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Reinventing the Indian Economy : Need of the Hour







DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh Founder & CEO

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

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



Q.H. Khan Managing Director

hyeya IAS is an institution that a i m s at the complete development of the student. Our faculty are hand-picked and highly qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multidisciplinary institution which ensures that the students have ready access to a wide range of academic material.

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



PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali Chief Editor

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

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



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Ashutosh Singh Managing Editor

to our magazine, but also left no stone unturned to keep it 'near to perfect'. We all know that beginning of a task is most vital and full of challenges. So we met the same fate.

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

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

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

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



PREFACE

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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor Dhyeya IAS



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

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor Dhyeya IAS

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Hindi & English Current Affairs Monthly News Paper



DHYEYA TV Current Affairs Programmes hosted by Mr. Qurban All

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IMPORTANT ISSUES

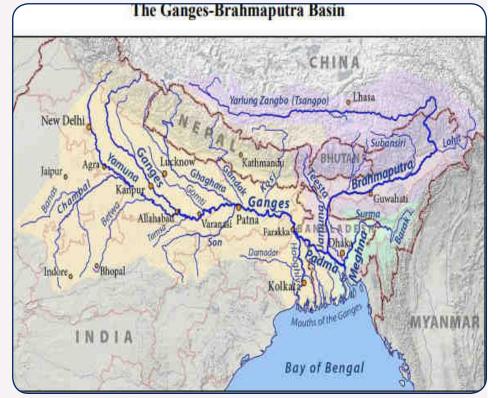
A Challenge for India-Bangladesh Relations : Teesta River Project

Why in News?

- Bangladesh is discussing an almost \$1 billion loan from China for a comprehensive management and restoration project on the Teesta river. The project is aimed at managing the river basin efficiently, controlling floods, and tackling the water crisis in summers.
- Bangladesh's discussions with China come at a time when India is particularly wary about China following the standoff in Ladakh.

Background

- A tributary of the Brahmaputra river (known as Jamuna in Bangladesh), the Teesta originates from Tso Lhamo lake near Chunthang in Sikkim and flows to the south through West Bengal before entering Bangladesh. As per some sources, in addition to Tso Lhamo, even Teesta Khangse Glacier is the source of origin of Teesta River which is located at an altitude of approximately 7000 metres.
- Around 83 per cent of the basin area of 12,540 sq km lies in India.



Historically, it has been an issue of contention between Bangladesh and India over sharing of dry season flow (December-May), when the irrigated boro rice is grown in both countries. In 1983, an adhoc agreement allocated 39 per cent to India and 36 per cent to Bangladesh, leaving the remaining unallocated.

 This agreement lapsed within two years. In 1984, the Joint Rivers' Commission recommended allotting 42.5 per cent to India and 37.5 per cent to Bangladesh. A 2011 attempt to ink an agreement on the basis of the 1984 recommendations could not be implemented due to objections from West Bengal. Lately, Bangladesh has been complaining how the low flow from upstream has affected the standing paddy crops and fisheries, impairing



critical livelihoods. Meanwhile, the West Bengal CM has taken the stance that Teesta's overall flow in the state has declined. The water flow is "one-sixteenth of total water requirement in two countries," according to an excerpt from an internal report on the Teesta prepared by an Expert Committee of West Bengal Government.

- The Teesta Barrage Project (TBP) at Gajoldoba in the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal can provide partial answer to the disappearing waters. There is water diversion from Gajaladoba through the Teesta-Mahananda irrigation canal to meet the urban water needs of the growing urban centres of Siliguri and Jalpaiguri.
- India is constructing a series of dams up north in Sikkim along the course of 414 km of the river. This has substantially reduced the flow of the river, negatively impacting the livelihoods of farmers and fishing communities in downstream Bangladesh.

Indo-Bangladesh Relations

- New Delhi has had a robust relationship with Dhaka, carefully cultivated since 2008, especially with the Sheikh Hasina government at the helm.
- India has benefited from its security ties with Bangladesh, whose crackdown against anti-India outfits has helped the Indian government maintain peace in the eastern and Northeast states.
- Bangladesh has benefited from its economic and development

partnership. Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia. Bilateral trade has grown steadily over the last decade: India's exports to Bangladesh in 2018-19 stood at \$9.21 billion, and imports from Bangladesh at \$1.04 billion.

- India also grants 15 to 20 lakh visas every year to Bangladesh nationals for medical treatment, tourism, work, and just entertainment.
- For India, Bangladesh has been a key partner in the neighbourhood first policy — and possibly the success story in bilateral ties among its neighbours.
- There have been certain drags on the relationship, with the most recent being National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed in December last year. Bangladesh had cancelled visits by ministers, and Hasina has expressed reservations about CAA. She had said that while the CAA and the proposed nationwide NRC are "internal matters" of India, the CAA move was "not necessary".
- Bangladesh expressed "deep concern" at the rise in killings at the Indo-Bangladesh border by "BSF or Indian nationals" during the first half of this year, and the Indian side assured that the BSF authorities have been sensitised of the matter and it will be discussed in detail at the DG-level talks between Border Guards Bangladesh and BSF to be hosted by Dhaka next month.



- During Foreign Secretary's recent meeting with Hasina, "securityrelated issues of mutual interest" were discussed.
- The visit tried to address issues on areas that have emerged as potential irritants in the relationship.

Sino-Bangladesh Relations

- China is the biggest trading partner of Bangladesh and is the foremost source of imports.
- In 2019, the trade between the two countries was \$18 billion and the imports from China commanded the lion's share. The trade is heavily in favour of China.
- Recently, China declared zero duty on 97% of imports from Bangladesh. The concession flowed from China's duty-free, quota-free programme for the Least Developed Countries. This move has been widely welcomed in Bangladesh, with the expectation that Bangladesh exports to China will increase.
- India too has provided developmental assistance worth \$10 billion, making Bangladesh the largest recipient of India's total of \$30 billion aid globally. China has promised around \$30 billion worth of financial assistance to Bangladesh.
- Additionally, Bangladesh's strong defence ties with China make the situation complicated. China is the biggest arms supplier to Bangladesh and it has been a legacy issue — after the liberation, officers of Pakistan Army — who were well-versed with Chinese

arms — joined Bangladesh Army and that's how they preferred Chinese weapons.

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- As a result, Bangladesh forces are equipped with Chinese arms including tanks, missile launchers, fighter aircraft and several weapons systems. Recently, Bangladesh purchased two Ming class submarines from China.
- In the wake of the Ladakh standoff, India has become more sensitive to Chinese defence inroads into Bangladesh.

India's Internal Political Barriers

- Seen from an institutional perspective, the Teesta stalemate is largely created due to water being a state subject in the Indian Constitution.
- The federal structure of our governance has created an institutional void at the basin level, by bridling the Centre from taking an integrated approach to water governance that can lead to a cooperative outcome. In the process, the divergent views of the Centre and the state of West Bengal have led to the Teesta river being subjected to 'conflictual federalism'.
- In an effort to build goodwill with Dhaka and pursue the NDA government's "neighbourhood first" policy, India also agreed to

opt for international arbitration to delineate the confusing, and sometimes controversial, maritime boundary between the two countries. Senior Bangladeshi officials say the Teesta agreement is the only major source of conflict between the two countries, and Delhi's inability to bring Kolkata on board to sign the agreement and ensure its implementation has led to disappointment.

Efforts for Dispute Resolution

- Negotiations on how to share the water have been going on since 1983. A 2011 interim deal that was supposed to last 15 years gave India 42.5% of the Teesta's waters and gave Bangladesh 37.5%. Bengal opposed this deal so it was shelved and remains unsigned.
- Bangladesh sought a fair and equitable distribution of Teesta waters from India, on the lines of the Ganga Water Treaty, 1996.
- The treaty is an agreement to share surface waters at the Farakka Barrage near their mutual border.
- In 2015, the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka generated expectations to take forward the issue but it still remains unresolved. However, in India,

individual states have significant influence over transboundary agreements, impeding the policymaking process.

 West Bengalis one of the key stakeholders of the Teesta agreement and is yet to endorse the deal.

Way Forward

- While the Teesta project is important and urgent from India's point of view, it will be difficult to address it before the West Bengal elections due next year. What Delhi can do is to address other issues of concern, which too are challenging.
- Now, the test will be if India can implement all its assurances in a time-bound manner.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic

 India and its neighborhoodrelations.

Topic

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

Q. Discuss why sharing of Teesta River water between India and Bangladesh has become a dispute.











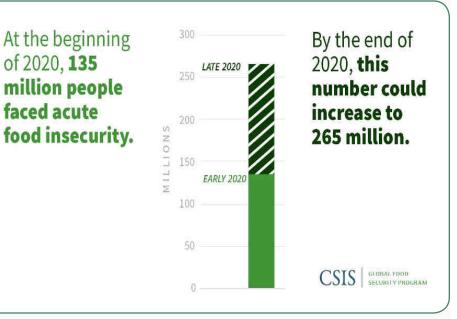
Catastrophic Effects of COVID-19 and Lockdown

Context

- The Great Leveler, a book by Walter Scheidel, the Austrian economic historian, argues that throughout human history, there have been four types of catastrophic events that have led to greater economic equality: pandemic, war, revolution and state collapse.
- Currently world is witnessing 'COVID-19 Pandemic' as one of them.

Background

- COVID 19 pandemic is seen as a leveller as it impacts everyone irrespective of race, religion, caste and class. Such catastrophic events are argued as great levellers by economic historian Walter Schiedel.
 - Analysis shows that inequalities in society reduce due to them. High mortality results in labour shortages which will in turn increase wages which reduces income and wealth inequalities.
- While the validity of Scheidel's argument for the current pandemic can only be assessed
 after it is over, the pandemic has been described as a leveller more loosely, both because the disease can strike anyone, and also because the resultant lockdowns
 have led to widespread job losses and economic hardships across



the range of the income and occupational distribution.

- In the United Kingdom (UK), a recent report published in Public Health England, as well as work undertaken by researchers at the Universities of Leeds and Birmingham show that deprivation is highly correlated with deaths resulting from COVID-19.
- This is corroborated by data from the United States (US), where states with higher inequality show significantly higher figures for COVID-19 cases, as well as fatalities.
- In India, similar studies may well show a correlation between incidence of infection and deaths

 and income or inequality measures.
- Economic impacts are more among low wage earners and less educated workers.

- Socially marginalized groups (ethnic, caste and race minorities) have high representation in both of the above categories. They have a higher chance of mortality due to pandemic as well as losing livelihoods.
- Early evidence from the UK and the US reveals that racial and ethnic minorities are indeed the ones most likely at the risk of unemployment.
- Focusing on the looser description of the pandemic as a leveller, preliminary data and early indirect evidence from several parts of the world indicate that the incidence of the disease is not class-neutral: poorer and economically vulnerable populations are more likely to contract the virus as well as to die from it.
- To the extent, economic class and social identity (e.g. race,





ethnicity or caste) overlap, this suggests that socially marginalised groups would be at higher risk of mortality due to COVID-19.

Imperfections in Labour Markets

- All over the world, the quantity and quality of employment is deteriorating rapidly because of COVID-19.
- The subsequent economic shock will increase both unemployment and underemployment.
- Besides the number of jobs, there is also the possibility of downward adjustment to wages, social security and working hours.
- The effect will be more on informal sector workers, including self-employed, casual and gig workers, and migrant workers who are more vulnerable to adverse labour market outcomes.
- Around 90% of India's workforce is in the informal sector. As per the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE) weekly tracker survey, the impact of COVID-19 has already pushed the urban unemployment rate to 30.9% (as on April 5, which was 8.21% on March 15).
- Estimates show that about 400 million informal workers in India may not get back their livelihood status for a longer period in the near future.
- Without adequate credit or savings to withstand financial setbacks, and without adequate governmental support, these households will be left with no

other option than putting their children in the workforce to aid survival.

Child Labour Issues During Pandemic

- The differential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on society needs to be acknowledged. While some of us are practising social distancing and exploring work from home options aggressively in the hope of a better tomorrow, there is a possibility that a substantial number of children would emerge as victims of such apparently positive measures. One impact would be an increase in the number of child workers.
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, which prohibits the engagement of adolescent children in hazardous occupations and processes, slashed the considered list occupations hazardous from 83 to 3 (mining, explosives, and occupations mentioned in the Factory Act).
- Data shows children between 15-18 years engaged in hazardous work account for 62.8% of the India's child labour workforce, 10% of whom are engaged in
 family enterprises.
- Due to low production during COVID-19, recently, some have and many state governments are in the process of extending working hours at factories from a maximum of 8 hours to 12 hours a day with a limited workforce. Such

a provision, seen in the context of adolescent child workers, will mean more at lower wages, as children are the cheapest labour force.

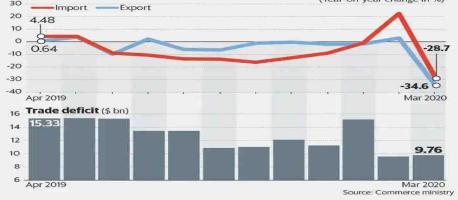
Employment Trends in India

- Stringent lockdown and economic slowdown in India have impacted the livelihoods of everyone. Migrant labour exodus is the most visible representation of this phenomena.
- Scheduled castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are more affected than other castes. Trends of lost employment as per data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)'s Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) databaseare:
- We find that the proportion of employed upper castes dropped from 39% to 32% between December 2019 and April 2020, a fall of seven percentage points.
- 20% of SC households- The corresponding fall for SCs was from 44% to 24%, a fall of 20 percentage points, almost three times as large.
- For STs, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and intermediate castes the fall was from 48% to 33%, 40% to 26% and 42% to 34% respectively (15% of ST households, 14% OBC households and 8% intermediate castes).
 - Thus, the fall in employment for SCs and STs was far greater



Lockdown effect

During FY20, India's exports contracted 4.8% to \$314.3 billion and imports shrank 9.1% to \$467.2 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$152.9 billion. 30 (Year-on-year change in %)



in magnitude than that for • upper castes.

 These trends show economic inequalities may increase due to the pandemic.

Access to Education

- Global trends show loss of livelihoods is more in low educated and casual employment. Those with more than 12 years of education have been less affected.
- Caste gaps in higher education are static or widening in India.
 Pandemic has the risk of exacerbating the same. COVID has led to increased home learning and use of technology due to school closures. Caste based disparities in both these trends are:
- 51% women and 27% men in SC households are illiterate.
- Whereas in upper caste households it is 11% women and 24% men.
- Due to this, assistance from parents will be less in SC households.

Thus, in the face of current school closures, parents of SC children would be much less equipped to assist their children with any form of home learning, compared to parents of upper caste children.

- This would be the case both because of educational differences among parents as well as due to other significant differences in material conditions living.
- Due to these, prolonged closures of schools will lead to worsening of access to education for disadvantaged groups.

Access to Technology

- There are many dimensions that reveal continued disparity between caste groups, which would affect the ability of Dalit and Adivasi families to access online education.
- For example, the proportion of households with-
 - Access to the internet is 20% for upper caste (UC) households



whereas it is 10% for SCs. This creates disparity in access to technology.

- Bank savings are there for 62% upper caste households whereas this is 49% for SC households. Hence ability to invest in technology is lower for SC households.
- Thus, differential access to information technology, as well as disparities in the ability to invest in technology, will be critical in shaping access to online education.

Way Forward

Early impacts of the pandemicinduced lockdown indicate that the resultant economic distress is exacerbating pre-existing structures of disadvantage based on social identity, and investments in education and health that close gaps between social groups would be essential to build resilience in the face of future shocks. **GGG**

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Q. Examine the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and lockdown on the vulnerable section of society.

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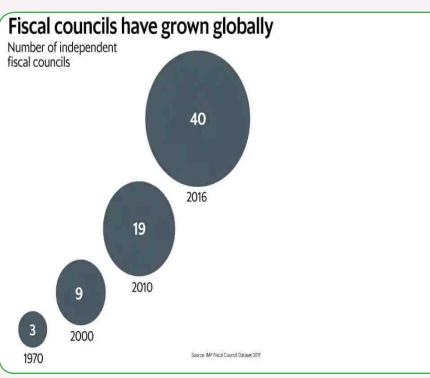
Rule-based Fiscal Policy : Is It Necessary for India

Context

- The fiscal situation in India has been under severe stress even before COVID-19 and the novel coronavirus pandemic has only worsened it.
- While the prevailing exceptional circumstance warrants loosening of purse strings, it is necessary that the government must return to a credible fiscal consolidation path once the crisis gets over.

Background

- Countries with independent fiscal councils tend to produce relatively more accurate budget forecasts and stick better to fiscal rules.
- One standout feature in much of the discussion around the Union budget is always —both before and after the budget—has been the concern with the credibility of the budget numbers.
- The delegation of monetary policy to independent central banks is now commonplace. Could delegation also play a role in controlling government deficits and debt?
- The fiscal deficit of the Centre in 2019-20 as estimated by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) was 4.6%, 0.8% point higher than the revised estimate.
- For the current year, even without any additional fiscal stimulus, the deficit is estimated at about 7% of GDP as against 3.5% estimated in the Budget due to a sharp decline in revenues.



 The consolidated deficit of the Union and States could be as high as 12% of GDP and the overall debt could go up to 85%.

Fiscal Council and the Mandate

- A Fiscal Council is an independent fiscal institution (IFI) with a mandate to promote stable and sustainable public finances.
- Fiscal Councils are aimed at strengthening commitments to sustainable public finances through various functions, including public assessments of fiscal plans and performance, and the evaluation or provision of macroeconomic and budgetary forecasts.
- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), there were 36 countries with IFIs in 2014 and more have been established since and are now part of the

institutional fiscal apparatus of over 50 countries, including several emerging and developing economies. While most of the IFIs are in advanced countries, emerging economies too have also shown growing interest in them.

- The council is supposed to be appointed by, and report to Parliament and should have its own budget.
- The functions of the council include ex ante evaluation of the fiscal implications of the budget proposals which includes evaluation of how real the forecasts are and their consistency with the fiscal rules and estimating the cost of various proposals made in the budget.
- The ex post evaluation and monitoring of the budget was left to the CAG.



- Although their common agenda has been to function as watchdogs, there is considerable diversity in their structure and functions.
- Fiscal council's mandate will include-
 - Making multi-year fiscal projections, preparing fiscal sustainability analysis.
 - Providing an independent assessment of the Central government's fiscal performance and compliance with fiscal rules.
 - Recommending suitable changes to fiscal strategy to ensure consistency of the annual financial statement.
 - Taking steps to improve quality of fiscal data.
 - Producing an annual fiscal strategy report which will be released publicly.
- Independent institutions with the latter fiscal watchdog function have existed for a long

time in some countries. They include the Central Planning Bureau in the Netherlands, the Economic Council in Denmark, the Congressional Budget Office in the US and the High Council of Finance in Belgium. Recently, similar institutions have been created in Sweden, Hungary, Canada, Slovenia and the UK. They are often labelled fiscal councils. New fiscal councils are being considered in a number of countries, including Ireland, Portugal and Slovakia.

Special Functions

- Independent analysis, review and monitoring and evaluating of government's fiscal policies and programmes.
- Developing or reviewing macroeconomic and/or budgetary projections.
- Costing of budget and policy proposals and programmes.
- Presenting policy makers with alternative policy options.

Recommendations

- In India, two expert committees have advocated the institution of such a council in recent years. In 2017, the N.K. Singh committee on the review of fiscal rules set up by the finance ministry suggested the creation of an independent fiscal council that would provide forecasts and advise the government on whether conditions exist for deviation from the mandated fiscal rules.
- In 2018, the D.K. Srivastava committee on fiscal statistics established by the National Statistical Commission (NSC) also suggested the establishment of a fiscal council that could co-ordinate with all levels of government to provide harmonized fiscal statistics across governmental levels and provide an annual assessment of overall public sector borrowing requirements.



Merits of Fiscal Council

- An unbiased report to Parliament helps to raise the level of debate and brings in greater transparency and accountability thus acting as Watchdog of Public Finance.
- Costing of various policies and programmes can help to promote transparency over the political cycle to discourage populist shifts in fiscal policy and improve accountability.
- Scientific estimates of the cost of programmes and assessment of forecasts could help in raising public awareness about their fiscal implications and make people understand the nature of budgetary constraint.
- The Council will work as a conscience keeper in monitoring rule-based policies, and in raising awareness and the level of debate within and outside Parliament, upholding the Spirit of Constitution.

Fabrication of Budgets

- Unaccounted Liabilities: When off Budget liabilities are considered, the situation looks even more alarming.
- Transparency: Besides large deficits and debt, there are questions of comprehensiveness, transparency and accountability in the Budgets.
- The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in 2018 on the compliance of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act



Q. Discuss the need of a fiscal council for India.

- fail. governments have to intervene, whenever governments seem obstructed, it is here that we need systems and institutions to ensure checks and balances.
- In that respect, a Fiscal Council is

to complement the rule-based fiscal policy. Though it is not a 'silver bullet', if there is no political will, the institution would be less effective, and if there is political will, there is no need for such an institution.

That is also true of the FRBM Act. While we cannot state that the FRBM Act has been an unqualified success, it has also not been an abject failure either. 000

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

> Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governanceapplications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

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

Commission recommended that a committee be appointed by the Ministry of Finance which should eventually transform itself into a Fiscal Council to conduct an annual independent public

FRBM roadmap. The FRBM Review Committee too made a similar recommendation underlining the need for an independent review by the Finance Ministry appointing the

review of FRBM compliance,

including a review of the fiscal

impact of policy decisions on the

The 14th Finance Commission recommended the establishment of an independent Fiscal Council which should be appointed by and reporting to Parliament by inserting a new section in the FRBM Act – as a Council created by the Finance Ministry and reporting to it can hardly be expected to be independent.

Way Forward

Council.

- When the markets
- an important institution needed

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for 2016-17, highlights various obfuscations done to keep the liabilities hidden. These include-

- Special banking arrangements for covering arrears of fertilizer subsidy.
- Issuing short-term bonds.
- Unsecured loans and borrowing from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) by the Food Corporation of India towards meeting food subsidy and its arrears.
- Financing irrigation projects from the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) created by the NABARD.
- Financing of railway projects through borrowings from the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC).
- LIC buying out the Industrial **Development Bank of India and** the Power Finance Corporation buying out the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and remitting the money to the government as disinvestment proceeds.

Re-establishing Credibility of Budgets

In order to make the Budgets comprehensive, transparent and accountable, the 13th Finance







India's Food Insecurity and Its Impact

Why in News?

 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' (SOFI) report has showed that India retains the dubious distinction of being the country with the largest population of food insecure people.

Introduction

- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 was jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- This year's report complements the usual assessment of the state of food security and nutrition in the world with projections of what the world may look like in 2030 if trends of the last decade continue.
- Importantly, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this report attempts to foresee some of the impacts of this global pandemic on food security and nutrition.
- However, given that the full extent of the devastation that COVID-19 will cause is still largely unknown, it is important to recognize that any assessment at this stage is subject to a high degree of uncertainty and should be interpreted with caution.



- Authoritative Indicators:
 - The SOFI report, which is published annually, presents the most authoritative evaluation of hunger and food insecurity in the world. Since 2017, SOFI presents two key measures of food insecurity: the conventional measure called the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) and a new measure called the Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity (PMSFI).
 - Both of these are globallyaccepted indicators of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Target 2.1 to end hunger and food insecurity. While PoU is focused on estimating the proportion of population facing chronic deficiency of calories, the PMSFI is a more comprehensive measure of the lack of access to adequate and nutritious food.

Country Data

- These estimates show that while 27.8% of India's population suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity in 2014-16, the proportion rose to 31.6% in 2017-19.
- The number of food insecure people grew from 42.65 crore in 2014-16 to 48.86 crore in 2017-19. India accounted for 22% of the global burden of food insecurity, the highest for any country, in 2017-19.
- It is also noteworthy that while the PMSFI increased in India by 3.7 percentage points during this period, it fell by 0.5 percentage points in the rest of South Asia.
- While the per capita dietary energy supply in India increased by 3.8% between 2011-13 and 2015-17, the consumption survey data that became available through a media leak showed that the



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 Estimates presented in the report which was released by several United Nations organizations show that the prevalence of food insecurity increased by 3.8 percentage points in India between 2014 and 2019. By 2019, 6.2 crore more people were living with food insecurity than the number in 2014.

Food Consumption and Diet Quality

- Diet quality comprises four key aspects: variety/ diversity, adequacy, moderation and overall balance.
- According to World Health Organisation (WHO), a healthy diet protects against malnutrition in all its forms, as well as noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer. It contains a balanced, diverse and appropriate selection of foods eaten over a period of time.
- An analysis of dietary patterns according to levels of food insecurity found that diet quality worsens with increasing severity of food insecurity. After decades of long decline, the number of people suffering from hunger has been slowly increasing since 2014.
- Beyond hunger, a growing number of people have been forced to compromise on the quality and/ or quantity of the food they

consume, as reflected in the increase in moderate or severe food insecurity since 2014.

- Projections for 2030, even without considering the potential impact of COVID-19, serve as a warning that the current level of effort is not enough to reach Zero Hunger ten years from now.
- To increase the affordability of healthy diets, the cost of nutritious foods must come down. Many factors determine the consumer price of nutritious food, from the point of production throughout the food supply chain, and also within the food environment when consumers engage with the food system to make decisions about acquiring, preparing and consuming foods.

India's Response during Pandemic

- Food security has been under severe pressure during the pandemic, but India's response has been fighting an uphill battle. Some major steps taken are:
- The government's initial announcement of Rs 1.74 lakh crore in funds and measures to provide extra rations through its targeted public distribution system (TPDS) for the first three months, doubling the quantity and free distribution of 5 kg of rice or wheat and 1 kg of pulses and additional provisions of cash, have been very helpful to poor and vulnerable families.
- This food package has been extended for two more months, with an additional economic stimulus.
- Also heartening are the swift and proactive measures taken by some

of the states, such as Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and others. They have been providing additional food items and cash support to households.

- These responses align well with India's Food Security Act and commitments to enhancing food and nutrition security for the population.
- Together the states, the Centre run three major food-based safety-net programmes that help millions of households' access food, cash and other support.
 - TPDS The largest of all, the TPDS has a long history, an annual budget of Rs 18.9 lakh crore, and distributes 58 million tonnes of wheat and rice at a highly subsidised price. It serves two purposes: it purchases from the surplus farmers and distributes to the needy, covering 814 million people across all states. In the last eight years, TPDS has undergone several reforms, leveraging technology to improve efficiency. Biometric transactions have enabled the realisation of progressive and pro-poor initiatives, including 'One Nation, One Card', currently assuming a central role in about 23 states and with the potential to benefit 60-80 million migrant labourers.
 - Mid-day meals The mid-day meal programme provides daily meals to over 120 million children between classes 1 and 8 in all government and government-aided schools with nutritious cooked meals. The government has budgeted Rs 160 crore for 2.54 million tonnes of rice and wheat every year for the meals. This programme is expected to help improve school enrolment, retention and



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attention even while reducing classroom hunger.

- As of April 2020, the Ministry of Human Resource Development issued a second guidance to all states and UTs requesting them to continue providing mid-day meals or food security allowance of food grains and its cooking cost to fulfil nutritional requirements of eligible children under the scheme. Today, about 33 states and UTs distribute food rations; Bihar distributes cash.
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)- The ICDS provides 100 million children under 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers with cooked meals and takehome rations. The programme has been allocated 2.19 million tonnes of rice and wheat, plus Rs 21,933 crore. It further seeks to improve the nutritional intake and health of children aged 0-6 years, laying the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development and reducing the incidence of illnesses illness. With the additional allocation of rice/ wheat and pulses in response to COVID 19, the fund and food allocation for these programmes has been increased to Rs 2.3 lakh crore with 75 million tonnes of cereals.

Causes of Suffering

The significant rise in food
 insecurity, as shown by these data,

is a clear manifestation of the overall economic distress during this period marked by a deepening agrarian crisis, falling investments across sectors and shrinking employment opportunities. The latest PLFS data have shown that the unemployment rates in the recent years have been higher than in the last four decades. It is widely believed that demonetisation and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax were two prime causes of economic distress during this period.

- A sudden imposition of an unprecedented and prolonged lockdown in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought renewed focus on the problems of hunger and food insecurity. With a sudden loss of livelihoods, a vast majority of India's poor are faced with increased food insecurity, hunger and starvation. A number of starvation deaths have also been reported in the media.
- Further, India has not released the latest National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) consumption expenditure survey data for 2017-18. As a result, conventional measures of poverty and food consumption are not available for recent years. Lack of availability of data from this consumption survey also has implications for the FAO's PoU estimates for India.

Way Forward

 To achieve the healthy dietary patterns, large transformative DHYEYA IAS most trusted since 2003

changes in food systems will be needed at all levels and it is important to underscore that, although there are some overlaps, these changes go beyond the policy options and investments that are explicitly designed and implemented to reduce the cost of and increase the affordability of healthy diets.

That is to say, other conditions must also be met, requiring a whole range of other policies that are more explicitly tailored to raise awareness and influence consumer behavior in favour of healthy diets, possibly with important synergies for environmental sustainability.

General Studies Paper- II

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

General Studies Paper- II

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. India's food security is always a way behind in catching up to increasing population. Pandemic has worsened the situation relating to food security. Discuss diet quality and food consumption relation and India's response to handle food insecurity.







RTI : Effective and Efficient Functioning of Democracy

Why in News?

- The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) has taken a progressive decision to release the High-Level Committee report in public interest.
- As the report was with the Union Home Ministry and as the government was being inactive on the report, taken as 'sitting-idle', AASU released the report due to Central government's inaction on the report and the people's right to know.

Background

- A High Level Committee (HLC) chaired by a retired judge of the Guwahati High Court and including, among others, the Advocates General of two Northeast States was constituted by the Home Ministry .Its mandate was, among others, to recommend measures to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord and define "Assamese People".
- The HLC finalised its report by mid-February 2020 and submitted it to the Assam Chief Minister soon after. He handed over the report to the Union Home Minister on March 20. With the Central government apparently "sitting idle" over the report, the AASU, which was represented in the HLC, released the report on August 11. The proffered reasons for the release were the Central government's inaction on the report and the people's right to know.

Legal Steps towards Right to Know

 The right to know was recognized nearly 50 years ago and is the foundational basis or the direct emanation for the right to information. In State of U.P. v. Raj Narain (1975), the Supreme Court carved out a class of documents that demand protection even though their contents may not be damaging to the national interest.

- The right to know, which is derived from the concept of freedom of speech, though not absolute, is a factor which should make one wary, when secrecy is claimed for transactions which can, at any rate, have no repercussion on public security." This view was endorsed in S.P. Gupta v. President of India (1981) and a few other decisions.
- In S.P. Gupta, Justice Venkataramiah observed that "the tendency in all democratic countries in recent times is to liberalise the restrictions placed on the right of the citizens to know what is happening in the various public offices. The emphasis now is more on the right of a citizen to know than on his 'need to know' the contents of official documents."
- In Yashwant Sinha v. Central Bureau of Investigation (2019), the Supreme Court referred to the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in New York Times v. United States (1971) wherein Justice Marshall declined to recognize the right of the government to restrain publication of the Pentagon Papers.
- Justice K.M. Joseph referred to Section 8(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 which provides that a citizen can get a certified copy of a document even if the matter pertains to security or relationship with a foreign nation, if a case is made out. Therefore, it is clear that the right to know

can be curtailed only in limited circumstances and if there is an overriding public interest.

Being More Transparent

- Keeping in mind the view expressed by the Supreme Court over nearly 50 years, it is clear that the Official Secrets Act is not attracted to the disclosure of the HLC report.
- Hopefully, this will encourage governments to effectuate the citizen's right to know and be more transparent in public interest, as long as the security of the country is not jeopardized.
- As observed by the Supreme Court in S.P. Gupta: "If secrecy were to be observed in the functioning of government and the processes of government were to be kept hidden from public scrutiny, it would tend to promote and encourage oppression, corruption and misuse or abuse of authority, for it would all be shrouded in the veil of secrecy without any public accountability."

Right to Information (RTI)

Right to Information (RTI) is an ٠ act of the Parliament of India which sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information. It replaced the former Freedom of Information Act, 2002. Under the provisions of RTI Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" (a body of Government or "instrumentality of State") which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days. In case of matter involving a petitioner's life and liberty, the information has to be provided within 48 hours.



The Act also requires every public authority to computerize their records for wide dissemination and to proactively publish certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally.

- This law was passed by Parliament on 15 June 2005 and came fully into force on 12 October 2005.
- The RTI has been accepted as a fundamental right of citizens under Article 19 (1)(a). This covers the right to free speech, right to publish and right to information. A citizen does not have to give reasons for exercising any of these, though reasonable restrictions some can be imposed on them, as laid down in Article 19 (2). In line with this, the RTI Act has specific exemptions under section 8 in the Act and only those exemptions can be used to deny information to a citizen. To ensure that other laws and constraints could not be used to deny information to the rulers of democracy - the citizens - parliament provided a nonobstante clause in Section 22: "The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in the Official Secrets Act, 1923, and any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than this Act."

- Speech and Expression under
 Article 19 of the Indian Constitution, it is an implied fundamental right.
- Information disclosure in India is restricted by the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and various other special laws, which the new RTI Act relaxes.

Assam Accord and Clause 6

- During the Assam agitation, the demand was for detection and deportation of migrants who had illegally entered Assam after 1951. The Assam Accord, however, set the cutoff at March 24, 1971. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) was updated based on this cutoff.
- Clause 6 is meant to give the Assamese people certain safeguards, which would not be available to migrants between 1951 and 1971. If the recommendation is accepted, those who migrated between 1951 and 1971 would be Indian citizens under the Assam Accord and NRC, but they would not be eligible for safeguards meant for "Assamese people".
- Part of the Assam Accord that came at the culmination of a movement against immigration from Bangladesh, Clause 6 reads: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."
- For recognition as citizens, the Accord sets March 24, 1971 as the cutoff.



Several committees have been set up over the years to recommendations make on implementation of Clause 6. None of them made headway on the provision's contentious issues, however, until the latest one that was set up by the Home Ministry in 2019. Following widespread protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, now an Act, in December and January, the government gave an urgent push to Clause 6 to pacify the Assamese community.

Way Forward

- If secrecy is practiced in the functioning of government and the government procedures are kept hidden from public scrutiny, it would tend to promote and encourage oppression, corruption and misuse or abuse of power.
- The right to information is not meant for gratifying idle curiosity or mere inquisitiveness but is essential for the effective and efficient functioning of democracy. Thus, it is a powerful weapon at the hands of the public to check on the malfunctioning of stakeholders and fix accountability.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

 Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governanceapplications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Q. Discuss the significance of 'Right to Know' and its abuse when a government authority 'sits idle' on a report of findings of a committee and not making it public.







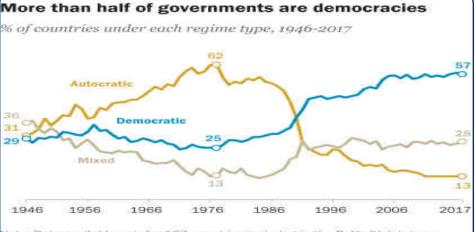
Democratic System of Government : Needs Evolution

Context

- Most developed countries today have a democratic system of government: citizens express their opinions through votes and those votes affect the direction of the country.
- The advantage of democracy over other systems is that it allows everyone in a society an equal say and therefore may reduce the possibility of a small group of wealthy oligarchs oppressing the masses.
- There is no such thing as a perfect system, and democracy, for all its popularity, is not without its problems.

Introduction

- The 'democracy' that a major part of our world swears by comprises free and fair, multi-party, fixedterm elections based on universal adult franchise in its ideal state.
- A contestant party winning the majority of votes represents the will of the electorate and gets to form the government; others sit in the opposition until the next election.
- Democracy is far from becoming universal even well into the 21st century, its own life history is just a tiny dot on the canvas of time: short of a hundred years. Universal adult franchise itself is yet to hit the 100-year mark in the most advanced nations.



Note: Data available only for 167 countries included in the Polity IV database. Countries labeled "mixed" have a blend of democratic and autocratic regime characteristics.

Source: Center for Systemic Peace's Polity IV Project.

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- Democracy did not come alone; its accoutrements included guaranteed individual rights and freedoms, free market economy, equality of all citizens, freedom of life and property, etc. — inviolable constituents of capitalism.
- Elections created space for change of governments even as they guaranteed security against challenge to the regime; the challenge could arise only outside of it, through 'revolutions', which in turn had much contracted the space even for a change of government and none for a change of regime.
- Democracies are on average richer than non-democracies, are less likely to go to war and have a better record of fighting corruption.

First Past the Post System

- It is used in 58 countries globally.
- The Indian constitution adopts the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system

of elections, otherwise known as simple majority where a candidate with the highest number of votes from a constituency wins the seat. It is important to note that in this system whoever has more votes than all other candidates, is declared elected. The winning candidate need not secure a majority of the votes. This method is also called the Plurality System.

- This system is used in direct elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
 While FPTP is relatively simple, it does not always allow for a truly representative mandate, as the candidate could win despite securing less than half the votes in a contest.
- The 'majority of votes' actually boils down to the majority of seats in the legislature which, in 99% of the time, comes riding a minority of votes. Rarely is a government formed backed by a majority of votes won in a free and fair election.



 Rajiv Gandhi's formidable,
 highest-ever majority in Lok Sabha in 1984 was still short of a majority of votes by about 2%. Narendra Modi in 2014 had the backing of 31% of the votes cast and in 2019, of just about 40%. In 2016, Donald Trump won the presidential race in the U.S. with a deficit of over 2.5 million popular votes vis-à-vis his chief competitor, Hillary Clinton. It is the same story everywhere.

Basic Structural Flaws in Democracy

- Short-termism: Due to their electoral cycles, democracies struggle to focus on long-term problems and usually remain mired in short-term policy approaches.
- Pain aversion: To the limited extent they do manage to look to the long term, democratic politicians are averse to imposing near-term pain for long-term gain because of their need to keep voters happy for the next election.
- Elite capture: By opening up decision-making power to competition among politicians who are constantly in need of money for elections, democratic systems are prone to becoming captured by the wealthy.
- Division and conflict: Competitive elections foment or exacerbate destructive societal divisions, generating conflict and undercutting a strong sense of national unity and purpose.

Voter ignorance: Relying on ordinary citizens to choose leaders and make judgments among them based on policy performance condemns democracies to leadership and policy choices that reflect chronic voter ignorance and irrationality. Voters generally favour policies that enhance their own wellbeing with little consideration for that of future generations or for long-term outcomes. Politicians are rewarded for pandering to voters' immediate demands and desires, to the detriment of growth over the long term.

Distorted Modern Democracies

- The high concentration of wealth is getting to impact the system's political functioning by replicating the process of exercising choice. The notion of the free choice of the exercise of vote at the ballot box gets completely distorted with innumerable manipulations of that choice on all sides, all within the four walls of the constitutional provisions.
- These include distortions injected ٠ into the electoral process through control and misuse of the institutions responsible for carrying out the process; the creation of an atmosphere of delegitimisation of dissent or protest vis-à-vis the government by counter-posing the demands of unquestioning patriotism or nationalism to it; using the sentiment of patriotism to circumscribe the dispensation



of fair justice; the control of the flow of information through the 'independent' media; setting up of professionally organised mechanisms for creating and propagating fake news; creating and promoting hatred between communities of people through patronising identity politics and using frenzy in lieu of reason as a mobiliser of votes; and not least, meting out the harshest treatment to the most prominent dissenting voices by lodging them in prison on fake charges, never mind that they would all be let off a decade later by the courts for want of evidence.

Global Imbalance of Power

- A democracy cannot survive when individual firms or actors have so much wealth and economic power that they can effectively control the fates of whole communities.
- Liberal democracy has always rested on the assumption that markets and governments work in mutually reinforcing ways. But just as economic freedom and political freedom go together, so too do economic oppression and political oppression go together.
- A democracy marked by deep inequities of wealth—operating simultaneously along class, race, and gender lines—is one in which political democracy is fundamentally limited and unstable, as economic exclusion and concentrated power easily spill over into political exclusion.



- The concentration of wealth and political power was the case with one country or society, it could easily be attributed to specific local conditions; but this looks like a more generalised, global scenario: in the US, China, Russia, India, Brazil, Hungary, Turkey and elsewhere. It is therefore futile to argue that this has flown from the personality or personal diktats of one or the other charismatic leader. Its global scale defies that
- Clearly then, we are witnessing the transformation of the regime of democracy, a systemic transformation from within, from one that had brought us • the promise of liberté, egalité, fraternité political, social and economic, to its very opposite: the highest concentration of economic, political and therefore social powers ever in history. Yet 'democracy' remains its trademark. Nor does it have the appearance of a sudden, odd aberration with an expected short life, or a spontaneous occurrence in different regions. Its scale is too massive for that.

Need for Democratic Evolution

When democracy works, it

delivers economic growth and fundamental freedoms in a way that no other system can. And when it fails, it is rarely, if ever, replaced by a system that can do a better job of delivering for its population. Democracies must therefore adapt or they will further decay. Eradicating political myopia is essential, but even more radical reforms will be necessary.

- Finally, we must recognize that voters are ultimately responsible for the politicians they elect and the economic decisions those politicians make. And that's why voting is everything.
- An informed voter deciding to vote on the basis of long-term visions and not on the basis of cast, ethnicity, religion can make a tectonic shift in the governance structure.

Way Forward

- With age and maturity, need for reforms is a must. Democracies do age and matures and are in need for major changes when the nation's economic and social landscape changes.
- Democratic constitutions written decades ago cannot go with patch-up amendments to be



relevant to a dynamically growing society. With growing literacy, delegation of responsibility to voters in choice and expanded participation in policy making is the need of the hour. The digital ecosystem which was not present at the time of writing the first written constitution of the world is now changing the paradigm.

It's time for democracy to evolve or any other form of governance better suited to modern world to come into play.

General Studies Paper- 2

Topic:

 Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Topic:

Parliament and State
 Legislatures - structure,
 functioning, conduct of
 business, powers & privileges
 and issues arising out of these.

Q. Democracy has changed in application than what was envision when it was written. There are some distortions in its functioning and certain changes in the society to which democracies must adapt and overcome. Discuss.

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Reinventing the Indian Economy : Need of the Hour

Why in News?

- The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the global economy and India is no different.
- Besides the stimulus package totalling 20 lakh crore, a lot more needs to be done, however, to resuscitate the country's growth engine.

Background

- The significant reduction in domestic demand caused by the nationwide lockdown has pushed the economy towards contraction in the first quarter of 2020-21. As per the latest data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the April-June quarter (Q1) slipped by a sharp 23.9 per cent.
- The inabilities of nations to control the spread of the novel coronavirus and the lack of a confirmed cure for the disease have exacerbated people's concerns.
- Such a heightened sense of anxiety among people can cause tremendous upheavals in the functioning of societies.
- Consequently, disruption of the normal social order will inevitably impact livelihoods and the larger economy.
- In this regard, the government has taken decisive and commendable action to mitigate the impact of the virus outbreak, from both a health and an economic perspective. On May 12, 2020, Prime Minister of India unveiled a mammoth coronavirus stimulus package totalling 20 lakh crore, which works out to about 10% of GDP, making

it one of the most substantial relief \bullet plans in the world.

- Addressing major lacunae in the economy:
- Contraction- The significant reduction in domestic demand caused by the nationwide lockdown has pushed the economy towards contraction in the first quarter of 2020-21.
- Credit Availability- The revised stimulus package can help revive businesses, which are finding it difficult to operate without adequate availability of credit.
- Liquidity Crunch- This is especially true for India's 60,000-odd start-ups which are facing an acute liquidity crunch. The situation presents an opportunity to take bold action to promote investments, protect existing jobs and create new jobs.
- Jobless Markets The situation presents an opportunity to take bold action to promote investments, protect existing jobs and create new jobs.

Reinventing the Indian Economy

- The strategy should address four major economic pillars-
 - Big Business Houses which are a major contributor to GDP and large employment generators.
 - MSMEs which are the lifeline of the country, generating wealth for the middle class.
 - Start-ups which bring innovation and transformation to our country's economy.
 - NRIs and OCIs— they not only serve as unofficial ambassadors of India, but their heart beats for India and through their contacts they can bring huge investments into India.

Suggestive Measures: Action Plan

- Big business houses should be supported by the government to reopen their operations by way of tax incentives or ease of procurement of raw materials or other goods and services on credit as this will energise consumer demand and boost the functioning of vendor or ancillary industry in the MSME sector.
- Monetary Policy The RBI should consider Single One Time Window for restructuring business loans, as required, by all banks.There is a high probability that non-performing assets are likely to rise once the prevailing moratorium is lifted by RBI. The government and RBI also urgently need to assure banks, that their business decisions will not be questioned, to encourage credit flows.
- Manufacturing Kit The Centre can prepare a five-year plan on getting at least 60% of those companies, desiring to move manufacturing out of China to India.
- Making India a Global Trading Hub — An incentive regime for companies setting up global trading operations from India.
- Industrial Hubs- The States should think of establishing self-contained "industrial cities" that earmark space for manufacturing, commercial, educational, residential and social infrastructure.
- Core Sector Reforms The 10 sectors identified by the government fit into the Make in India campaign —electrical,



pharmaceuticals, medical devices, automotive, mining, electronics, heavy engineering, renewable energy, food processing, chemicals and textiles.Japan, the U.S. and South Korea have already shown interest.

Sunrise Sectors: New Paradigms

- Leveraging Technology: The government can also consider giving impetus to "Deep Tech"-leveraged businesses — blockchain, robotics, AI, machine learning, augmented reality, big data analytics, cyber security, etc.
- Innovation India is amongst the top start-up ecosystems globally. Several of them are in pre-Angel or Angel-Funding stages and are under significant pressure to stay afloat in view of a lack of adequate liquidity.
- Start-ups not only help drive innovation, but also create jobs, which will be very important going forward. The government needs to provide significant support to the start-up ecosystem.Government should also encourage sunrise sectors as part of re-imagining Indian economy such as battery manufacturing (storage systems)/ solar panel manufacturing.
- The auto industry which contributes significantly to GDP (nearly 9%) deserves special treatment. In addition to reducing GST rate, old vehicle scrap policy with tax incentives for creating a demand for new vehicles may be formulated. There is need to recognise Auto Sales Industry channel partners as MSMEs.

- Plug and Play Model: Maharashtra has created a turn key 'plug-andplay' model for foreign investors.
- Land Reforms- Land should be made available for projects with all necessary pre-clearances

 at Centre's level (including
 Environmental), State's and Municipal dispensations.
- Labour Reforms- Reforms in labour laws do not only mean permission to hire and fire. Strictly enforcement of discipline within the factory premises and demand higher productivity is important. The moves by U.P., M.P. and Gujarat are welcome signals. The government should provide health insurance for migrant labourers as experimented by certain States.
- FDI- Investments of NRIs and OCIs in India should be treated on par with those of Resident Indians as regards interest and dividend repatriation and management control of Indian companies.Indian diaspora's direct investment should be incentivised, perhaps in terms of a plug-and-play model to ensure that they do not end up spending lots of time in getting approvals to start a business

Tax Exemptions

- Passive Incomes- The government may also consider providing tax exemption on passive income like dividends, interest, mutual funds etc.
- Capital Gains-Also, capital gains should be taxed at 50% of applicable rates for next 3 years.
- Royalties- We need to reconsider the approach to taxing interest, dividends and royalty paid to overseas investors.



- Capitalization Norms- The government could consider a
 3 to 5-year moratorium on the applicability of thin capitalization norms.
- Off Shore Investment- An off-shore investment centre like Singapore can be opened in Mumbai, where Indian domestic laws and taxation will not be applicable.

Way Forward

- A lot more needs to be done, however, to resuscitate the country's growth engine, India needs is a two-pronged strategy to successfully navigate the current crisis-
 - First, minimise the damage caused by the COVID-19 and clear a path to recovery.
 - Second, rebooting and reimagining India by promptly exploiting new opportunities unleashed by evolving business scenarios.
- The three mantras should be Bigger, Bolder and Faster execution of this strategy.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

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

Q. Discuss multi-pronged strategy apart from economic stimulus needed for India's economic reimagining and reconstruction.

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IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

) Warli Paintings

1. Why in News?

- Noida-based National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), a central Public Sector Undertaking, and country's leading fertilizers manufacturer, is promoting warli painting.
- The paintings, done by a few artists who were rendered jobless in the last few months, now adorn its outer wall of the head office.

2. About Warli

- Maharashtra is known for its Warli folk paintings.
- The Warlis are an indigenous tribe or Adivasis, living in Mountainous as well as coastal areas of Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas.
- Warli paintings are believed to be one of the oldest form of art in history.
- First discovered in the early 1970s, this art form can be tracked back to the 10th century A.D.
- This art is very popular among the tribal community, however till date it has not gained any special recognition outside India.



3. Theme of Warli Paintings

- These paintings do not depict mythological characters or images of deities, but depict social life.
- Images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life are created in a loose rhythmic pattern.
- These tribal paintings of Maharashtra are traditionally done in the homes of the Warlis.
- Painted white on mud walls, they are pretty close to pre-historic cave paintings in execution and usually depict scenes of human figures engaged in activities like hunting, dancing, sowing and harvesting.
- This was the only means of transmitting folklore to a populace not acquainted with the written word.
- Women are mainly engaged in the creation of these paintings.

4. Figures and Shapes

- These rudimentary wall paintings use a set of basic geometric shapes: a circle, a triangle, and a square.
- One of the central aspects depicted in many Warli paintings is the tarpa dance. The tarpa, a trumpet-like instrument, is played in turns by different village men. Men and women entwine their hands and move in a circle around the tarpa player.
- The central motif in each ritual painting is the square, known as the "chauk" or "chaukat", mostly of two types known as Devchauk and Lagnachauk. Inside a Devchauk is usually a depiction of Palaghata, the mother goddess, symbolizing fertility.
- > The theme of painting is also surrounded by scenes portraying hunting, fishing, and farming, and trees and animals.
- Another main theme of Warli art is the denotation of a triangle that is larger at the top, representing a man; and a triangle which is wider at the bottom, representing a woman.





Sin Goods and Sin Tax

1. Why in News?

The government may consider bringing down Goods and Services Tax (GST) on two-wheelers from the highest slab of 28% as finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has assured the industry, two-wheelers are neither a luxury nor a sin good, hence merit a rate revision.

2. About Sin Goods

- Sin goods are goods which consider harmful to society. Example of sin goods: Alcohol and Tobacco, Candies, Drugs, Soft drinks, Fast foods, Coffee, Sugar, Gambling, etc.
- Taxes levied by the government on sin goods called Sin Tax.
- In India, cigarettes, pan masala and liquor have always attracted high taxes, even under a non-GST regime.
- Countries such as the UK, Sweden and Canada impose Sin Taxes on a series of products and services, from tobacco and alcohol to lotteries, gambling and fuel, which chip in with sizeable revenues.
- Mexico imposed a Soda Tax in 2013 and the UK is now debating a Sugar Tax, to tackle obesity, on all foods and drinks with high concentrations of the sweetener.

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6. In India

According to the current Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate structure,

some of the sin goods that attract a

cess include cigarettes, pan masala

Apart from sin goods, luxury products

and aerated drinks.

like cars also attract a cess.

3. About Sin Tax

- Sin' taxes are imposed to discourage consumers from using goods or services that are seen as undesirable or detrimental to society.
- Sin Taxes are intended to serve two objectives.
 - One, to make the undesirable goods so expensive that rational consumer would be forced to give up the habit.
 - Two, to make the industry producing these products pay higher tax, which can be used to fund other welfare expenditure.
- Sin Taxes are now a global trend.
- Revenue generated by sin taxes supports many projects imperative in accomplishing social and economic goals.

4. Arguments in-favour

- That excessive consumption of tobacco, alcohol or empty calories heightens health risks such as cancer, heart conditions and obesity, is quite well-documented by now.
- Evidence from other countries that have imposed Sin Taxes shows the consumption of cigarettes and soft drinks has fallen significantly, after the new tax.
- The huge revenues many State governments in India rake in from liquor sales (and taxes) show that Sin Taxes can mean a bonanza for the State.
- In India, the case for taxing vices can be further bolstered by the fact that the country can ill-afford to fritter away its limited healthcare budget on avoidable health risks.

5. Argument against

- Economists and advocates of personal liberty have equally strong arguments again Sin Taxes too. For one, a definition of what constitutes a 'vice' can be pretty fluid.
- Sin Taxes can give the state unnecessary moral authority to dictate what citizens should and should not be doing.
- While Sin Taxes may reduce purchases of a product for a few initial years as fence-sitters or occasional users cut back, consumers who are really addicted to the habit may persist with their 'sinning'. This can extract a steep toll on poor families.
- > Sin Taxes, once imposed, don't really distinguish between occasional and addicted users of products and services.
- There is the danger that once the government tastes success with one kind of Sin Tax, it may be tempted to extend it to a battery of others.

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Common Electoral Roll

1. Why in News?

In a move that ties in with the idea of simultaneous elections in the country, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in August 2020, held a meeting to discuss the possibility of preparing a common voters' list for elections to all local bodies, state assemblies and Lok Sabha.



6. Simultaneous Elections

- As per Niti Aayog, "Simultaneous Elections" would broadly mean structuring the Indian election cycle in a manner that elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are synchronized together. In such a scenario, a voter would normally cast his/her vote for electing members of Lok Sabha and State Assembly on a single day and at the same time.
- Common electoral roll and simultaneous elections are a way to save an enormous amount of effort and expenditure. It has argued that the preparation of a separate voters list causes duplication of essentially the same task between two different agencies, thereby duplicating the effort and the expenditure.
- The concept of simultaneous elections is not new to the country. Post adoption of the Constitution, the elections to Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies were held simultaneously between 1951 till 1967 when the cycle of synchronized elections got disrupted.

2. Background

- The Election Commission, the Law Commission and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Personnel Ministries have supported the idea of a single voter list in the past also. The Law Commission recommended it in its 255th report in 2015. The EC too adopted a similar stance in 1999 and 2004.
- The distinction stems from the fact that the supervision and conduct of elections in our country are entrusted with two constitutional authorities the Election Commission (EC) of India and the State Election Commissions (SECs).
- Set up in 1950, the EC is charged with the responsibility of conducting polls to the offices of the President and Vice-President of India, and to Parliament, the state assemblies and the legislative councils.
- The SECs, on the other hand, supervise municipal and panchayat elections. They are free to prepare their own electoral rolls for local body elections, and this exercise does not have to be coordinated with the EC.

3. Current Scenario

- Currently, a majority of the states use the EC's voters list, instead of their own, to elect their municipalities and panchayats.
- However, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have their own electoral rolls for local body polls.

4. Implementation

- In order to implement Common Electoral Roll two ways are there:
 - First, a constitutional amendment to Articles 243K and 243ZA that gives the power of superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of local body elections to the SECs. The amendment would make it mandatory to have a single electoral roll for all elections in the country.
 - Second, to persuade the state governments to tweak their respective laws and adopt the Election Commission's (EC) voters list for municipal and panchayat polls.

5. Adverse Impact of Current Electoral Cycle

- Impact on development programs and governance due to imposition of Model Code of Conduct by the Election Commission;
- Frequent elections lead to massive expenditures by Government and other stakeholders;
- Engagement of security forces for significantly prolonged periods;
- As elections happen frequently in some State Assembly or the other, political parties particularly worry about need to keep inflow of funds and contributions continued. This whole cycle is consequently blamed as one of the key drivers for corruption and black-money in the country;
- > Frequent elections perpetuate caste, religion and communal issues across the country;
- > Frequent elections adversely impact the focus of governance and policy making; and
- > Frequent elections disrupt normal public life.





National Clean Air Programme

1. Why in News?

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slammed the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) over its report on the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) which proposes 20-30 per cent reduction of air pollution by 2024.



4. National Green Tribunal

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multidisciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.
- The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.

2. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- The Central Government has launched NCAP under the Central Sector "Control of Pollution" Scheme as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.
- 102 non-attainment cities mostly in Indo-Gangetic Plains have been identified based on ambient air quality data for the period 2011 – 2015 and WHO report 2014/2018.
- An Apex Committee at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) at the national level, and at the Chief Secretary level in the States oversee implementation.
- The cities which fall short of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for more than five years are called "Non-attainment cities".

3. NGT on NCAP

- A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said the stand of the MoEF that pollution cannot be controlled except to the extent of certain per cent is directly hit by the Constitutional and statutory mandate.
- Right to clean air stands recognized as part of right to life and failure to address air pollution is denial of right to life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
- The tribunal said the enforcement of 'Sustainable Development' principle and 'Public Trust Doctrine' requires stern measures to be adopted to give effect to the mandate of international obligations for which the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and other laws have been enacted.
- Under the NCAP, target is to achieve norms in 10 years and reduce load to the extent of 35 per cent in first three years with further reduction of pollution later.
- It means for 10 years pollution will remain unaddressed which is too long period of tolerating violations when clean air is right to life. Further, it is not clear what type of pollutants or all pollutants will be reduced the bench observed.
- The tribunal said that NCAP for reduction of air pollution does not fully meet the mandate of sustainable development. Targeted time of reduction of pollution loads needs to be reduced and planned steps need to be sternly implemented on the ground. MoEF may take further action as per law.

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BRICS Innovation Base

1. Why in News?

China is considering establishing a BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) innovation base to strengthen cooperation among the five-country bloc including India in sectors like 5G, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital economy, industry and information technology.

2. BRICS on Cooperation

- China is vigorously promoting the resumption of work across the entire industry chain, and is keen to see more development in new industries such as 5G, AI and the industrial Internet during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Brazil has allowed participation in 5G trials but yet to take a final call.
- Russia has said it would work together with China on 5G and are open to working with Chinese telecommunications firm Huawei, which has been largely banned by the United States.
- In South Africa, Huawei is providing services to three of its telecom operators in the roll-out of their 5G networks.
- India is unlikely to allow Chinese participation in 5G, particularly in the wake of recent moves to tighten investment from China and to ban 224 Chinese apps, citing national security concerns.
- Additionally, aggressive Chinese land-grabbing military misadventures and military provocations have provided enough ground for India to bar China from providing any kind of 5G communication equipment, as for India the national security is of prime importance.

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3. India's 5G Dilemma

- Banning Huawei does not guarantee a secure 5G network.
- China is not thereby removed from the complex global supply chains.
- Chinese companies play an extensive role in making 5G kit even when the primary vendor is not Chinese, for instance the prospective vendors Nokia and Ericsson both have factories in China, and if it wanted to China could infiltrate any vendors' 5G supply chain.
- Regardless of whether a hostile state has component parts in the communication system it can still launch cyber-attacks, and so removing Chinese technology cannot safeguard India from Chinese cyber threat.
- Any decision to exclude Huawei must be accompanied by broader risk-management strategies that recognise that whilst China is prolific in its cyber-attacks, it is just one of many hostile forces that could compromise the integrity of the 5G network.
- Poor network designs that are vulnerable to attack from any hostile actors are a far more pressing concern for Indian security officials than state-sanctioned backdoors.
- The much-awaited Cyber Security Policy 2020 will be critical to strengthening the resilience of India's future 5G network

4. China's AI Domination Plan

- In the backdrop of China's trade and technology rivalry with the US, Xi unveiled his grand ambition of making China a world leader in emerging technologies in 2030, the Chinese government has poured billions of dollars to develop commercial and military applications of AI, 5G, new materials, energy platforms, quantum computing and financial technologies.
- The first part of the plan runs up to 2020 and proposes that China makes progress in developing a "new generation" of AI theory and technology. This will be implemented in some devices and basic software. It will also involve the development of standards, policies, and ethics for AI across the world's second-largest economy.
- In the second step of the plan which is up to 2025, China expects to achieve a "major breakthrough" in AI technology and the application of it, which will lead to "industrial upgrading and economic transformation".
- > The last step, which will happen between 2025 and 2030 sees China become the world leader in AI, with the industry worth 1 trillion yuan.
- India is still tied up in paper-works and drafting policies and understanding potential benefits of AI and trying to devise course curriculums for AI.







Turkey-Greece Stand-off

1. Why in News?

- Turkey and Greece have competing ambitions over gas reserves and they disagree profoundly over who has rights to key areas of the Eastern Mediterranean.
- The two neighbours have seen frequent flare-ups, but this latest spat over gas reserves and maritime rights has prompted fears that tensions could escalate further.



5. Complex Territories

- Many Greek islands in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean are within sight of the Turkish coast, so issues of territorial waters are complex and the two countries have come to the brink of war in the past.
- If Greece were to extend its territorial waters from six miles to the maximum of 12 allowed internationally, Turkey argues its sea routes would be severely affected.
- But apart from territorial waters, there are exclusive economic zones (EEZs) in place, like that agreed between Turkey and Libya, but also like the Cypriot EEZ accords with Lebanon, Egypt and Israel.
- And this latest row also involves continental shelves, which can stretch up to 200 miles from the shore.

2. Competing for Energy

- Turkey and Greece have overlapping claims to areas of gas-rich waters in the Eastern Mediterranean. Greece's position is that each of its islands—and there are thousands of them—is entitled to its own continental shelf with exclusive drilling rights. The European Union (EU) has stood firmly behind Greece and last July sanctioned Turkey for carrying out seismic surveys off the north Cypriot coast. It has repeatedly warned Turkey against carrying out further exploration.
 - Greece has vowed to defend its sovereignty, and the EU, of which Greece is a member, has appealed for dialogue.
- But Turkey said that is an unfair interpretation of international law that unjustly encroaches on its own exclusive economic zone. In recent months, Turkey and Greece have each sought to bolster their territorial claims by drawing up exclusive maritime economic zones with Libya and Egypt, respectively.

3. Flare-up Incidents

- In July, Turkey put out a naval alert known as a Navtex that it was sending its Oruc
 Reis research ship to carry out a drilling survey in waters close to the Greek island of
 Kastellorizo, a short distance from the coast of south-west Turkey.
- Both countries announced military exercises in sections of a broad area between Crete and Cyprus, where the Turkish research vessel Oruc Reis is carrying out seismic research escorted by Turkish warships.
- Greece says the vessel is over its own continental shelf, where it has exclusive rights on potential undersea gas and oil deposits, and has sent its own warships to shadow the Turkish flotilla.
- Turkey is also prospecting for hydrocarbons in waters where Cyprus claims exclusive economic rights.

4. Declining Relations

- The two countries have quarrelled over migrants crossing into Greece.
- Greece was appalled when Turkey decided the Hagia Sophia museum in Istanbul, for centuries an Orthodox Christian cathedral, would be turned back into a mosque.
- After German intervention, there was a commitment to dialogue and calm was apparently restored. But then in early August Greece signed a deal with Egypt to set up a maritime zone that infuriated Turkey. The talks were called off and the Oruc Reis left port on 10 August.
- As Greek and Turkish naval ships shadowed the Oruc Reis, a Turkish frigate collided with a Greek ship and President Erdogan warned: "We will not leave unanswered the slightest attack."

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India's ASTROSAT Telescope

1. Why in News?

- India's first multi-wavelength satellite, which has five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes working in tandem, AstroSat, has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy, called AUDFs01, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- The discovery was made by an international team of astronomers led by Dr. Kanak Saha, at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune and reported in Nature Astronomy. This team includes scientists from India, Switzerland, France, The USA, Japan and The Netherlands.



4. Declining Relations

- AstroSat is India's first multi-wavelength space telescope, which has five telescopes seeing through different wavelengths simultaneously — visible, near UV, far UV, soft X-ray and hard X-ray. It can observe the same target in visible, X-ray, and UV wavelengths together.
- Onboard the AstroSat is a 38-cm wide UltraViolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT), which is capable of imaging in far and near-ultraviolet bands over a wide field of view. This data from the extreme-UV emission from the galaxy was collected by the UVIT instrument.
- AstroSat was launched on 28 September 2015 by ISRO into a near-Earth equatorial orbit.
- It is a multi-institute collaborative project, involving IUCAA, ISRO, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (Bengaluru), and Physical Research Laboratory (Ahmedabad), among others.

2. Mystery of Early Galaxies

- After the Big Bang, the Universe was a hot soup of particles (i.e., protons, neutrons, and electrons). As the universe started to cool, the protons and neutrons began combining into ionized atoms of hydrogen (and eventually some helium).
- These ionized atoms of hydrogen and helium combined with electrons to become neutral atoms — which allowed light to travel freely for the first time, since this light was no longer scattered off free electrons.
- The universe was no longer opaque. But there were no stars, and no galaxies, and the Universe was still dark. A few hundred million years after the big bang, the first stars and galaxies formed and the energy/photons pouring out from them ionized the hydrogen and helium again to protons and electrons. This is era is generally called as the epoch of reionization.
- Astronomers have been looking for sources that reionized the early universe.
- The usual suspects have been the first astronomical objects, especially the newborn small galaxies. But observing ionizing radiation from these sources is next to impossible. But how some of these high energy photons manage to cross all the barriers and reach Earth is a mystery.
- The absorption in the intergalactic medium is so severe that it is impossible to observe ionizing photons in the reionization epoch directly

3. About Discovery

- The team observed the galaxy within the patch of sky called the Hubble eXtreme Deep field (XDF), which itself sits at the centre of the Hubble Ultra Deep Field (HUDF).
- The HUDF is a small area in the constellation of Fornax, created using Hubble Space Telescope data from 2003 and 2004. It contains thousands of galaxies, and became the deepest image of the universe ever taken at the time.
- XDF contains about 5,500 galaxies, including those that go back 13.2 billion years in time, nearly as old as the universe, which is 13.7 billion years old. The youngest galaxy in XDF came into existence barely 450 million years after the Big Bang.
- AstroSat looked at a part of XDF for 28 hours in October of 2016, a feat only space telescopes could perform because the atmosphere absorbs ultraviolet radiation.
- AstroSat/UVIT was able to achieve this unique feat because the background noise in the UVIT detector is much less than the ones on HST (Hubble Space Telescope).
- The purpose of the study was to understand the conditions in the early universe when baby stars and galaxies were starting to form, and understand the conditions under which ionising radiation was produced, after a period called the Cosmic Dark Age.

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



- Q1. With reference to the 'Warli Painting', consider the following statements:
 - The Warlis are an indigenous tribe or Adivasis, living in Mountainous as well as coastal areas of Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas.
 - 2. Warli painting depicts local festivals, life of common folk and village festivities.
 - 3. Elongated limbs with full human portraits are common in Warli painting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. The Warlis are an indigenous tribe or Adivasis, living in Mountainous as well as coastal areas of Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas.

Painted white on mud walls, they are pretty close to pre-historic cave paintings in execution and usually depict scenes of human figures engaged in activities like hunting, dancing, sowing and harvesting. These paintings do not depict mythological characters or images of deities, but depict social life.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Festivals and dances are common scenes depicted in the ritual paintings. People and animals are represented by two inverse triangles joined at their tips: the upper triangle depicts the torso and the lower triangle the pelvis. Denotation of a triangle that is larger at the top, represents a man; and a triangle which is wider at the bottom, represents a woman.

02

Sin Goods and Sin Tax

- Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to the sin tax:
 - 1. Sin goods are goods which consider harmful to society.
 - India imposed a Soda Tax recently, to tackle obesity, on all foods and drinks with high concentrations of the sweetener.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Sin goods are goods which consider harmful to society. Example of sin goods: Alcohol and Tobacco, Candies, Drugs, Soft drinks, Fast foods, Coffee, Sugar, Gambling etc.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Mexico imposed a Soda Tax in 2013 and the UK is now debating a Sugar Tax, to tackle obesity, on all foods and drinks with high concentrations of the sweetener.

Common Electoral Roll

- Q3. With reference to the 'Common Electoral Roll', consider the following statements:
 - 1. Currently, every state is using the Election Commission's voters list, instead of their own, to elect their municipalities and panchayats.
 - 2. The amendment to Articles 243K and 243ZA would make it mandatory to have a single electoral roll for all elections in the country.





Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Currently, a majority of the states use the EC's voters list, instead of their own, to elect their municipalities and panchayats. However, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have their own electoral rolls for local body polls.

Statement 2 is correct. In order to implement Common Electoral Roll two ways are there: First, a constitutional amendment to Articles 243K and 243ZA that gives the power of superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of local body elections to the SECs. The amendment would make it mandatory to have a single electoral roll for all elections in the country. Second, to persuade the state governments to tweak their respective laws and adopt the Election Commission's (EC) voters list for municipal and panchayat polls.

National Clean Air Programme

- Q4. With reference to the National Clean Air Programme, consider the following statements:
 - 1. The objective of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is to reduce air pollution 20-30 per cent by 2030.
 - 2. The nodal ministry for NCAP is the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
 - 3. Right to clean air is a fundamental right in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Central Government has launched NCAP under the Central Sector "Control of Pollution" Scheme as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 % to 30 %

reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. An Apex Committee at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) at the national level, and at the Chief Secretary level in the States oversee implementation.

Right to clean air stands recognized as part of right to life and failure to address air pollution is denial of right to life under Article 21.

05 BRICS Innovation Base

- Q5. With reference to the 'BRICS Innovation Base', consider the following statements:
 - China has proposed BRICS Innovation Base to be set up in China which should focus on 5G, AI and digital economy, industry and information technology.
 - 2. India has allowed participation in 5G trials but yet to take a final call.
 - 3. Like US, Brazil and South Africa has also denied entry to Huawei for 5G trials.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 an 3
- Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. China is considering establishing a BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) innovation base in China to strengthen cooperation among the five-country bloc including India in sectors like 5G, AI and digital economy, industry and information technology.

Statement 2 and 3 are incorrect. India is unlikely to allow Chinese participation in 5G, particularly in the wake of recent moves to tighten investment from China and to ban 224 Chinese apps, citing national security concerns.

Brazil has allowed participation in 5G trials but yet to take a final call. In South Africa, Huawei is providing services to three of its telecom operators in the roll-out of their 5G networks.





06) Turkey-Greece Stand-off

Q6. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Turkey and Greece have overlapping claims to areas of gas-rich waters in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- 2. Both countries are part of the 30-member NATO alliance.

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. Turkey and Greece have overlapping claims to areas of gas-rich waters in the Eastern Mediterranean. Greece's position is that each of its islands—and there are thousands of them—is entitled to its own continental shelf with exclusive drilling rights.

Both countries are, however, part of the 30-member NATO alliance, and Turkey is officially a candidate for full membership of the European Union, of which Greece is a constituent.

07 India's ASTROSAT Telescope

Q7. With reference to the 'AstroSat Telescope', consider the following statements:

- AstroSat is a telescope based project which is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory.
- 2. It has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy, called AUDFs01, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.

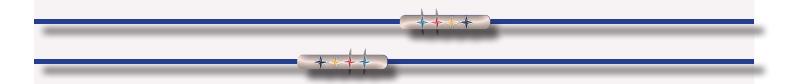
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both the statements are correct. AstroSat is India's first multi-wavelength space telescope, which has five telescopes seeing through different wavelengths simultaneously — visible, near UV, far UV, soft X-ray and hard X-ray. It can observe the same target in visible, X-ray, and UV wavelengths together.

It has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy, called AUDFs01, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. The purpose of the study was to understand the conditions in the early universe when baby stars and galaxies were starting to form, and understand the conditions under which ionising radiation was produced, after a period called the Cosmic Dark Age.







 Recently, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that Chandrayaan-3's launch has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it will be launched early next year instead of the second half of 2020.

Key Highlights

- Chandrayaan-3 will not include an orbiter like the Chandrayaan-2. But, it will include a rover and a lander.
- The tentative launch schedule for Chandrayaan-3 is first half of 2021.
 Chandrayaan-3 mission has been configured based on the lessons learnt from Chandrayaan-2.



Chandrayaan-3

- Following the unsuccessful landing on Moon's south pole, Chandrayaan-2's Vikram Lander crashed last year and its debris was found later on by NASA. Later, officials have confirmed that despite the setback, the orbiter is in working condition and is able to transmit data back to Earth.
- Chandrayaan-1 which was launched in 2008 has transmitted images suggesting Moon may be rusting.
- The sign of this finding is that even though the surface of the Moon is known to have iron-rich rocks, it is not known for the presence of water and oxygen, which are the two elements needed to interact with iron to create rust. This could also be a sign that the Earth's atmosphere is sheltering the Moon as well. Thus, the Chandrayaan-1 Moon data indicates that the Moon's poles are home to water, this is what the scientists are trying to decipher. 000



In a big blow to China, Thailand recently announced it will scrap a Chinese led-KRA canal project under which Beijing wanted to build a bypass to the Strait of Malacca. It also delayed the purchase of two Yuan-class S26T submarines worth \$724 million highlighting China's losing grip on its key allies in Indo-Pacific Region.

Kra Canal Project

What is Kra Canal Project?

The Thai Canal (also known as the Kra Canal) is a proposed canal that would cut across the Malay Peninsula in Southern Thailand. This man-made waterway would connect the Andaman Sea with the Gulf of Thailand, providing a maritime shortcut by rerouting shipping away from the Strait of Malacca. The canal of approximately 120 km would save 1200 km on the current journey via Singapore.

The idea for a Kra Canal was first proposed by Thai King Narai in the 17th century, and the British East India Company showed interest in the early 19th century. The plan has been revisited over the centuries, but the financial and technical challenges involved in



the project have kept it on the proverbial drawing board.

China's Interest

- The KRA canal project could have been a crucial strategic asset for China, allowing the Chinese navy to move freely and quickly between its newly constructed bases in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- Through the project, China could have put an end to the Malacca dilemma by bypassing the Strait of Malacca, a narrow chokepoint



between the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian island of Sumatra that divides the Indian and Pacific Oceans.



First International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was observed on September 7th, 2020. The first celebration will set a precedent for an important and exciting new international day for clean air to be celebrated annually. The observance of this Day was open to the UN member states, UN organisations, international as well as regional organisations and the civil society.

Background

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on December 19, 2019, during its 74th session and invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate the observance of the International Day, in collaboration with other relevant organisations. The resolution stresses the importance of an urgent need to raise public awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality.



Objectives

- Raise public awareness at all levels—individual, community, corporate and government—that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.
- Demonstrate the close link of air quality to other environmental/ developmental challenges such as – most and foremost – climate change and the global Sustainable Development Goals.
- Promote and facilitate solutions that improve air quality by sharing actionable knowledge best practices, innovations, and success stories.
- Bring together diverse international actors working on this topic to form a strategic alliance to gain momentum for concerted national, regional and international approaches for effective air quality management.







First World Solar Technology Summit

 First World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) was organised by International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI) on 8th September.

Key Highlights

- It aims to bring together key stakeholders - leading academic scientists, technology developers, researchers and innovators to present and discuss the recent highlights of solar technologies, cost-wise; technology-wise, technology transfers, challenges and concerns in the field.
- The main objective of WSTS is to showcase to member countries the state of the art and next-generation solar technologies worldwide and to give an opportunity to decisionmakers and stakeholders to meet, and discuss their own priorities and strategic agenda towards a larger integration.

- The virtual summit brought
 together 26,000 participants from
 153 countries to discuss recent
 developments and issues of
 technology transfers and barriers
 in the solar energy sector.
- The conference saw ISA signing four agreements, signalling its intent to focus on key areas of the solar energy sector.
- First, a partnership agreement between the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy, the World Bank and ISA on One World, One Sun, One Grid.
- Second, a partnership between the Global Green Growth Institute and ISA on the promotion of a million solar pumps.
- Third, a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Institute for Refrigeration, Paris and ISA.
- Finally, partnership agreements on the implementation of 47 projects between ISA and NTPC.

 ISA also launched its technology journal, 'Solar Compass 360'.

About ISA

The International Solar Alliance ٠ (ISA) is a treaty-based international intergovernmental organization. ISA was jointly launched by India and France in the presence of Secretary General of the UN during CoP21. The Paris Declaration establishes ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its Member Countries. The major objectives of the organization include deployment of 1000 GW of solar capacity and mobilization of US\$ 1000 billion of investment in solar energy sector by 2030. As on June 26 2020, the ISA Framework Agreement has been signed by 86 countries, with 68 having also deposited instruments of ratification. The ISA is headquartered at Gurugram in Haryana, India. 000



National Bamboo Mission

 Recently, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj has inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in 9 States (Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka).

Key Highlights

 A logo for the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was also released.
 The logo portrays a bamboo culm in the center of a circle composed of half an industrial wheel and half farmers, depicting the objectives of NBM appropriately. The green and yellow colour of the logo symbolise bamboo often termed as green gold.

- The government has always strived that local industries should be protected and makes progress so that local artisans get a source of livelihood.
- The Government's goal in the bamboo sector is being achieved with the concerted efforts of all

stakeholders of the Bamboo Mission. Keeping in consideration the importance of bamboo, the Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in the year 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees, as a result now anyone can undertake cultivation and business in bamboo and its products. Import policy has also been modified to ensure progress of the bamboo industry in the country.







 The bamboo ecosystem has been energized with 23 States being assisted, including all the 8 States of North East. 10 most important species which are required by industry have been identified and quality planting material is being made available to farmers for plantations. Assam has already engaged farmer producer organization (FPOs) for raising plantations.

About NBM

The restructured National Bamboo Mission was launched in 2018-19 for holistic development of the complete value chain of the sector. The Mission is being implemented in a hub (industry) and spoke model, with the main goal of connecting farmers to markets so as to enable farmer producers to get a ready market for the bamboo grown and to increase supply of appropriate raw material to domestic industry. The Mission was launched as a natural corollary of the historic amendment of the Indian Forest Act in 2017, removing bamboo from the definition of trees, hence bamboo grown outside forests no longer need felling and transit permissions. 000



Action Plan 2020-21 of all Schemes of Department of Social Justice & Empowerment

 For the first time Department of Social Justice & Empowerment has released a comprehensive 33 Annual Action Plan 2020-21 for each of the Schemes with an objective to give clear targets and milestones for Central Ministry, the participating State Governments and NGOs.

Schemes of the Department Of Social Justice & Empowerment

- Free Coaching for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes & Top Class Education for Schedules Castes :
- Revised the income limits for eligibility of Assistance under the Top Class Education Scholarship Scheme for SCs, Free Coaching

Scheme for SCs and OBCs, and National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SCs etc. from Rs.6.00 Lakh to Rs.8.00 Lakh per annum.

- New mode of implementation has been introduced in the Free Coaching Scheme under which eligible SCs and OBCs students can obtain assistance for undertaking coaching in institute of their choice.
- The Top Class Scheme has been expanded from 1500 seats to 4200 seats per annum. Top institutions like IITs/NITs/Top NIRF ranked institutions have been added.
- The scheme for National Overseas Scholarship for SCs has been revised for the students who have taken admission in reputed (Top 1000) Global institutions.

Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

 3584 more SC majority villages have been taken up under PMAGY for integrated development taking the total to 13199 villages.

National Action Plan On Drug Demand Reduction

 Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan has been launched in 272 Districts most affected in substance use. This Abhiyan has been launched on 15th August, 2020 and will continue upto 31st March 2021.

Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars

 A project for comprehensive rehabilitation of people engaged in the Act of begging has been taken up by the Ministry. This project would be run in 10 pilot cities i.e.



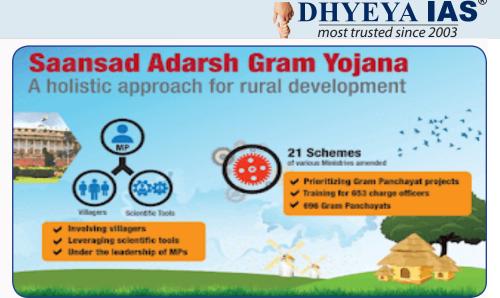
Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Patna, Nagpur and Indore. These 10 pilots will be done in the year 2020-21.

National Action Plan for Senior Citizens

- At least one Senior Citizen Home in each District will be ensured in this year.
- National Action Plan for Senior Citizen amended and incorporated.
- Self Help Groups for Senior Citizens-Day Care Centre restored.
- Setting up a National Helpline for Senior Citizens during the Year which would link Centre, State Governments, District Administrations and NGOs for resolving Grievances of the elders.
- Proposal for setting up for National Helpline for Senior Citizens is under active consideration and shall be made functional during the year.

National Safai Karamcharis Finance - Development Corporation

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) has launched a new scheme with a view to promote mechanized cleaning and to minimize the incidents of Manual Hazardous cleaning to providing financial assistance to its target group for procurement and operation of mechanized cleaning equipment under its Swachhta Udyami Yojna (SUY) with a provision of 50% capital subsidy for equipment costing upto Rs.5 Lakh.



Strengthening of Machinary for Visvas Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 and Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989

 Setting up a National Helpline against atrocities on members of SCs/STs with Web based self-service portal for generation of awareness and effective implementation of the PCR Act, 1955 and the POA Act, 1989.

Post Matric Scholarship for SCs

- It is proposed to cover additional 10 lakh students under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs during 2020-21.
- A central database covering all beneficiaries under the Scheme will be developed.

Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes

- State Action Plan has been made mandatory for smooth release of funds from the Centre.
- It is proposed to increase beneficiaries by 35 lakhs.

"Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta Yojana (VISVAS Yojana)" is for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and OBC Self Help Groups/Individual member with annual family income uptoRs. 3 Lakh.

- Under the scheme SC and OBC Self Help Groups and Individuals will be able to avail Interest Subvention on bank loans at 5%. VISVAS Yojana will be implemented by the apex corporation of MoSJ&E i.e. National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).
- The scheme will significantly help to expand the outreach to OBC and SC members and reduce interest burden in these times of pandemic.



Doorstep Banking Services and EASE 2.0 Index Results

 Recently, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and declared the result of EASE Banking Reform 2.0 Index.

Doorstep Banking Services by PSBs

◆ As part of the EASE Reforms,

Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their door step through the universal touch points DHYEYA A most trusted since 2003

Top 3 banks in each theme

Top 3 banks for EASE 2.0 Index • Bank of Baroda • State Bank of India	Theme 1: Responsible Banking • Bank of Baroda • State Bank of India • Punjab National Bank	Theme 4: UdyamiWitra for MSWEs Oriental Bank of Commerce State Bank of India Union Bank of India
Oriental Bank of Commerce Top 3 banks in improvement from March baseline	Theme 2: Customer Responsiveness • State Bank of India • Oriental Bank of Commerce • Bank of Baroda	Theme 5: Deepening FI & Digitalisation Bank of Baroda Canara Bank Punjab National Bank
 Bank of Maharashtra Central Bank of India Corporation Bank 	Theme 3: Credit Off-take Oriental Bank of Commerce Union Bank of India State Bank of India 	Theme 6: Governance and HR • State Bank of India • Bank of Baroda • Punjab National Bank

of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App. Customers can also track their service request through these channels.

- The services shall be rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 centres across the country.
- At present only non-financial services viz. Pick up of negotiable instruments (cheque / demand draft / pay order, etc.), Pick up new cheque book requisition slip, Pick up of 15G / 15H forms, Pick up of IT / GST challan, Issue request for standing instructions, Request for account statement, Delivery non-personalised of cheque book, demand draft, pay order, Delivery of term deposit receipt, acknowledgement, etc., Delivery of TDS / Form 16 certificate issuance, Delivery of pre-paid instrument /

gift card are available to customers. Financial services shall be made available from October 2020.

 The services can be availed by customers of Public Sector Banks at nominal charges. The services shall benefit all customers, particularly Senior Citizens and Divyangs who would find it at ease to avail these services.

Performance of PSBs on EASE 2.0 Index

 A common reform agenda for PSBs, EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking. It was launched in January 2018, and the subsequent edition of the program — EASE 2.0 built on the foundation laid in EASE 1.0 and furthered the progress on reforms. Reform Action Points in EASE



2.0 aimed at making the reforms journey irreversible, strengthening processes and systems, and driving outcomes.

Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce were felicitated for being the top three (in that order) in the 'Top Performing Banks' category according to the EASE 2.0 Index Results. Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India &erstwhile Corporation Bank were awarded in the 'Top Improvers' category basis EASE 2.0 Index. Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Canara Bank were also recognized for outstanding performance in select themes.

EASE 3.0 Reforms Agenda

- The government has recently unveiled EASE 3.0, the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 2020-21 for smart, tech-enabled banking. EASE 3.0 seeks to enhance ease of banking in all customer experiences, using technology, alternate data and analytics.
- Dial-a-loan for doorstep loan facilitation, Credit@click for end-to-end digitalised lending, on-the-spot EASE Banking Outlets at well-frequented places like malls and stations, palm banking, digitalised branch experience, analytics-based instant credit offers, cash-flow-based credit and tech-enabled agriculture lending are part of a wide array of tech-enabled ease enhancements that PSBs would effect during FY2020-21.

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)





Discuss how cancelling 'Question Hour'will erode constitutional mandate of parliamentary oversight over executive. Also discuss the importance of 'Question Hour'.



What is China's 'Hybrid warfare'? Discuss how new weapons in this war closely linked to the lives of the common people of India.



To contribute towards the holistic nourishment of children and a malnutrition free India by 2030, the government needs to address the multi-dimensional determinants of malnutrition on an urgent basis. Elaborate.



India needs new, transformative decisions and interventions to transform the overall health services. Comment.



"Consolidation of land holdings has been uneven across states." Discuss it in the context of necessity of land reforms in India.



Distinguish between "Code of ethics" and "Code of conduct" with suitable examples.



"In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." – Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.





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IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)





AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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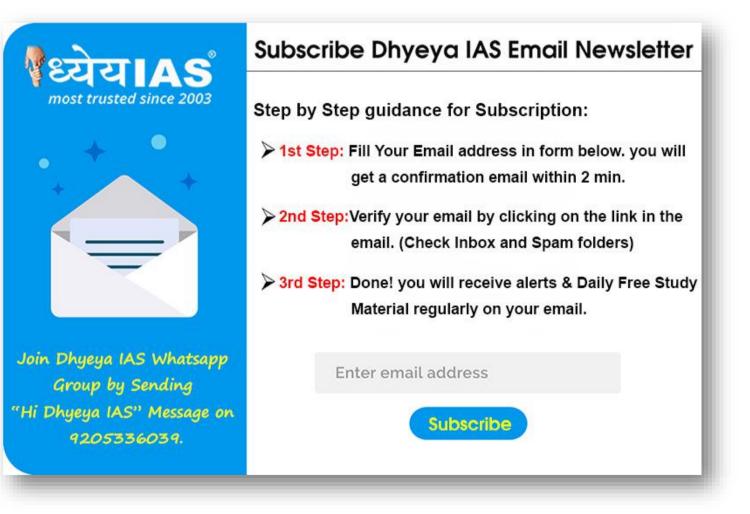


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