in these Pakistan occupied territories.
- ◆ "Instead of seeking to alter the status of these Indian territories, we call upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation," the statement read.

Opposition Within Pakistan

- ◆ As Pakistan prepares to celebrate the day of occupation on Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B), massive protests have erupted in the area against the atrocities committed by the Pakistani Army and the Federal government. The protestors are aggressively demanding to release human rights activists and political leaders.
- ◆ Pakistan is facing strong domestic opposition from groups that accuse it of systematically exploiting GB of its resources and sharing no dividends with them. Any resistance is met with brutal government reprisal, with activists and leaders hounded, arrested and tortured.

- ◆ Maulana Fazlur Rehman, chief of Pakistan's 11-party opposition alliance, the Pakistan Democratic Movement, is among opponents of Pakistan's GB move.
- ◆ "A deal has been made over the blood of Kashmiris. Business is being done in the name of Kashmir diplomacy," the cleric had said earlier and pledged "not to allow the partition of Kashmir".

Way Forward

- ◆ People of Gilgit-Baltistan are apprehensive not only about Pakistan's intention but China's too.
- ◆ Some of the pro-independence parties, including JKLF, have opposed Pak government decision to grant provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan. So called PM of Azad Kashmir, Farooq Haider Khan, along with local units of the mainstream parties of Pakistan have also opposed the move, fearing it may be overtaken by the Chinese.
- ◆ A majority of the estimated 1.5 million G-B residents are Shias. There is anger against Pakistan for unleashing extremist sectarian militant groups that target Shias, and for dictating over the use of their natural resources, but the predominant sentiment is that all this will improve once they are part of the Pakistani federation. There is a small movement for independence, but it has very little traction.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- India and its neighborhood-relations.

Q. Discuss the issue of Gilgit-Baltistan with reference to Pakistan including an illegally occupied territory as a province. Also highlight the Chinese interests in the issue.

03

India-Sri Lanka : Re-aligning Relationship

Why in News?

- ◆ India-Sri Lanka relations get refreshed every time there is a change in the government in Sri Lanka. The new Sri Lanka Padajuna Peramuna (SLPP) dispensation in Sri Lanka, dominated by the Rajapaksas, which came to power after the presidential elections in 2019 and further consolidated its authority after scoring a resounding victory in the Parliamentary elections in August 2020 is now emphasizing its 'India-First policy' in response to India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. This is apparently to indicate its willingness to factor in Indian sensitivities in its foreign and security policies.

Introduction

- ◆ During the August 5 election, the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) sought two thirds parliamentary mandate or 150 seats in the 225-member assembly to effect constitutional changes, the foremost of them was the move to abolish the 19A.
- ◆ The SLPP and allies won 150 seats and have a two-third majority to effect the constitutional change they desire.
- ◆ Public had given him two thirds majority – for the first time in the history in an election held under the proportional representation system.
- ◆ President Rajapaksa also stressed that his governance will be based while giving foremost place to Buddhism – the religion of the 77 per cent of Sri Lankans.
- ◆ Mahinda Rajapaksa was removed from the presidency after a decade in power when he lost the 2015 elections.

- ◆ Analysts now warn the brothers would try to ensure they do not lose power again.
- ◆ The Rajapaksa brothers enjoy popular support of the Sinhala Buddhist majority for spearheading the defeat of Tamil separatists in 2009 to end the bloody 37-year civil war when Mahinda was president and Gotabaya was secretary to the Ministry of Defence.
- ◆ But they have also attracted criticism from the international community, with the security services they controlled accused of war crimes committed in the final months of the conflict, in which more than 100,000 people were killed.
- ◆ The move will strengthen Rajapaksa's grip on power because the country will return to its previous constitutional status, in which the president could head ministries, appoint and dismiss ministers, appoint officials for the police, judiciary and public service and dissolve parliament any time after one year.
- ◆ Currently Sri Lanka's President is Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Prime Minister is Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Balancing India

- ◆ The Sri Lankan Government, under the Presidency of Mahinda Rajapaksa during 2010-14, ignored India's security sensitivities, despite expressing its commitment to pursue a friendly policy towards India. The question now is whether Sri Lanka, under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will be able to adhere to its 'India-first policy' in reality.
- ◆ It is believed that unlike the Mahinda Rajapaksa administration during 2010-14, the present Gotabaya-Mahinda administration

will not blatantly ignore India's sensitivities. However, at the same time, it may not shy away from reviewing/renege on its commitments to placate the anti-India constituency at home, in the name of preserving Sri Lanka's 'strategic autonomy'.

- ◆ The possibility of playing the China card against India by the Gotabaya administration too cannot be ruled out. During the Indo-Pak war of 1971, Colombo provided transit and refuelling facilities to Pakistani war planes, knowing fully well that they will be used against India
- ◆ Maintaining strategic autonomy vis-à-vis India has always been a concern for Sri Lanka since its independence. Sri Lankan leaders have perceived India as one of the potential sources of threat to its strategic autonomy. They have often adopted various approaches to deal with this perceived threat over the years– sometimes by using a third country to counter India's influence and sometimes by winning India's confidence through negotiations and high-level engagement. The experience so far suggests that Sri Lanka's policy of balancing India through strategic engagement with an extra-regional power has mostly back-fired in the past. Rajapaksa brothers understand this very well.

India's Pragmatic Diplomacy

- ◆ Zooming out and looking at South Asian geopolitics, India appears to be reaching out, repairing and resetting relations with several of its smaller neighbours with some urgency.
- ◆ India's outreach towards the Rajapaksas however began in earnest way back in 2018, when

the SLPP swept the nation-wide local elections in February that year, it looks as though India read the writing on the wall.

- ◆ External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar's immediate visit to Sri Lanka after Gotabaya's victory, New Delhi extending \$400 million currency swap facility and Prime Minister Modi's phone call to Gotabaya Rajapaksa on the pandemic are among these.
- ◆ Following his party's massive win in the local election, when Mahinda Rajapaksa (at that time Leader of the Opposition) was on a personal visit to India to deliver a public lecture Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met both him and his parliamentarian son Namal Rajapaksa (in addition to have met them during his own visit to Sri Lanka in 2017). Since then, there have been sustained and proactive overtures on India's part to engage the Rajapaksas.
- ◆ India's approach appears to reiterate the sentiment that for India too, its own security concerns, override democracy and humanitarian issues in Sri Lanka's internal politics. These concerns include China's overpowering presence and growing influence in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's Neutrality Policy

- ◆ Sri Lanka is trying hard to keep itself away from the ongoing contestation for power in the Indian Ocean. Sri Lankan Government is also keeping itself away from taking any official position on the ongoing tension between India and China.
- ◆ Sri Lanka is trying to promote the concept of the 'Indian Ocean as a zone of peace' to ensure regional

security and regional stability. Nonetheless, it is unwittingly falling into the trap of big-power competition due to its proximity to China.

- ◆ Against this background, the Rajapaksas, who are known for their pro-China approach, claim that they are following the 'policy of neutrality' for strategic purpose and 'India-first policy'.
- ◆ By 'policy of neutrality', Sri Lanka means it will maintain friendly relations with all the countries and will follow issue-based multi-alignment policy as per its requirement. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has said that he would not allow anyone to dictate terms to Sri Lanka. By 'India-first policy', the Sri Lankan Government is trying to assure India that it would respect its security and strategic concerns in Sri Lanka.
- ◆ The new government has also stated publicly that it would not allow any third country to use its territory against India.

Changing Equations in Indian Ocean

- ◆ As the US is becoming more involved in South Asia, the question of its impact on India-Sri Lanka relations is one worth considering. Maldives and the US recently signed a Defence Agreement 'to deepen engagement and cooperation in support of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean.' Though there has so far been no official statement by India, some reporting seems to suggest that India welcomes this agreement.
- ◆ Admittedly, Sri Lanka is not the Maldives. Both Rajapaksas (as well as senior members of their

administration) have consistently emphasised the importance of neutrality in foreign policy evidenced by their review of SOFA and the Millennium Challenge Compact.

- ◆ US rhetoric against China will loosen up, but the threat for India is much real, large and potent. India cannot afford to be neutral in terms of China, specially when the border situation is tough.

Way Forward

- ◆ The Indian establishment must be mindful of the fact that while, in the name of ensuring strategic autonomy and handling domestic opposition, the Sri Lankan Government may review or scrap deals with India, it will still continue with controversial deals with China despite public protests against them. It may continue to ensure the development through easily availed Chinese loans despite the bitter experience in the past of swapping debts with land, like in the case of Hambantota.
- ◆ India must engage, understand, and assist Sri Lanka in a non-reciprocal manner, but it has to ensure that it is not taken for granted under any circumstance. India should not be complacent with the policy announcement from Colombo and must insist that India's concerns and interests should be taken due care of.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

- India and its neighborhood-relations.

Q. India – Sri Lanka relations has been undergoing major changes with Chinese presence complicating the issues and policy of neutrality of Sri Lanka actually rendering its "India First policy" ineffective.
Comment

04

Making Old Europe Relevant in New World

Why in News?

- While Covid-19 has disrupted societies, it has also brought greater clarity for individuals and nations. The European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) are two political geographies that may be experiencing this and are certainly at an inflection point. In this context, foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's visit to Paris, Berlin and London gains salience. That he has chosen Europe for his first Covid-19-era visit outside the neighbourhood suggests that New Delhi has sensed the importance of this moment.

Introduction

- Europe's economic obsession following the 2008 Global Financial Crisis saw it withdraw from key political theatres. The pandemic has brought it right back to the great churning in Asia and indeed to the Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific Strategies released by Germany and France and the India Strategy announced by EU are indications that the Old Continent is changing course. The UK has hinted that it is realigning its political positions. It is currently engaged in its most comprehensive integrated review of security, defence, development and foreign policies since the Cold War.
- Much has been written about the divisions within EU. Economic differences, migration policies and the China factor all have a real basis and have impacted EU. These may well remain points of friction among member-states. The UK's exit has also had consequences. Paradoxically, the events of 2020 have exposed the limits of fissiparous tendencies in EU.



- There is now a disturbing realisation that China is no friend, and it is not like Europe. It drives the same vehicles and uses the same phones, but is not driven by the same values and principles. There is no convergence in world views. The perverse, even vulgar, conduct of mask diplomacy and thereafter the Wolf Warrior doctrine has been deeply disturbing to European sensibilities. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi's troublesome EU sojourn indicated a new European resolve to call out China, even as Beijing dug its heels in.
- In the UK, too, the boundaries of Brexitism are being tested. On 5G and technology choices, the UK and major EU countries are aligning positions. Global Britain is navigating new seas, but its ethical and strategic compass is keeping it firmly in the Atlantic Order.

EU-India: Convergence

- EU needs a strong partnership with India to meet its leadership objectives of becoming a global actor and tackling climate change.
- Security cooperation is the area where political investment

is the greatest. With the institutionalisation of maritime security dialogue, and the stated objective of exploring connectivity in the region, cooperation in the Indo-Pacific now officially features on the agenda. The Indo-Pacific region is where geopolitics will unfold in the coming years. Indeed, if the EU really wants to be seen as a global actor, it needs to step up its presence in the region in its own right, beyond the initiatives of France, and recently Germany.

- Yet the real potential for unlocking the relations lies in the possible reopening of the free trade (FTA) negotiations. Their suspension in 2013 hit the partnership hard, as the absence of talks on economic cooperation was misread by most as a lack of political interest. Seen from Delhi, the EU was slowly becoming an appendix to its bilateral relations with EU member states.
- EU efforts to steer the narrative away from this misconception by building on political relations has finally paid off, and the partners are now ready to tackle the thorny issues of trade relations,

which go beyond mere sectoral tariffs to include unease with the sustainability clause of the EU FTA standard template.

- ◆ So with the establishment of a high-level dialogue on trade and investment at ministerial level, the reopening of FTA negotiations is potentially back on the table. Enhanced business cooperation can help both the EU and India to diversify their strategic value chains and reduce economic dependency – notably on China. Moreover, a new study by the European Parliament assesses the potential gains of an EU-India trade agreement at between €8 bn and €8.5 bn from increased trade for both sides. The study also highlights potential benefits from enhanced coordination on the provision of global public goods, such as environmental standards.
- ◆ Working together for more ambitious climate action and clean-energy transition is indeed another priority on the list. This is also where the greatest economic opportunities lie and, should both the EU and India succeed in transforming into carbon-neutral economies by 2050, we would all gain from the investment.

India-EU: Balancing China

- ◆ Technology and climate are EU priorities and leaders know they cannot achieve them alone. India, meanwhile, needs to forge new relationships in a post-Brexit EU to advance its own policy aims and better capitalise on an underutilised partnership with the EU.
- ◆ Spurred by the pandemic, US-China trade war and US unpredictability, Europe is particularly cognisant

of the fragility of supply chains, the risks that come with an overreliance on China, and the need to strengthen the global community of democracies.

- ◆ Both India and the EU require strong domestic technological bases to remain competitive. Options for bolstering these industries include talent exchanges, the facilitation of work permits for students and professionals, rules on reciprocal market access for businesses, joint innovation initiatives, and funding for joint research projects.
- ◆ Considering China's ascendancy, the EU and India now share a stronger political interest in shaping global norms and standards in the technological domain, including rules on information flows and the ethical application of technologies like facial recognition. The global dividing lines are epitomised especially by discussions on 5G and associated lock-ins on infrastructure, standards, security protocols, and the potential weaponisation of technological interdependence.

Economic Reorientation

- ◆ About 6000 EU companies are invested in India but EU investment in India is half that in China. The EU needs to deal with India with new geopolitical interest. It ought to encourage more investment in India. It can do more with the connectivity agenda and provide support to infrastructure that is also green through strategic low-cost financing. These can also be extended to Southeast Asia, Africa, and West Asia.
- ◆ The EU can, through its members, play a bigger role to support the

free and open Indo-Pacific. It can raise the costs for China as it continues to breach international rules brazenly. And the EU could try and make more supportive statements unlike their bland one after the Galwan clashes.

- ◆ The effort has to be to make the India-EU partnership rise to its potential and provide a new model for international relations today.

Way Forward

- ◆ India and the EU are ideal partners to make a difference in an international environment that is increasingly shaped by strategic rivalry between the US and China. They have a common interest in avoiding a bipolarised world and developing the rules-based international order. They are credible defenders of the international rule of law, not least the pacta sunt servanda principle. They see strong and effective multilateralism as a preferred mode of international cooperation. That is why Germany and France have taken the initiative to launch the Alliance for Multilateralism—an informal network of countries that share a commitment to multilateral cooperation, upholding international norms and reforming international institutions—and why India has opted to join it. 

General Studies Paper-II

Topic:

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

Q. Europe and India relations holds potential for multilateralism and inclusiveness in post-Covid world where China's threat has largely led to re-alignment of global diplomatic relations. Discuss.

05

Foodgrain Flood in India : Problem of Surplus

Why in News?

- ◆ The nation is sitting on a mountain of foodgrains. Huge sums have been spent on procurement and the carrying cost is humongous, too. Not famine, but a flood of foodgrains, is the nation's problem today.

Background

- ◆ Procurement agencies, including Food Corporation of India (FCI), have procured over 210 lakh tonnes (lt) of paddy, nearly 20 per cent more than during the corresponding period the previous kharif marketing season, an official statement said.
- ◆ This is over 28 per cent more than the projected procurement of 742 lt, planned for the current kharif marketing season. Procurement from Punjab was 148 lt — over 70 per cent the total procurement, as of now.
- ◆ The statement said a sum of Rs.39,741 crore has been given to 17.74 lakh farmers towards payment for the procured food grains till date.
- ◆ Further, based on proposals from the States, the approval was given for procuring 45.10 lakh tonnes of pulses and oilseeds to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh under Price Support Scheme (PSS), it said.
- ◆ The procurement of seed cotton (kapas) during KMS 2020-21 has started from October 1, 2020. The cumulative procurement as on October 12 by Cotton Corporation of India has reached a quantity of 43,376 bales under MSP for a value of Rs. 122.52 crore benefitting 8,943 farmers.

- ◆ That apart, 630.06 tonnes of moong and urad having an MSP value of Rs 4.53 crore and 5,089 tonnes of copra having an MSP value of Rs 52.40 crore were also procured till mid-October.

Understanding MSP

- ◆ MSP-based procurement by the government has its origin in the rationing system introduced by the British during World War II. A department of food came up in 1942. After Independence, it was upgraded into the ministry of food. Those were the times when India faced acute food shortages. When the Green Revolution started in the 1960s, India was actively looking to shore up its food reserves and prevent shortages. The MSP system finally started in 1966-67 for wheat and was expanded further to include other essential food crops. This was then sold to the poor under subsidised rates under the public distribution system.
- ◆ The MSP is a minimum price guarantee that acts as a safety net or insurance for farmers when they sell particular crops. These crops are procured by government agencies at a promised price to farmers and the MSP cannot be altered in any given situation. The concept of MSP, therefore, protects the farmers in the country in situations where crop prices fall drastically. Wheat and rice are among the top crops that are procured by the government at MSP from the country's farmers. A total of 22-23 crops are procured under MSP.
- ◆ The MSP is set by the central government for select crops, based on recommendations it

receives from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Nature of MSP Regime

- ◆ MSP regime was the creation of the era of scarcity in the mid-1960s. Indian agriculture has, since then, turned the corner from scarcity to surplus. The policy instruments of dealing with shortages are different from those dealing with surpluses.
- ◆ India has abundant availability of wheat and rice, more than what is being consumed at home at current price and income levels. For the last 5-7 years, our public stocks are overflowing above buffer stock norms, giving a "problem of plenty", and our exports have been record high.
- ◆ In a surplus economy, unless we allow a greater role for markets and make agriculture demand-driven, the MSP route can spell financial disaster.
- ◆ This transition is about changing the pricing mix — how much of it should be state-supported and how much market-driven. The new laws are trying to increase the relative role of markets without dismantling the MSP system.

Solutions to Handle Surplus

- ◆ It is suggested that stocks be pared down to the buffer stock norms in three ways:
- ◆ Releases under the open market sale scheme at a discount if needed;
- ◆ Exports — the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government had exported almost

8 million tonnes of foodgrains (out of which Punjab Markfed, where I was managing director then, had a share of 2.6 million tonnes), and

- ◆ Giving it away as food aid to conflict-ravaged countries such as Yemen, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Nigeria and Congo (to earn international goodwill).
- ◆ Sale and export can generate Rs 150,000 crore, besides saving of around Rs 20,000 crore on the annual carrying cost. The funds so raised should be used as “seed money” for setting up a price stabilisation fund, for other commodities, which carry an MSP. Prices of pulses, maize, oilseeds and cotton should be assured as per the MSP. Many farmers may then shift away from foodgrains and the recurring problem of overflowing buffer stocks will be solved. Second, we need to promote the cultivation of fruits and vegetables by promoting the establishment of cold chains linked to supermarkets, which should be allowed to sell them.
- ◆ Third, our current imports of onions from Afghanistan shows that Punjab can be the hub for the sale of milk, eggs, chicken, buffalo meat, fruits and vegetables to the Middle Eastern Arab nations through Pakistan and Afghanistan by creating a land route through diplomacy. This will generate a business lobby in our neighbourhood, which can be a counterweight to the hawks in the region.

Alternative to Food Procurement

- ◆ The price stabilisation fund should be used for oilseeds, pulse, maize and cotton, besides wheat and paddy and cash crops such as basmati and Durum wheat. These crops need not be procured physically. We can emulate the policy of the United States for handling agri produce - namely the non-recourse loan scheme.
- ◆ In the US, the federal government announces support prices but the farmers are encouraged to store their foodgrains in silos at harvest. They are provided non-recourse loans by the commodity credit corporation. The amount of loan is equal to the quantity stored and multiplied by the support price.
- ◆ The farmer is given three years to liquidate the stock. If the market price is higher than the support price, the farmer sells the grain and repays the loan with a nominal interest, keeping the profit. To prevent speculation, the loan can be recalled if the prices hit a trigger – 175% for grains and 140 % for corn. If the prices do not touch the support price, the farmer can default on the loan and surrender the grain. There is no other penalty. That is why it is called a non-recourse loan. The policy has worked well since 1933, when it was initiated for cotton and corn.

Way Forward

- ◆ A perusal of the MSP dominated system of rice and wheat shows that the stocks with the government are way above the buffer stock norms. The economic cost of procured rice is also increasing. Need of hour is to firstly shift to pulses and oilseeds, so that their production can be encouraged and protein rich sources can be made affordable.
- ◆ Secondly wheat and rice are getting rotten up in FCI's godowns which can't be brought to market, as they will pull down the market prices and farmer's won't be able to sell their produce. Thus, we have shortage in markets despite bumper crops year after year. MSP in wheat and rice are not just a financial disaster, but also a food wastage. <<<>>>

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Q. Discuss the issue of MSP and food surplus with FCI and also suggest the solution to manage food surplus.

06

Debate over Plasma Therapy

Why in News?

- ◆ The ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) chief has said plasma therapy could be removed from the Clinical Management Protocols for Covid.
- ◆ Delhi Health Minister has said convalescent plasma played a big part in his recovery and many lives have been saved. In Maharashtra, the government has been conducting the Platina trial in severely ill patients.

Introduction

- ◆ An Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study has found convalescent plasma was not associated with a reduction in progression to severe Covid-19 or all-cause mortality. The results of the PLACID trial at multiple centres, first out on a pre-print server in September, were published in the peer-reviewed British Medical Journal on October 22.
- ◆ At a recent media briefing, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava had said they were contemplating deleting convalescent plasma as a definitive therapy from the national guidelines for Covid-19 treatment.
- ◆ At present, plasma therapy is an investigational therapy permitted "off label", meaning for unapproved use outside trial settings.
- ◆ ICMR had initiated a multi-center clinical trial, titled "A Phase II, Open Label, Randomized Controlled Trial to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma to Limit COVID-19 Associated Complications in Moderate Disease." (PLACID Trial).
- ◆ The PLACID trial protocol has been registered with the Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI).

- ◆ The study has also received approval from the COVID-19 National Ethics Committee (CONEC).
- ◆ PLACID trial, was an open-label (patients knew what they were being administered, as opposed to the double-blind case), randomised controlled trial. Conducted in April-July with 464 subjects—235 receiving CPT and 229 receiving standard care—who had been hospitalised with 'moderate' Covid-19 severity, the trial found that there was no significant difference in the proportion of the subjects in the intervention (CPT) arm and the control (standard-care) arm in whom the disease didn't progress to the severe stage over 28 days; apart from that, there was little difference in mortality (34 in the CPT arm versus 31 in the standard care arm).

Convalescent plasma therapy (CPT)

- ◆ When attacked by a pathogen, our immune systems produce proteins called antibodies to fight the infection. If the infected person can produce sufficient antibodies, he can recover from the disease caused by that pathogen.
- ◆ The idea behind convalescent plasma therapy is that such immunity can be transferred from a healthy person to a sick using blood plasma.
- ◆ Convalescent plasma refers to the liquid part of the blood from recovered COVID-19 patients.
- ◆ In this therapy, blood from recovered patients, which is rich with antibodies, used to treat other sick people.
- ◆ Immunity develops early in asymptomatic or persons with mild symptoms. In contrast, it develops later in severe and critically-ill COVID 19 patients.

Modus Operandi of CPT

- ◆ Blood is drawn from a person who has recovered from COVID-19 sickness. The serum is separated and screened for virus-neutralizing antibodies. The serum, which is rich in antibodies, is then administered to a COVID-19 patient showing severe symptoms.
- ◆ The process for donating plasma is similar to donating blood and takes about an hour.
- ◆ Plasma donors are hooked up to a small device that removes plasma while simultaneously returning red blood cells to their bodies. Unlike regular blood donation in which donors have to wait for red blood cells to replenish between donations, plasma can be donated more frequently, as often as twice a week.
- ◆ This therapy is not simple to harness, primarily due to the difficulty of obtaining significant amounts of plasma from survivors.
- ◆ In diseases like COVID-19, where most of the patients with severe symptoms are aged, and often suffer from other medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and so on, the effectiveness remains questionable.

Studies and Trials

- ◆ The ICMR's study, the world's biggest randomised control trial on plasma therapy, found that two doses of convalescent plasma over 28 days didn't affect mortality or progression of the disease when given to moderately ill patients. It did, however, ease shortness of breath and other symptoms in a seven-day period. The trial was

conducted on 464 participants from 39 hospitals.

- ◆ The Indian agency isn't alone in its findings. Observational data from over one lakh patients in the US found a statistically insignificant percentage-point difference in 30-day mortality rate between patients given high and low concentrations of antibodies.
- ◆ In China, a controlled trial of 103 patients with severe Covid-19 reported no effect of convalescent plasma treatment in terms of time to clinical improvement.
- ◆ In the Netherlands, the ConCOVID trial, prematurely terminated after 86 patients had been enrolled, could not find any effect on mortality at 60 days, hospital stay, or disease severity at 15 days.
- ◆ In the US, which gave emergency use authorisation (EUA) for the use of CPT in hospitalised patients, drugs regulator Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) had banked on observational studies, including one by Mayo Clinic involving 20,000 CPT subjects. The data suggested a 'dose response'—mortality rate was the lowest among patients who had received the highest dose of antibodies through CPT and, conversely, was the highest among those who had received the lowest antibody concentrations.

Counter Point

- ◆ Some medical experts have contested that, the trials didn't measure the level of neutralising antibodies (NAbs) that are the most

effective against any pathogen among all the antibodies that the pathogen triggers, in the plasma that was administered to the trial subjects. In other words, the level of antibodies in the plasma was checked after it had been donated, reportedly due to lack of testing kits at the time.

- ◆ Some doctors also state that since, plasma includes antibodies which helps the body fight the infection. This is the basic principle on which vaccines are designed, hence it holds promise
- ◆ Another view is that since there are different levels of recommendations of studies. Studies that have several randomised trials (RCT) are called Level 1, and Level 2 studies are those which have only one RCT. Plasma therapy is a Level 2 study which still needs a meta-analysis and more similar trials.

Usage Continued

- ◆ The rise of plasma as a viable option has been propelled, in part, by various state governments batting for the treatment without any hard evidence. Even before the Drugs Controller General of India — the country's apex drug regulation body — approved plasma for "off label" use in June, Delhi Chief Minister claimed early studies showed "encouraging results".
- ◆ By June end, the Maharashtra government launched the plasma therapy PLATINA "trial cum project", which it claimed would "save around 500 lives" through the initiative.

- ◆ More recently, the Andhra Pradesh government promised donors cash rewards while Assam promised preferential treatment in government jobs.

Way Forward

- ◆ Those who recovered from a severe infection—largely belonging to high-risk groups such as the elderly, those with co-morbidities, etc—are most likely to have significant enough levels of NAbs in their plasma. Against the high likelihood of convalescent plasma donors being relatively young with a milder, even asymptomatic, manifestation of the disease, adequate NAb presence in plasma does become a confounding factor.
- ◆ Thus, public health should not be an issue of posturing or political positions. As Covid-19 is being researched, so by and by, its treatment needs to be adjusted. Delhi govt should challenge ICMR with scientific evidence on plasma therapy's efficacy in Covid-19, not with mere assertions. 🔄🔄🔄

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Q. Discuss the issue of Convalescent plasma therapy trials by ICMR and the controversy surrounding the new studies and its findings.

07

Commission for Air Quality Management

Why in News?

- ♦ The President has given his assent to The Commission for Air Quality management in NCR and adjoining areas, 2020.

Background

- ♦ India's capital city suffers high levels of pollution. Delhi experienced its longest period of hazardous air pollution on record during late October and early November 2019. For nine consecutive days from Sunday, 27 October 2019, overall Delhi air quality was in the hazardous zone, a level at which the entire population is likely to be affected. On Nov. 3 2020, the average concentration of fine particulate matter (also known as PM2.5) was 509.2 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). This is 568 on the U.S. Air Quality Index and more than 50 times the World Health Organization's recommended annual guideline. Some parts of the city experienced levels more than 150 times the guideline. The already existing Environment Pollution (prevention & control) Authority (EPCA), formed in 1998, has been dissolved. The EPCA was formed after a Supreme Court order two decades back but its powers and functions were limited, especially regarding coordination with states.
- ♦ Delhi air pollution is mainly caused by industrial and vehicular emissions, dust, and waste burning.



- ♦ Winter air pollution is particularly severe because farmers in surrounding areas burn stubble to clear land after the September harvest. This coincides with weather changes such as wind speeds dropping or less wind and rain that can help clear the pollution.
- ♦ EPCA had almost similar powers but failed miserably in cleaning the air even after being in force for more than 20 years. The question of whether it's a positive move or just a distraction and wasteful exercise will be decided on the fact whether the ordinance changes the status quo when it comes to ground implementation and action on polluters or not.
- ♦ Ministry officials said that the Commission would have more powers than the EPCA not only in penal provisions, but also in its constitution as well as scope – as the EPCA, set up in 1998, looked at pollution control in the NCR whereas the Commission's purview extends to “adjoining areas as well”.
- ♦ The commission will supersede all existing bodies, including the CPCB as well as the state governments in matters of air pollution mitigation.

EPCA Dissolved

- ♦ Through the Ordinance, the Centre has dissolved the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control)

Authority (EPCA) for the NCR. Officials of the Union Ministry of Environment.

- ◆ The EPCA, which was set up in 1998, looked at the NCR; the purview of the new Commission extends to “adjoining areas as well”.
- ◆ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and its State branches have the powers to implement provisions of the Environment Protection Act for air, water and land pollution. Their powers continue. However, in case of dispute or a clash of jurisdictions, the Commission’s writ will prevail specific to matters concerning air pollution.

New Commission

- ◆ Against seven members of the EPCA, the new commission will have 18 members, including a chairperson and secretary as well as eight associate members from different ministries. It will have “exclusive jurisdiction” in the NCR on matters relating to air quality management. It has been provided discretionary authority to search, seize any polluting site and issue a warrant.
- ◆ Apart from seven central ministries, the commission will have also representation from five states, Central Pollution Control Board, Indian Space Research Organisation, NITI Ayog, pollution experts and NGOs. It will co-ordinate with the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to plan,

execute and monitor programmes for “prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.”

- ◆ The commission will also formulate parameters for air quality, emissions and discharge of environmental pollutants, including stubble burning and monitor its adherence. It will also have powers to inspect sites and investigate as well as carry out researches relating to air pollution.
- ◆ In case of any dispute with regard to the commission and its order, the case would be heard only at the National Green Tribunal.

Members

- ◆ As per the ‘Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020’, the body will be chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary, and will include the Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and five other Secretary/ Chief Secretary level officials as ex-officio members.
- ◆ Former Secretary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dr M. M. Kuty, has been appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National capital Region and Adjoining areas.
- ◆ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of the new

chairperson, along with Joint Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Arvind Nautiyal, as a full time member of the commission and Ramesh K.J, former DG IMD and Professor Mukesh Khare of IIT-Delhi as full time technical members of the new body.

Participation and Inclusion

- ◆ The participation of states in the commission is extremely important as it sets up a fora for collective decision making and implementation among different political bodies.
- ◆ The precedence accorded to decisions of the commission with respect to those of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards is important as it will ensure harmonisation of actions in all the states. Mutually inconsistent actions among states (for example gradual response action plan on NCR and paddy stubble burning in upwind states) impede short-term air quality improvements and long-term solutions.
- ◆ It will provide a mechanism and the means to implement in NCR the National Clean Air Programme, National Air Quality Monitoring Programme and National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- ◆ Any non-compliance or violation of the provisions of the Ordinance or orders and directions of the Commission is punishable with imprisonment of up to five years



or fine of up to one crore rupees or both.

- ◆ The anti-pollution body stated that participation from the residents is a crucial step that will prove instrumental in reducing air pollution. The Commission for Air Quality Management listed the following measures-
 - ◆ Minimize use of personalized transport to the extent possible
 - ◆ Restrict travel unless absolutely essential
 - ◆ Encourage work from home
 - ◆ Strict enforcement of laws and rules regarding dust control measures including at construction sites
 - ◆ Strict enforcement to prevent burning of municipal solid waste
- and biomass Intensify water sprinkling particularly in dust prone areas
 - ◆ Intensify water sprinkling particularly in dust prone areas
 - ◆ Use of anti-smog guns at pollution hotspots especially at construction sites
 - ◆ Strict implementation of extant rules, Courts and Tribunal orders regarding stubble burning and use of firecrackers
 - ◆ Seek co-operation from civil society and public-spirited citizens to report air pollution incidents on the Sameer App
 - ◆ Encourage coal using industries in NCR to minimize the use of coal in the coming months

Way Forward

- ◆ Prima facie, the lack of law is not a problem in India, whether it is about paddy stubble burning, providing subsidies or penalising the polluter. The problem lies in the fact that political will is missing when it comes to implementation. Having said that, it will be welcome if there is a specific provision to deal with crop residue burning at a national level, and not leave it contained as a problem in Punjab and Haryana only.
- ◆ Satellite images from central and southern India show the extent of crop residue burning in these parts as well, which have an impact on local climate resilience,
- ◆ This is a very welcome step and much needed because the key problem was how to coordinate among the states. There was no single body, authority, Ministry or state which was empowered or dedicated to do that. 🙏🙏🙏

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Q. Air pollution is a matter of health and well-being, creating multiple agencies and repeating bureaucratic exercises is not a solution. A strong political will and effective laws are. Discuss.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

Public Affairs Index – 2020

1. Why in News?

- Bengaluru-based not-for-profit organisation, Public Affairs Centre has released a report "Public Affairs Index 2020" measuring governance across various states.



5. Delta Analysis

- The Delta Analysis presents the results on state performance and ranking measured as the Delta value over the last five years from 2015-16 when the first PAI was released to 2019-20, covered by PAI 2020.
- In the large states' category, in terms of Equity, Bihar followed by West Bengal, Odisha who feature towards the bottom of PAI 2020 are the top performers, while Kerala, Punjab and Maharashtra feature at the bottom amongst the large states
 - ☛ In the case of small states, Mizoram is the top performer, while Goa is placed at the bottom
- In the Growth pillar, Bihar, Assam and Odisha showed the highest growth in delta, while Kerala and Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh featured among the bottom in the delta analysis with Tamil Nadu being at the bottom.
 - ☛ Among small states, Mizoram and Meghalaya have the highest growth with Manipur at the bottom. Himachal Pradesh ranks 2nd in PAI 2020, but has the least growth in Delta
- In terms of Sustainability, Odisha and Haryana, show the largest growth in delta. Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka have also shown consistent growth. Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Assam find places towards the bottom of the Delta rankings
 - ☛ Among small states, Goa is a consistent top performer followed by Delhi and Tripura. Meghalaya and Mizoram feature at the bottom.

2. Public Affairs Index (PAI 2020)

- The Public Affairs Index (PAI 2020) is a scientifically rigorous, data-based framework that measures the quality of governance at the subnational level and ranks the states and Union Territories (UTs) of India on a Composite Index (CI).
- States are classified into two categories- large and small- using population as the criteria.
- The three dimensions of sustainable development- Equity, Growth and Sustainability as the overarching goals of governance, constitute the bases in the approach to measuring the performance of the states.
- Each of the three pillars is circumscribed by five governance praxis themes (Voice and Accountability, Government Effectiveness, Rule of Law, Regulatory Quality and Control of Corruption); 13 Sustainable Development Goals and 50 indicators.

3. The Three Pillars

- **The Equity Principle:** The pillar of Equity examines the political economy of exclusion from the perspective of the states and UTs.
- **The Growth Imperative:** The Growth pillar dwells on India's growth challenge and the concerns that need attention for sustainable development.
- **Sustainability As An Organising Principle:** The Sustainability pillar analyses the access to and usage of resources that has an impact on environment, economy and humankind.

4. Major Highlights

- Four southern states, Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large state category in terms of governance.
- Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar were at the bottom of the ranking, scoring negative points in the category. They got - 1.461, -1.201 and -1.158 points respectively.
- In the small state category, Goa ranked first with 1.745 points, followed by Meghalaya (0.797) and Himachal Pradesh (0.725).
- Worst performers who scored negative points are Manipur (-0.363), Delhi (-0.289) and Uttarakhand (-0.277), according to the PAC report.
- Chandigarh emerged the best governed union territory in the category of UTs with 1.05 PAI points, followed by Puducherry (0.52) and Lakshadweep (0.003). Dadar and Nagar Haveli (-0.69), Andaman, Jammu and Kashmir (-0.50) and Nicobar (-0.30) were the least performers.

02 Merger of Schools in Odisha

1. Why in News?

- The Odisha government has decided to shut 8,000-odd primary and upper primary state schools from the current academic year on the ground that their minimal student strength is not viable to let them run.



2. Plan for Merger

- In March, the state government had initiated a merger of 11,517 schools with low enrolment. These schools included 6,350 primary, upper primary and higher schools which have less than 20 students and 5,177 schools which have less than 40 students.
- The move termed “Consolidation and rationalisation” under Niti Aayog’s Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) project is already under implementation with around 8000-odd schools in Odisha with student strength less than 20 being closed and merged with nearest schools called Lead Schools over last few months.
- For a Primary school, a nearby Primary (I-V)/Upper Primary (I-VIII/VI-VIII)/ Secondary (I-X), will be identified for consolidation.
- Similarly, for an Upper Primary (I-VIII/VI-VIII), a nearby Upper Primary (I-VIII/VI-VIII) or high school (I-X/VI-X) would be identified for the merger process. As per 2016 statistics of the school and mass education department, Odisha has around 58,000 primary and upper primary government schools.

3. Respite

- As per the state government notification, every student from the schools that are facing closure will be provided a one-time facilitation allowance of Rs 3,000 on their admission to the Lead School.
- All teachers/headmaster/staff (including mid-day meal cook etc.) of the schools that are facing closure will also move to the Lead School without any change in their service conditions.
- If the Lead school distance is beyond 1 km, transport allowance as per RTE norms would be provided to the students.

5. Criticism

- Parents and activists from across the state have opposed the move. Activists have argued that closure or merger of schools is in violation of section 3 and 8 of the RTE Act.
- Majority of these schools are from tribal belts on hilly terrains. Closure of schools in a village will only increase the dropout rate as it won't be feasible for students to travel far to attend school. Geographical constraints should also be considered before closing down schools
- Parents are also concerned that if their children fail to attend school, they will also be deprived of the midday meals.
- The district collectors have been authorised to cancel the merger if genuine concerns arise.

4. SATH-E

- SATH-E aims to create role model States for education and mainstream ‘islands of excellence’ across the country to facilitate qualitative and quantitative transformation of learning outcomes.
- Combining technology with need-based, data-driven assessment and a ‘giving it what it takes’ approach - be it innovation, incubation, external third party funding and Public-Private-Philanthropic Partnership (PPPP) experimentation – SATH-E puts the States in the driver’s seat to transform education at scale.
- The SATH-E initiative is based on formal agreements with the States and will be funded through a cost-sharing mechanism between NITI Aayog and the participating states.
- The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL) were chosen as knowledge partners for the project facilitating review, data collection and implementation.
- SATH-E has been envisaged as a programme which aims to transform elementary and secondary school education across the states.
- SATH-E roadmap refers to a time-bound, goal-driven exercise that will reach its logical culmination by the end of the academic year 2020. Further, the foundations of other long-term interventions, as is found necessary by each state, would be laid during this period.

03

Translocation of Corals off the Coast of Mumbai

1. Why in News?

- On October 29, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) received the green signal from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Nagpur, for translocating the corals off the coast of Mumbai (across the Haji Ali-Worli shoreline) for the Rs 12,700-crore Mumbai Coastal Road Project.
- The BMC aims to complete the translocation of 18 coral colonies over two days next month.



5. Corals in Mumbai

- Coral reefs are like underwater cities that support marine life. According to the UN Environment programme, they provide at least half a billion people around the world with food security and livelihoods.
- Coral reefs also act as 'wave breaks' between the sea and the coastline and minimise the impact of sea erosion.
- The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), appointed to study the presence of marine biodiversity along with the Coastal Road project area, has identified six coral species at Worli and Haji Ali: two species of the Rhizangiidae family (Oulangia and one unidentified species), with 18 colonies documented across 0.251 square metres in Worli; and another species (Dendrophylliidae family) along with Rhizangiidae across 1.1 square foot area at Haji Ali.
- The translocation of corals is at a nascent stage along the Indian coastline.
- Pilot projects at the Lakshadweep islands, and off the coast of Kutch and Tamil Nadu have been undertaken to study the survival rate, method and site of translocation, and creation of high heat-resistant coral colonies, etc.

2. Need for Translocation

- The BMC is executing the 10.58-km project from Princess Street Flyover on Marine Drive to Worli, where it will connect to the Bandra-Worli Sealink.
- Due to the proposed Mumbai Coastal Road Project, the western coast near Worli will be reclaimed by 200 metres to 500 metre by dumping of soil. This will not only be a road but also a parking area. A garden will be created through reclamation. The reclamation is threatened to wipe out fishermen's livelihood.
- The BMC would be translocating 18 colonies of corals. These corals are in danger due to the coastal road project at Haji Ali and Worli.

3. Conditions for Translocation

- The permission to shift the corals has come with six additional conditions from the PCCF (Wildlife), Nagpur.
- The translocation process would need to be completed by December 31 this year.
- The entire process would take place in the presence of Additional PCCF (Mangrove Cell) or a forest department representative, and also in the presence of an expert from either the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) or the Wildlife Institute of India.
- The civic body would have to ensure that the corals receive adequate protection during the translocation process, and follow up with continuous monitoring at the new site to ensure that the corals are surviving and growing.
- The BMC would also have to submit to the Centre and the state government a completion report.
- The department has also warned the civic body that in case any mishap occurs during the translocation process that could endanger the corals, the government could revoke its permission.

4. Corals and Conservation

- Corals exhibit characteristics of plants, but are marine animals that are related to jellyfish and anemones.
- Coral polyps are tiny, soft-bodied organisms. At their base is a hard, protective limestone skeleton called a calicle, which forms the structure of coral reefs.
- As colonies grow over hundreds and thousands of years, they join with other colonies, and become reefs.
- There are soft corals as well, which are non-reef-building, and resemble bushes, grasses, trees.
- Corals are protected marine species sporadically spread across rocky intertidal regions along the Mumbai coast.
- Corals are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and enjoy the same protection as tigers do. Without proper understanding of their ecology and the feasibility of other sites, translocating them is a potential disaster.

04 NCAER Report

1. Why in News?

- A survey by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has shown that timely delivery of weather advisories to farmers had a significant impact on their income.
- The survey was done to gauge the economic impact of India's investments on the National Monsoon Mission (NMM) and High-Performance Computing Facilities (HPC).



2. Report

- Name of the survey report: "Estimating the economic benefits of Investment in Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing facilities"
- Study was commissioned by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India.
- NCAER study was based on a face-to-face survey of 6,098 respondents including 3,965 crop farmers, 757 marine fishermen, and 1,376 livestock owners.
- Along with this, responses from 2 lakh farmers were also collected through interactive voice response system (IVRS) to validate the findings of the face-to-face survey
- Data for both pre- and post-monsoon mission periods was incorporated which enabled analysis.
- A total of 173 districts across 16 states were considered for the study to appropriately represent agro-climatic zones, rain-fed areas, coverage of major crops, and incidence of extreme weather events in the country.

3. Findings

- It showed that farmers taking precautionary actions based on agrometeorology advisories from the government reported an increase in income of up to 50 per cent.
- For every rupee spent by the government on the NMM and HPC programs of the MoES, the country would gain economic benefits worth fifty rupees, which is 50 times more benefit on the investment over the next five years period.
- Out of the 3,965 crop farmers interviewed across 121 districts of 11 states of India, a large majority affirmed to be positively impacted by weather advisories.
- They confirmed having made changes in critical agricultural practices such as crop variety or breed, fertilizer or pesticide application schedule, irrigation or harvest time, arranging for storage, etc. to reduce losses and increase income.
- From a total of 1,376 livestock owners interviewed across 92 districts of 10 states of India, a majority reported that weather advisories bear a positive impact on their livelihood. They confirmed to be making decisions about livestock management practices such as vaccinations, modification of sheds and shelters, and fodder practices based on weather parameters issued by IMD.
- The report provides an estimated income gain of nearly 13 thousand crore rupees per year for agricultural and livestock farmers and an incremental economic benefit of nearly 48 thousand crore rupees over the next five years.
- With a total of 53 Lakh BPL line fisher-folk households, the report estimated income gains of 663 Crore rupees per year and an incremental benefit of more than two thousand Crore rupees for the next five years to fishermen alone.

4. National Monsoon Mission

- NMM was initiated by the MoES in 2012 with the broad objective to improve the monsoon forecasting skills in the country.
- NMM builds a working partnership between the academic and R&D organisations, both national and international and strives to improve the forecasting skills by setting up a state-of-the-art dynamic prediction system for monsoon rainfall on different time scales.
- Four MoES institutes, namely Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune; National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida; India Meteorological Department (IMD); and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) have partnered actively in this important and ambitious programme.
- The execution and coordination is undertaken by IITM, which also leads the efforts for improving the extended range and seasonal predictions. For this, IITM is collaborating with National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), USA and other MoES institutes and is working with the Climate Forecast System (CFS) model.
- NCMRWF leads the efforts for short and medium range forecasts. For this, NCMRWF is collaborating with The Meteorological Office, UK (commonly known as UK Met office) and is working with the Unified Model (UM) for seamless prediction of weather with a special focus on short and medium range forecast of monsoons.

05 Purchasing Managers Index and NIBRI

1. Why in News?

- Business activity in India's manufacturing sector surged to its highest level in 13 years. The seasonally adjusted headline of Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by IHS Markit, rose from 56.8 in September to 58.9 in October.
- The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) increased to 84.4 for the week ending November 1, the highest value since the imposition of the lockdown; 100 indicates pre-pandemic levels of economic activity.



2. Resilience in Indian Economy

- India's factory activity expanded at its fastest pace in over a decade in October as demand and output continued to recover strongly from coronavirus-related disruptions.
- Asia's third-largest economy is healing after shrinking a record 23.9% in the April-June quarter.
- The gradual reopening of the economy and restocking ahead of the festive season has aided the recovery. The October reading was the highest since 2008.
- The sharp recovery was aided by a revival in exports. New export orders rose from 53.8 in September to 55.2 in October.
- The rural economy appears to be relatively more robust than the urban economy thanks to the higher allocations for employment guarantee schemes, larger fiscal spends, a reasonably good rabi harvest and a spike in wages until May.

3. Looming Threat

- After a sharp contraction, businesses are bound to see an improvement as the economy opens up. Concerns on high unemployment and rising income inequality remain.
- With the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projecting a fall in India's per capita income, the outlook on demand remains dull. The extent of durable damage that this pandemic has done to the Indian economy is still not known.
- Firms are reducing staff for the seventh month in a row, a streak not witnessed since the survey began in 2005, signaling a quick recovery in the consumer-driven economy may be a distant possibility.
- Input and output prices increased at a faster pace last month, although most of the burden of rising price pressures was carried by firms.
- That could lead to overall retail inflation, which rose to an eight-month high of 7.34% in September, to remain above the Reserve Bank of India's medium-term target of 2-6% in coming months, reducing the chances of further easing by the central bank.

5. Challenges Ahead

- The only long-term driver of sustained economic growth is demand. It is on this front that uncertainty remains.
- October and November could see a one-time boost in spending because of the festive demand.
- A good kharif harvest, which is already underway in most parts of the country, could signal a sustained rural boost to demand in the economy.
- There is also the question of the employment generation ability of the ongoing sequential recovery.

4. The Indexes

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting.
- The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- Nomura had cautioned against a "faux recovery" restricted to a festive demand-led pick up in various indicators.
- The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) is a weekly tracker of the pace at which the economic activity normalizes.

06

Mission Sagar-II

1. Why in News?

- In continuation to the ongoing humanitarian mission 'Sagar-II', Indian Naval Ship Airavat carrying food aid for people arrived at Port Massawa (Eritrea) on 6th Nov 2020.
- This mission is in sync with the government's vision to provide assistance to 'Friendly Foreign Countries' to overcome natural calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic.



2. Aid to Friendly Nations

- The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for the people of friendly foreign nations.
- Mission Sagar-II, follows the first 'Mission Sagar' undertaken in May-June 2020, wherein India (INS Kesari) reached out to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, and provided food aid and medicines.
- As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat delivered food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.
- INS Airavat is indigenously built and was commissioned on 19 May 2009. The ship's primary role is amphibious operations and is also well suited for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

3. Strategic Significance

- Mission Sagar-II is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and reiterates India's position as a dependable partner in Indian Ocean Region with Indian Navy as the principle maritime agency and first responder in the maritime domain.
- The mission also highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with her maritime neighbours and further strengthens the existing bond.
- The Indian Navy is working on this mission in close coordination with the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, and other agencies of the Government of India.

4. SAGAR

- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) is India's policy or doctrine of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.
- SAGAR has both various distinct and inter-related elements – such as deepening economic and security cooperation in the littorals, enhancing capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories, working towards sustainable regional development, Blue Economy, and promoting collective action to deal with non-traditional threats like natural disasters, piracy, terrorism etc.
- Addressing non-traditional threats in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is one of Indian Navy's most prominent roles. Over the past decade, higher instances of natural disasters and regional instabilities has necessitated increased deployment of Indian Navy for undertaking Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Non-combatant Evacuation (NEO), and Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations.
- The Indian Navy has demonstrated its capability to assume the role of a 'net security provider' in the IOR in recent years by positioning itself as a "first responder" along the Indian Ocean littorals.
- A significant beneficiary of India's HA/DR missions has been African countries. With a vast coastline of 18,950 miles (30,497 kilometers), African littorals and Island nations are prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, tsunami, typhoons, earthquake, and droughts.

07

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

1. Why in News?

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the PM Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.



2. Resilience in Indian Economy

- India's factory activity expanded at its fastest pace in over a decade in October as demand and output continued to recover strongly from coronavirus-related disruptions.
- Asia's third-largest economy is healing after shrinking a record 23.9% in the April-June quarter.
- The gradual reopening of the economy and restocking ahead of the festive season has aided the recovery. The October reading was the highest since 2008.
- The sharp recovery was aided by a revival in exports. New export orders rose from 53.8 in September to 55.2 in October.
- The rural economy appears to be relatively more robust than the urban economy thanks to the higher allocations for employment guarantee schemes, larger fiscal spends, a reasonably good rabi harvest and a spike in wages until May.

3. DRIP Phase II & Phase III Objectives

- To improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.
- To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level, and
- To explore the alternative incidental means at few of selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams

7. Dam Safety Bill

- Passed by Lok Sabha on Aug 02, 2019.
- The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams across the country. These are dams with height more than 15 metres, or height between 10 metres to 15 metres with certain design and structural conditions.
- It constitutes two national bodies: the National Committee on Dam Safety, whose functions include evolving policies and recommending regulations regarding dam safety standards; and the National Dam Safety Authority, whose functions include implementing policies of the National Committee, providing technical assistance to State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs), and resolving matters between SDSOs of states or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state.
- If the bill is made into a law, then dam owners will have to provide a dam safety unit in each dam. The dam safety unit will be required to inspect the dam before and after the monsoon session, and also during and after natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.
- The bill requires dam owners to prepare emergency action plans. Risk-assessment studies will also have to be undertaken by owners, regularly.
- The primary objection to the bill is that it is unconstitutional, as water is one of the items on the State List.

4. DRIP Phase II & Phase III Components

- Rehabilitation and improvement of dams and associated appurtenances,
- Dam safety institutional strengthening in participating States and Central agencies,
- Exploration of alternative incidental means at few of selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams, and
- Project management.

5. DRIP Funding

- The project cost is Rs 10,211 crore. The Project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April, 2021 to March, 2031.
- The share of external funding is Rs 7,000 crore of the total project cost, and balance Rs 3,211 crore is to be borne by the concerned Implementing Agencies (IAs). The contribution of Central Government is Rs 1,024 crore as loan liability and Rs 285 crore as counter-part funding for Central Component.

6. Situation on Dams

- As per the latest official data, the country has 5,264 large dams in the country while 437 dams are under construction. In addition to these dams, there are thousands of other small and medium dams in the country. Of the total large dams, 293 dams are more than 100 years old and 1,041 dams are more than 50 years old.
- In the absence of a proper legal framework, safety and maintenance of these large number of dams are a cause of concern.
- The dam safety bill, 2019 provides for proper monitoring inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in the country.
- Dam Safety Bill 2019 provides for a national committee on dam safety and national dam safety authority. At present both these authorities exist under the central water commission (CWC), however, they lack a legal mechanism to enforce their orders.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 Public Affairs Index- 2020

Q1. With reference to the Public Affairs Index 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Public Affairs Index 2020 is released annually by Niti Aayog which measures the impact of governance policies on the people
2. In terms of governance, south-India has fared better.
3. In Delta analysis, which covers comparison over 5 years, Bihar and Odisha are the large states with equity in governance and have also registered highest growth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Bengaluru-based not-for-profit organisation, Public Affairs Centre has released a report "Public Affairs Index 2020" measuring governance across various states. The Public Affairs Index (PAI 2020) is a scientifically rigorous, data-based framework that measures the quality of governance at the subnational level and ranks the states and Union Territories (UTs) of India on a Composite Index (CI).

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. Four southern states, Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large state category in terms of governance.

In the large states' category, in terms of Equity, Bihar followed by West Bengal, Odisha who feature towards the bottom of PAI 2020 are the top performers. In the Growth pillar, Bihar, Assam and Odisha showed the highest growth in delta.



02 Merger of Schools in Odisha

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The merger of 8000 odd primary and upper primary state schools in Odisha are due to low enrolment rates and under the aegis of SATH-E (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education) initiative of NITI Aayog
2. SATH-E aims to make schools as islands of excellence.
3. In case of the closure at a particular district, children will be provided with digital means of communication and open-schooling facilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: **Statement 1 and 2 are correct.** The Odisha government has decided to shut 8,000-odd primary and upper primary state schools from the current academic year on the ground that their minimal student strength is not viable to let them run. The move termed "Consolidation and rationalisation" under Niti Aayog's Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) project is already under implementation.

SATH-E aims to create role model States for education and mainstream 'islands of excellence' across the country to facilitate qualitative and quantitative transformation of learning outcomes. SATH-E has been envisaged as a programme which aims to transform elementary and secondary school education across the states.

Statement 3 is incorrect. For a Primary school, a nearby Primary (I-V)/Upper Primary (I-VIII/VI-VIII)/ Secondary (I-X), will be identified for consolidation.

Similarly, for an Upper Primary (I-VIII/VI-VIII), a nearby Upper Primary (I-VIII/VI-VIII) or high school (I-X/VI-X) would be identified for the merger process. As per 2016 statistics of the school and mass education department, Odisha has around 58,000 primary and upper primary government schools.



03 Translocation of Corals off the Coast of Mumbai

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the transplantation of corals :

1. Corals are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
2. In India, the transplantation of corals are happening for the first time in Mumbai due to 10.58-km project from Princess Street Flyover on Marine Drive to Worli, where it will connect to the Bandra-Worli Sealink.
3. Corals are animals and not plants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Corals are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and enjoy the same protection as tigers do. Coral reefs are like underwater cities that support marine life. According to the UN Environment programme, they provide at least half a billion people around the world with food security and livelihoods. The BMC is executing the 10.58-km project from Princess Street Flyover on Marine Drive to Worli, where it will connect to the Bandra-Worli Sealink. The BMC would be translocating 18 colonies of corals. These corals are in danger due to the coastal road project at Haji Ali and Worli.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The translocation of corals is at a nascent stage along the Indian coastline. Pilot projects at the Lakshadweep islands, and off the coast of Kutch and Tamil Nadu have been undertaken to study the survival rate, method and site of translocation, and creation of high heat-resistant coral colonies, etc.

Statement 3 is correct. Corals exhibit characteristics of plants, but are marine animals that are related to jellyfish and anemones. Coral polyps are tiny, soft-bodied organisms. At their base is a hard, protective limestone skeleton called a calicle, which forms the structure of coral reefs.

04 NCAER Report

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. A survey by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), has shown that farmers adhere to the advice given by scientists, which results in the increase in agricultural income.
2. NACER has found that National Monsoon Mission (NMM) and High-Performance Computing Facilities (HPC) has translated to economic benefits and will increase farmers income by manifold in coming 5 years.

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. A survey by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has shown that timely delivery of weather advisories to farmers had a significant impact on their income. The survey was done to gauge the economic impact of India's investments on the National Monsoon Mission (NMM) and High-Performance Computing Facilities (HPC). For every rupee spent by the government on the NMM and HPC programs of the MoES, the country would gain economic benefits worth fifty rupees, which is 50 times more benefit on the investment over the next five years period.

It showed that farmers taking precautionary actions based on agrometeorology advisories from the government reported an increase in income of up to 50 per cent. They confirmed having made changes in critical agricultural practices such as crop variety or breed, fertilizer or pesticide application schedule, irrigation or harvest time, arranging for storage, etc. to reduce losses and increase income. The report provides an estimated income gain of nearly 13 thousand crore rupees per year for agricultural and livestock farmers and an incremental economic benefit of nearly 48 thousand crore rupees over the next five years.

05 Purchasing Managers Index and NIBRI

Q5. Consider the following statements with reference to the India's Post Covid economic recovery:

1. Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) , compiled by IHS Markit has surged to its highest level in 13 years and Nomura India Business Resumption Index has improved drastically hinting at economic recovery to post-Covid levels.
2. These indexes though present positive picture, but fundamentals to drive demand and not up and there is an issue for higher unemployment.
3. Rural economy though which has remained much resilient can see a downfall in the coming future.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. Business activity in India's manufacturing sector surged to its highest level in 13 years. The seasonally adjusted headline of Nikkei

Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by IHS Markit, rose from 56.8 in September to 58.9 in October. The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) increased to 84.4 for the week ending November 1, the highest value since the imposition of the lockdown; 100 indicates pre-pandemic levels of economic activity. Nomura had cautioned against a "faux recovery" restricted to a festive demand-led pick up in various indicators.

The only long-term driver of sustained economic growth is demand. It is on this front that uncertainty remains. After a sharp contraction, businesses are bound to see an improvement as the economy opens up. Concerns on high unemployment and rising income inequality remain. With the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projecting a fall in India's per capita income, the outlook on demand remains dull. The extent of durable damage that this pandemic has done to the Indian economy is still not known.

Statement 3 is incorrect. A good kharif harvest, which is already underway in most parts of the country, could signal a sustained rural boost to demand in the economy. 

06 Mission Sagar-II

Q6. With reference to the Mission Sagar-II, consider the following statements:

- Under Mission Sagar – II, INS Airawat, will be the second ship that will be delivering food supplies to African nations. This time the nations are Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.
- Mission Sagar is a part of vision SAGAR, which is India's policy or doctrine of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.
- Mission Sagar is basically a part of UN aid programme for African nations and India is implementing this programme in Indian Ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a) 1 and 2 only | b) 1 and 3 only |
| c) 2 and 3 only | d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 and 2 are correct. The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airawat is carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for the people of friendly foreign nations. Mission Sagar-II, follows the first 'Mission Sagar' undertaken in May-June 2020, wherein India (INS Kesari) reached out to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, and provided food aid and medicines.

As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat delivered food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea. Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) is India's policy or doctrine of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Mission Sagar-II is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and reiterates India's position as a dependable partner in Indian Ocean Region with Indian Navy as the principle maritime agency and first responder in the maritime domain. The mission also highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with her maritime neighbours and further strengthens the existing bond. 

07 Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

Q7. Consider the following statements:

- Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), is to improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner and to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level.
- The dam safety bill, 2019 provides for proper monitoring inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in the country.

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. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the PM Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.

The objectives are: to improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner; to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level, and; to explore the alternative incidental means at few of selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams.

The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 provides for proper monitoring inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in the country. The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams across the country. These are dams with height more than 15 metres, or height between 10 metres to 15 metres with certain design and structural conditions. 

7 IMPORTANT NEWS

01

Anti-Satellite Missile Model

- ◆ A model of Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile installed inside the DRDO Bhawan premises was unveiled recently by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh.

What are Anti-Satellite Missiles?

- ◆ Anti-satellite (A-SAT) weapons are missile-based systems to attack moving satellites. Kinetic and Non-Kinetic A-SATs are the types of A-SAT. Kinetic A-SATs, like ballistic missiles physically strike an object in order to destroy it, while Non-Kinetic A-SATs can be used to disable or destroy a space object. These include frequency jamming, blinding lasers or cyberattacks.

What is Space Debris?

- ◆ Space junk is an ever-growing problem with more than 7,500 tonnes of redundant hardware now thought to be circling the Earth.



Ranging from old rocket bodies and defunct spacecraft through to screws and even flecks of paint – this material poses a collision hazard to operational missions.

About 'Mission Shakti'

- ◆ 'Mission Shakti' was India's first ever A-SAT Missile Test successfully conducted on 27th March 2019 from Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, where a

fast-moving Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) was neutralised with pinpoint accuracy. This was a highly complex mission, conducted at extremely high speed with remarkable precision. The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the fourth nation in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.



02

Central Information Commission and Operation Blue Star

- ◆ The Central Information Commission (CIC) has allowed the Centre to withhold a list of documents and precious material seized by a central agency during the 1984 operation at the Golden Temple in Punjab in which 576

persons, including Army personnel, were killed.

Background

- ◆ An RTI applicant, Gurvinder Singh Chadha, had demanded from the Union Home Ministry list of all

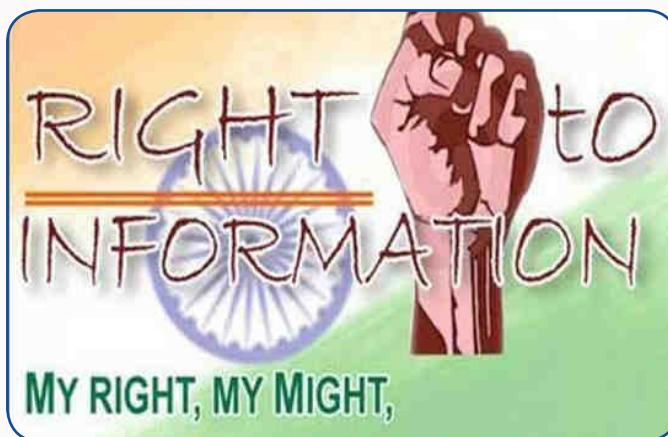
the material seized during the operation and its present status as well as all records related to the operation.

- ◆ Without giving the list and the specific details of the seized

material, the ministry had said in its RTI response to Chadha that “about 4000 documents/books/files and gold /gold ornaments, silver/silver ornaments, precious stones currency, coins etc. were recovered by a central agency during the Operation Blue Star. The articles and documents were handed over either to Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) or to the Government of Punjab.

About CIC

- ◆ The Central Information Commission has been constituted with effect from 12-10-2005 under



the Right to Information Act, 2005. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.

- ◆ The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned

in sections 18, 19, 20 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005. These broadly relate to adjudication in second appeal for giving information; direction for record keeping, suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI etc; imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report. The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.



03

Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area

- ◆ A Kerala-based NGO for farmers moved the Supreme Court recently to declare unconstitutional a draft notification of the Centre demarcating 56,825 sq km spread across six States as ‘Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area’.
- ◆ The petition has also sought a direction to the government to not implement the Madhav Gadgil and K. Kasturirangan committees’

reports on the conservation of Western Ghats and demarcation of ‘no-go’ zones.

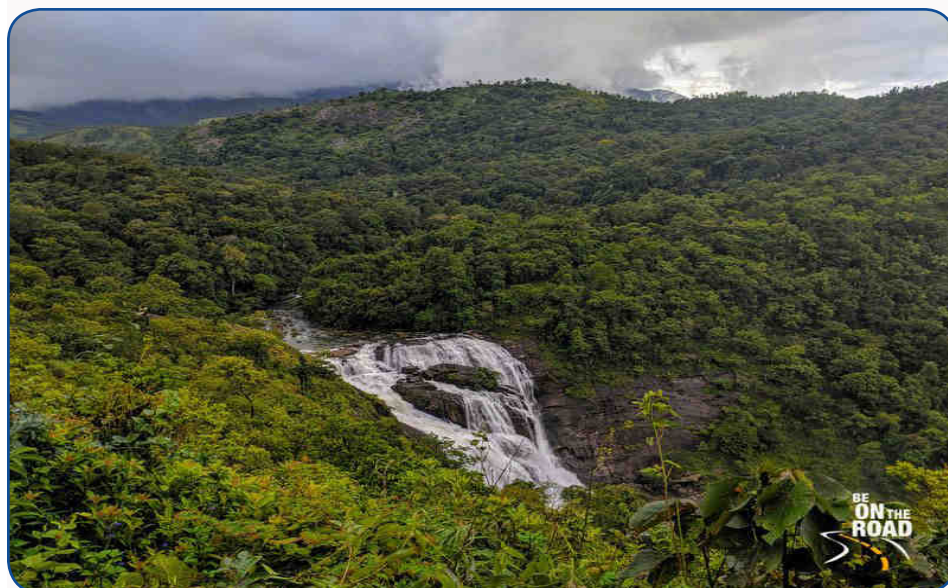
- ◆ The Kasturirangan report aims to bring about 37% of the Western Ghat under ESA zones. It has recommended prohibition of development activities within 60,000 sq. km of ESA spread over Karnataka, Gujarat, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

Ecologically Sensitive Zone

- ◆ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change notified 56,825 sq. km of the Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA). The region, spread across six states, is now a no-go zone for highly polluting or extractive industries such as mining, quarrying, construction and thermal power generation.

Concerns

- ◆ Declaration of the Western Ghat as ESA would cause problems to thousands of villagers living in the ghat region in the State and they would be asked to shift to other places if the report was implemented, it has been argued. People in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Chikkamagaluru districts have been opposing the eviction of the families settled in the Western Ghats region.



04

Fast Radio Burst

- ◆ NASA has reported that on April 28, it observed a mix of X-ray and radio signals never observed before in the Milky Way. Significantly, the flare-up it observed included the first fast radio burst (FRB) seen within the galaxy.
- ◆ The X-ray portion of the simultaneous bursts was detected by several satellites, including NASA's Wind mission, and the radio component was discovered by the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME), a radio telescope located at Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia, which is led by McGill University in Montreal, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto.
- ◆ Further, a NASA-funded project called Survey for Transient Astronomical Radio Emission 2 (STARE2) also detected the radio burst seen by CHIME. STARE2 is operated by Caltech and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California and the team behind it determined that the burst's energy was comparable to FRBs.



About FRB

- ◆ The first FRB was discovered in 2007, since when scientists have been working towards finding the source of their origin. Essentially, FRBs are bright bursts of radio waves (radio waves can be produced by astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields) whose durations lie in the millisecond-scale, because of which it is difficult to detect them and determine their position in the sky.
- ◆ The FRB was part of one of the magnetar's most prolific flare-ups, with the X-ray bursts lasting less than a second. As per NASA, a magnetar is a neutron star, "the crushed, city-size remains of a star

many times more massive than our Sun." The magnetic field of such a star is very powerful, which can be over 10 trillion times stronger than a refrigerator magnet and up to a thousand times stronger than a typical neutron star's.

Significance

- ◆ Until now, there were various theories that tried to explain what the possible sources of an FRB could be. One of the sources proposed by the theories has been magnetars. But before April this year, scientists did not have any evidence to show that FRBs could be blasted out of a magnetar. Therefore, the observation is especially significant. 📌📌📌

05

Saffron Bowl of India Extends to the North East

- ◆ The saffron bowl, which was so far confined to Kashmir, may soon expand to the North East of India. Plants from seeds transported from Kashmir to Sikkim and acclimatized there are now flowering in Yangyang in the Southern part of the North-East state.

Saffron Production in India

- ◆ Saffron production has long been

restricted to a limited geographical area in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Pampore region, in India, commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir, is the main contributor to saffron production, followed by Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtwar districts. Saffron has traditionally been associated with the famous Kashmiri cuisine.

- ◆ It's its medicinal values were considered as part of the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. As saffron growing was confined to very specific areas in Kashmir, its production remained limited. Though the National Mission on Saffron focused on several measures to improve its farming, the measures were still

limited to the specified areas of Kashmir.

Initiatives

- ◆ North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an autonomous body under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India supported a pilot project to explore the feasibility of growing saffron in North East region of India, with the same quality and higher quantity.
- ◆ The Botany and Horticulture department of Sikkim Central



University carried out tests to understand the soil and actual pH conditions of Yangyang of Sikkim and found it comparable to saffron growing places of Kashmir. Saffron

seed/corms were purchased and air transported from Kashmir to Yangyang site by the department. One saffron grower was engaged and stationed to look after the complete growing process, along with the faculty of the university.

- ◆ The project also focused on post-harvest management and value addition of saffron so that quality saffron drying and efficient post-harvest processing can improve saffron recovery, thereby improving its production.



06

Air Quality Management

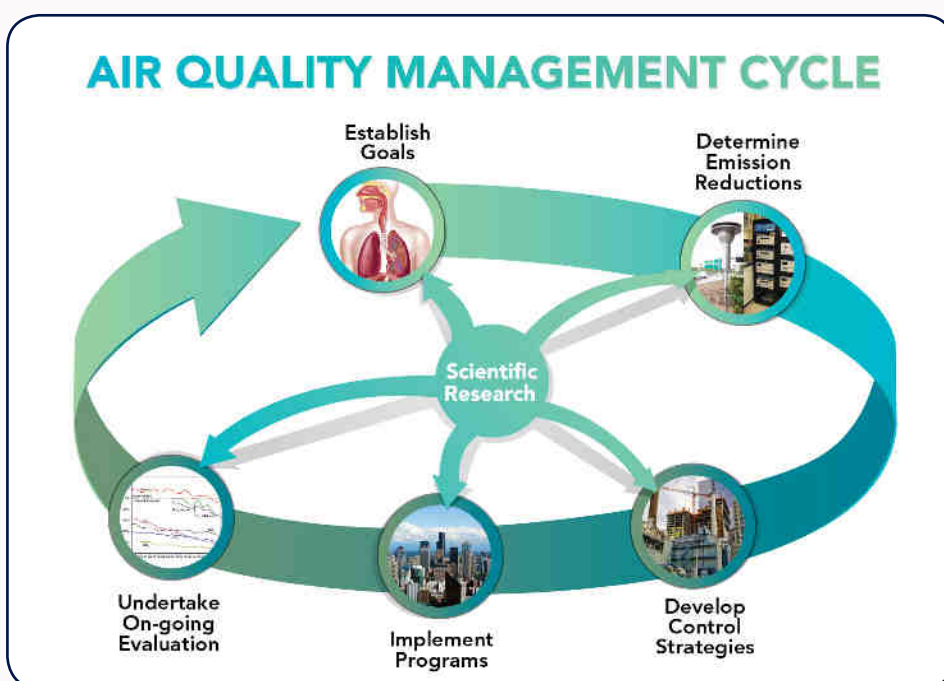
- ◆ Former Chief Secretary of Delhi M.M. Kutty has been appointed Chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM).

About CAQM

- ◆ The CAQM was formed on October 28 after dissolving several pollution-monitoring bodies, including most prominently the 22-year-old Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) that has so far addressed air pollution in the Delhi National Capital Region. This body will perform the job of coordinating activities between the States.

Functions of the Commission

- ◆ Co-ordinating actions taken under the Ordinance by concerned state governments (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh).
- ◆ Planning and executing plans to prevent and control air pollution in the region.



- ◆ Providing a framework for identification of air pollutants.
- ◆ Conducting research and development through networking with technical institutions.
- ◆ Training and creating a special work force to deal with issues related to air pollution.
- ◆ Preparing various action plans such as increasing plantation and addressing stubble burning.

Powers of the Commission

- ◆ Restricting activities influencing air quality.
- ◆ Investigating and conducting research related to environmental pollution impacting air quality.
- ◆ Preparing codes and guidelines to prevent and control air pollution.
- ◆ Issuing directions which will be binding on the concerned person or authority.



07

Lonar Lake and Sur Sarovar declared as Ramsar Sites

- ◆ The Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra, have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites. India has 41 wetlands, the highest in South Asia, with two more added to the list of recognised sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention.
- ◆ Recently, Kabartal in Bihar's Begusarai district was recognised as a wetland of international importance, the first such wetland in the State, under the Ramsar Convention, according to the Union Environment Ministry.
- ◆ The Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun, the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar convention, was added to the list in October this year.



About Lonar Lake

- ◆ The oval-shaped Lonar lake is situated in the Deccan Plateau. According to the NASA, the lake was formed as a result of a meteorite impact between 35,000 and 50,000 years ago. It was identified as a unique geographical site by a British officer CJE Alexander in 1823, and declared a notified National Geo-heritage Monument in 1979.



- ◆ It is the second Ramsar site in Maharashtra after Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary in Nashik district.

About Sur Sarovar

- ◆ Sur Sarovar is situated within the Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary in Agra. It is also known as Keetham Lake. Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary was declared as a bird sanctuary in the year 1991.



7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



01 The Centre can work with the states in building a credible institutional architecture to address most federal water governance challenges. Comment.

02 India must initiate a narrative, discussion and dialogue which focuses on each country taking on commitments that move their carbon trajectory towards the Paris agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C. Discuss.

03 India need to recalibrate its strategy to shifting global realities. Elaborate.

04 Discuss the concept of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Also discuss the reasons behind the India's pull out from the partnership.

05 Lower courts in India must heed the apex court's words on personal liberties and free speech. Explain.

06 Discuss why India need to create a competitive labour-intensive manufacturing sector which will cater to both domestic demand and the export market.

07 What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)



01



03

राइट टू रिकॉल
RIGHT TO RECALL



05

01

Which two Indian sites have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites?

Keetham Lake and Lonar Lake

02

What will be the new name of Ministry of Shipping?

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and
Waterways

03

Which state government has cleared a Bill recently on 'Right to Recall' panchayat member?

Haryana

04

Which country has opened its first Islamic school for transgender Muslims?

Bangladesh

05

Who has been appointed as new Chief Information Commissioner?

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha

06

Who has won the 2020 United States (US) presidential elections?

Joe Biden

07

Birth anniversary of Birsa Munda is observed every year on....

15 November

7

IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)

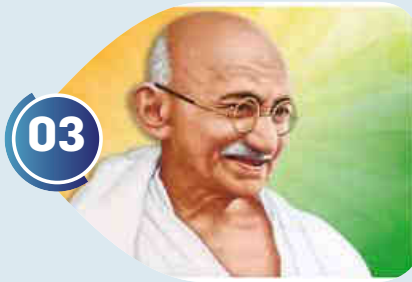


01

01

"Even the rich are hungry for love, for being cared for, for being wanted, for having someone to call their own."

Mother Teresa

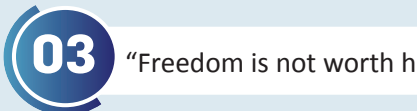


03

02

"The small wisdom is like water in a glass: clear, transparent, pure. The great wisdom is like the water in the sea: dark, mysterious, impenetrable."

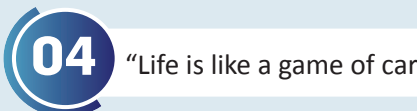
Rabindranath Tagore



03

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes."

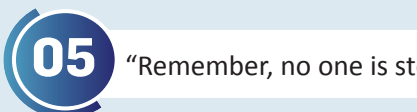
Mahatma Gandhi



04

"Life is like a game of cards. The hand you are dealt is determinism; the way you play it is free will."

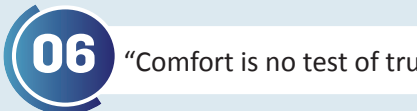
Jawaharlal Nehru



05

"Remember, no one is stopping you from lighting a lamp in a dark night."

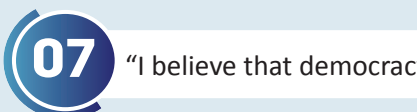
Harivansh Rai Bacchan



06

"Comfort is no test of truth. Truth is often far from being comfortable."

Swami Vivekananda



07

"I believe that democracy is the best guarantor for peace and cooperation among nations."

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

AN INTRODUCTION

Dhyeya IAS, a decade old institution, was founded by Mr. Vinay Singh and Mr. Q.A. 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 exam they have to appear in. Several others, who have a brilliant academic career, do not know that competitive exams are vastly different from academic examinations and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here you might have got a head start but are ahead of many others who lag behind. Dhyeya IAS is enriched with qualified & experienced faculties besides specially designed study material that helps the students in achieving the desired goal.

Civil Services Exam requires knowledge base of specified subjects. These subjects though taught in schools and colleges are not necessarily oriented towards the exam approach. Coaching classes at Dhyeya IAS are different from classes conducted in schools and colleges with respect to their orientation. Classes are targeted towards the particular exam, classroom guidance at Dhyeya IAS is about improving the individual's capacity to focus, learn and memorize 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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