

PERFECT 7

**Weekly
Current Affairs**

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS



1 Education for All

By Leveraging Digital Technologies

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | State Specific Industrialisation Plan to Improve Manufacturing | 5 | Issues in GST Compensation and Proposed Options |
| 3 | Indian Healthcare Sector and Digital Solutions | 6 | Export Preparedness Index 2020 : An Introduction |
| 4 | Monsoon Session of Parliament : Without Question Hour | 7 | Adopting Micro Irrigation : Need of the Hour |

DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

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

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



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

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

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

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

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



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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



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

 9990772422

PREFACE



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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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

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

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7

Weekly Current Affairs

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS
September 2020 | ISSUE 03

OUR TEAM

Founder & CEO	➤ Vinay Kumar Singh
Managing Director	➤ Q. H. Khan
Chief Editor	➤ Qurban Ali
Managing Editor	➤ Ashutosh Singh
Editors	➤ Omveer Singh Chaudhary ➤ Rajat Jhingan ➤ Jeet Singh ➤ Avaneesh Pandey
Editorial Support	➤ Prof. R. Kumar
Lead Authors	➤ Swati Yadav ➤ Anshuman Tiwari ➤ Ajay Singh ➤ Ahamad Ali
Authors	➤ Ashraf Ali ➤ Girraj Singh ➤ Hariom Singh ➤ Sneha Tiwari
Reviewers	➤ Ranjeet Singh ➤ Ramyash Agnihotri
Design & Development	➤ Sanjeev Kumar Jha ➤ Punish Jain
Promotion & Advertisement	➤ Gufran Khan ➤ Rahul Kumar
Graphics	➤ Krishna Kumar ➤ Krishna Kant Mandal ➤ Mukund Patel
Office Assistants	➤ Hari Ram ➤ Raju Yadav

Content Office



DHYEYA IAS®
most trusted since 2003

DHYEYA IAS
302, A-10/11, Bhandari House,
Near Chawla Restaurants,
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar,
Delhi-110009



Contents

➤ 7 Important Issues & Subjective Questions Based on Them	01-21
➤ Education for All : By Leveraging Digital Technologies	
➤ State Specific Industrialisation Plan to Improve Manufacturing	
➤ Indian Healthcare Sector and Digital Solutions	
➤ Monsoon Session of Parliament : Without Question Hour	
➤ Issues in GST Compensation and Proposed Options	
➤ Export Preparedness Index 2020 : An Introduction	
➤ Adopting Micro Irrigation : Need of the Hour	
➤ 7 Important Brain Boosters	22-28
➤ 7 Important MCQs (based on Brain Boosters)	29-31
➤ 7 Important News	32-37
➤ 7 Important Practice Questions (for Mains)	38
➤ 7 Important Facts (for Prelims)	39
➤ 7 Important Quotes (for Essay and Answer Writing)	40

OUR OTHER INITIATIVES



Hindi & English
Current Affairs
Monthly
News Paper



DHYEYA TV
Current Affairs Programmes hosted
by Mr. Qurban Ali
(Ex. Editor Rajya Sabha, TV) & by Team Dhyeya IAS
(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

7 IMPORTANT ISSUES

01

Education for All : By Leveraging Digital Technologies

Why in News?

- ◆ A key aspect of coping with COVID-19 is to ensure that the learning remains a continuous process virtually. Connecting students and teachers through digital platforms and necessary software through the use of laptop or phones is the latest transition in education trying to eradicate the physical need of teachers or classrooms.
- ◆ This is an ideal time to accept technology and its latest offerings in order to make education delivery to students more efficient and make it more productive through online learning and assessments.

Introduction

- ◆ With the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, over 90 percent of the learners world-over and 250 million students in India have been impacted. Governments are leveraging online platforms to facilitate e-learning, while also coming up with solutions like alternative academic calendars to make up for the loss of school hours.



- ◆ This marks a rare inflection point, where the entire system is being forced to recalibrate its actions and delivery channels.
- ◆ COVID-19 has disrupted all aspects of life. However, it also provides an opportunity to ponder and prepare for the future.
- ◆ In the past decade, through schemes like Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), the government has focused on enabling ICT-based education, by ensuring access to hardware and promoting digital literacy. Through recent initiatives like National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) and e-Pathshala, the government has actively promoted the use of media in learning.
- ◆ India's Education, with a 5000 year-old history, has incorporated many changes into the teaching approaches because of the pandemic.
- ◆ The one thing that has not changed is the intent of the teachers to share their wisdom, enlighten the students with relevant lessons, ignite their

tender minds and unleash their quest for knowledge.

- ♦ As the pandemic begs for a paradigm shift, the government's efforts can be oriented towards leveraging scalable and flexible digital infrastructures to empower key stakeholders at every level. For this, technology needs to be effectively channelised towards three critical levers: equitable access to learning, delivery of learning, and administrative efficiency.

Ground Level Needs

- ♦ Government school students face a huge gap in access to high-quality learning content and digital infrastructure.
- ♦ High number of teacher vacancies, poor quality of teacher training, and heterogenous learning levels of students have only exacerbated the problem.
- ♦ Through providing internet accessibility in remote regions, accelerating affordable smart phone ownership, and strengthening supply of contextualised and engaging content directly to students, many of these problems can be addressed.
- ♦ In the past, the role of parental involvement in student learning has been minimal. This pandemic has put the onus on parents to ensure that learning continues at home, for which parents may not be adequately equipped.
- ♦ With access to a smart phone and internet, they now have an opportunity to access free

digital content offered by multiple platforms, and help children be engaged and use their time productively. For instance, DIKSHA, a platform by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, provides free vernacular content, backed by low bandwidth capability and strong offline functionality.

Changes brought by Teachers

- ♦ Many are using augmented reality to impart lessons. For example, a village of Kerala experimented with Augmented Reality to impart lessons in Science and Social Studies during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ♦ Teachers who had shaped lives with chalks and pens in school were patiently delivering the discourse through digital platforms, as seamlessly as possible.
- ♦ The pandemic has been a great opportunity to spread the boon of education far and wide with minimal resources. However, this is also the time to prepare for the future battles so that they can be won with the right combination of attitude, talent and technology.
- ♦ Teachers might require extensive support and upskilling in areas like instructional design, research, and ICT tools.
- ♦ State Councils of Educational Research & Training (SCERTs) and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIETs) can focus on strengthening training modules, and modes of delivery and assessment.

- ♦ Widely acknowledged frameworks like CANTA standards, for instance, can be digitised and used to design and inform teacher training. By standardising these modules and optimising resource-sharing through cloud storage, the quality of digital training and collaboration systems between networks of SCERTs and DIETs across the country can be strengthened.

Bringing the Change

Change can be achieved through the following ways-

- ♦ By re-assessing our education strategy
 - ♦ We need to re-assess our education strategy to maximise the potential of our large talent trove.
 - ♦ The current crisis has enabled universities and schools to think and act differently – they are turning to digital technologies to find sustainable, long-term solutions to not just deliver lessons to students, but also to train teachers to become better educators.
 - ♦ Debunking the 'One size fits all' approach could be another step towards mobilising India's youth population by offering them customised learning courses that are tailored to complement their capabilities, skill sets and employability needs.
 - ♦ In addition to hard skills, more emphasis should be given to cognitive and soft skills, as part

of an integrated discovery-led approach across disciplines.

- ♦ A transdisciplinary learning approach will help in building resilience and improving adaptability – skills that are proving to be essential to navigate through life.
- ♦ By leveraging digital technologies to deliver the promise of 'Education for All'
 - ♦ The COVID-19 crisis has clearly demonstrated how technology can be harnessed to enable remote learning for students across all age groups.
 - ♦ Education industry has also been hugely impacted by the recent spurt of tech innovations. Smart phones and internet have already made worthy contributions in taking education far and wide with the click of a few buttons.
 - ♦ Digital is a horizontal which impacts all verticals and knows no boundaries.
 - ♦ Emergence of technologies like big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence has brought rapid industry changes at a global level. This changing landscape calls for multidisciplinary learning, collaborative research and

knowledge of digital to enable seamless collaboration.

- ♦ Co-learn, co-create and co-innovate to reshape the education landscape
 - ♦ Learning is a multidimensional process which requires a collaborative approach from students, parents as well as teachers.
 - ♦ Peer-to-peer, peer-to-teacher and group discussions are some great ways to foster learning over digital platforms
 - ♦ Reverse mentoring is a creative way to bridge the gap in education between generations.
 - ♦ Using 3D Visualizations, simulations, prototyping and AR/VR based trainings can be used to strengthen technology skilling which is imperative in moving forward.

Way Forward

- ♦ Needless to say, the pandemic has transformed the centuries-old, chalk-talk teaching model to one driven by technology. This disruption in the delivery of education is pushing policymakers to figure out how to drive engagement at scale while ensuring inclusive e-learning

solutions and tackling the digital divide.

- ♦ Unprecedented times are also opportune moments to propel structural transformations in the existing way of doing things. Limitations that the outbreak poses and the consequent democratising power that technology has, could make learning more inclusive and accessible. However, this requires positive intent and action on the part of all the stakeholders involved, especially the public education system, to undertake institutional reforms to ensure continuous and efficient delivery of education to all. 

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Topic:

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

Q. This is an ideal time to accept technology and its latest offerings in order to make delivery of education to all. Discuss.

02

State Specific Industrialisation Plan to Improve Manufacturing

Why in News?

- ◆ India's role post-COVID-19, particularly in the industrial sector, is a subject of great interest, hope and speculation to the rest of the world. Many believe India will emerge as one of the preferred centres for manufactured products vis-a-vis China, if not the foremost choice.
- ◆ Both centre and states in India need to work in clockwork coordination to make best of the opportunity of major global shift in supply chains.

Background

- ◆ COVID-19 has exposed the vulnerabilities in having a China centric global supply chain and as the world battles to contain the contagion, efforts are underway to de-risk the supply chain by exploring available alternates and India is seemingly right at the centre of reckoning.
- ◆ Thousands of foreign companies are considering moving their manufacturing base from China to India. About 300 of these companies from sectors such as mobiles, electronics, medical devices, textiles and synthetic fabric, are actively pursuing plans of setting up manufacturing in India.
- ◆ Main reasons that has led the world to shift supply lines from China are:

- ◆ Relying heavily on China for building capacities and sourcing manufacturing goods is not an ideal business strategy due to supply chain disruptions in the country caused by COVID-19.
- ◆ Fear of Chinese dominance over the supply of essential industrial goods.
- ◆ Growing risk and uncertainty involved in operating from or dealing with China in the light of geopolitical and trade conflicts between China and other countries, particularly the US.
- ◆ South Korean and Japanese firms have evinced interest in migrating towards production-conducive economies like India, Vietnam and Thailand.
- ◆ Cambodia, Indonesia and Bangladesh have upped their game as suitable manufacturing hubs. Vietnam invested in transport infrastructure and special economic zones to offer manufacturers access to the ASEAN free trade area and preferential trade pacts with countries throughout Asia, the EU and the US.

Changing Paradigm

- ◆ is a big exporter of rice, tea, meat, milk products, honey, horticultural and organic products, which will have to overcome the Covid challenge. Pre-Covid, the Centre identified 21 agricultural products, including

honey, potatoes, grapes, soybean and groundnut, which India could export, taking advantage of the trade restrictions against Chinese goods.

- ◆ Post-Covid, countries are looking towards India for processed food, marine produce, meat, fruits and vegetables, tea, rice and other cereals as they are apprehensive to import edible products from China. An amendment in the Essential Commodities Act will not only enable better price realisation for farmers in respect of edible oils, oilseeds, pulses, onions, potatoes and cereals, but will also help exporters to stock for timely delivery. India is all set to be the world leader in marine exports and the current downfall is very temporary.
- ◆ When it comes to textiles, however, India has not been able to stand its ground in the export market. In 2000, its share in the global exports of clothing was 3%, while Bangladesh and Vietnam had relatively lower shares. However, in 2018, while Bangladesh and Vietnam had increased their shares to 6.4% and 6.2%, respectively, India's share increased to only 5.8%.
- ◆ India is projected to lose market share to Bangladesh and Vietnam for readymade garment exports to the EU because of lower competitiveness, as Bangladesh has duty-free access to the EU. India's apparel exports comprise

mainly of cotton garments (51%), with man-made fibre (MMF) accounting for around 28%. India needs to diversify its fibre base, as global consumption is diversified and MMF holds a much larger share as compared to cotton.

- ◆ The pharma sector is not self-reliant and is largely dependent on 60-70% of China's bulk drugs.
- ◆ India lags far behind China in manufacturing prowess. China ranks first in contribution to world manufacturing output, while India ranks sixth. Against India's target of pulling up the share of manufacturing in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 25% by 2022, its share stood at 15% in 2018, only half of China's figure.
- ◆ Industry value added grew at an average annual rate of 10.68% since China opened up its economy in 1978. In contrast, against the target of 12%, the manufacturing sector has grown at 7% after India opened up its economy. Next to the European Union, China was the largest exporter of manufactured goods in 2018, with an 18% world share. India is not part of the top 10 exporters who accounted for 83% of world manufacturing exports in 2018.
- ◆ This contrasting trend is not surprising because compared to China, India faces numerous constraints in promoting the manufacturing sector. They chiefly include infrastructure constraints, a disadvantageous tax policy environment, a non-conducive regulatory environment, high cost

of industrial credit, poor quality of the workforce, rigid labour laws, restrictive trade policies, low R&D expenditure, delays and constraints in land acquisition, and the inability to attract large-scale foreign direct investment into the manufacturing sector. Unless these challenges are addressed, the dream of making India a manufacturing powerhouse rivalling China would be difficult to realise.

India's Inherent Advantages

- ◆ India's expanding economy and robust middle class provides a lucrative market.
- ◆ Abundant skilled and semi-skilled labour adds to the country's ability to support bulk manufacturing, assembly, and processing.
- ◆ India's overlooked eastern coast is strategically placed to connect with Asia-Pacific markets, an advantage to optimize supply chains and minimize transportation costs.
- ◆ India's cost advantages come alongside its democratic fabric, with an emphasis on transparency and rules-based international order.

Industrialising the States

- ◆ Being a federal setup, cooperative federalism is the only way where centre and states coordinating to provide sustainable solutions to the manufacturing constraints. A clockwork policy coordination is the need of the hour.
- ◆ Land is one of the important requirements for manufacturing.

Thus, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are seen as the major contributors to manufacturing output as these states have bounty in-terms of geographical areas.

- ◆ But in contrast some states being largest in terms of size do not contribute to manufacturing GSDP in proportion to their size, case in point is Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana and West Bengal.
- ◆ These big states need can be leveraged and their resources well channelised by 'state specific industrialisation' strategies which must be implemented in mission mode with active guidance and support from central government.
- ◆ Overall policy changes improving investments, jobs, economic growth and ease of doing business in much needed.

Competition from Other Destinations

- ◆ Countries like Ethiopia and Kenya have sector-specific skills imparted to labour and have created world-class infrastructure to attract foreign investors to start production in a week's time. The investor has many choices. Countries like Vietnam are proactive in approach and notify an officer to provide statutory clearances and authorisation for every investment in the country
- ◆ Vietnam offers cheap labour, but its 100-million population is

small compared to China's 1.3 billion, and its roads and ports are already clogged. India has the manpower, but skill levels fall short and government rules are relatively restrictive. The US-China tariff war has given India an opportunity to ramp up market access in commodities like steel and cotton.

- ◆ Another country which has profited a lot from China's manufacturing slump (especially over the last two years) has been Mexico. It is worth highlighting that Mexico also possesses a distinct advantage of its proximity to the US which is still the world's largest economy.

Measures for India

- ◆ In the near term, the government should announce eye-catching schemes to invite companies to manufacture in India's eastern coast (West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu) and traditional manufacturing clusters.
- ◆ Government should establish effective communication through business-friendly channels to convey easy availability of land in mega special economic zones (SEZs), ready-to-move-in facilities, sector-specific business-friendly regulations, a simple labour code, tax breaks, and other

incentives aimed at bringing its manufacturing competitiveness on par with the most competitive destinations in Asia.

- ◆ India should aim at targeting low-hanging fruits in the next six-to-eight months, winning major investment deals in sectors where the economy has domestic supply chains.
- ◆ Moving up the value chain is far easier when there is an underlying ecosystem. Targets could include pharmaceuticals, mobile phones, machinery, and other sectors where there is a robust network of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- ◆ Special emphasis on India's commercial diplomacy, expanding diplomatic strength in key missions to engage business leaders with increased vigour.

Way Forward

- ◆ Post Covid norm will be much different that what existed before. The policies of the past are redundant and new approached are needed to be taken. Companies shifting from China will not automatically fall into India's lap unless and until India has something to offer better than Vietnam, Mexico, Bangladesh and other African competitors.

- ◆ India being a federal setup needs a proper coordination between centre and the states. Centre can only make policies but it is the states where implementation and ground work has to take place. Thus, firstly centre should not follow one size fits all approach and address each state as per the need and secondly, states should also coordinate centre as this opportunity of shifting global supply chains happens rarely in history.



General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

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

Q. Both Union and State governments need to work in tandem if India is serious in attracting manufacturing firms from China to India in post-Covid economic scenario. Industrialisation needs to be spread across various states than in a few clusters. Discuss.

03

Indian Healthcare Sector and Digital Solutions

Why in News?

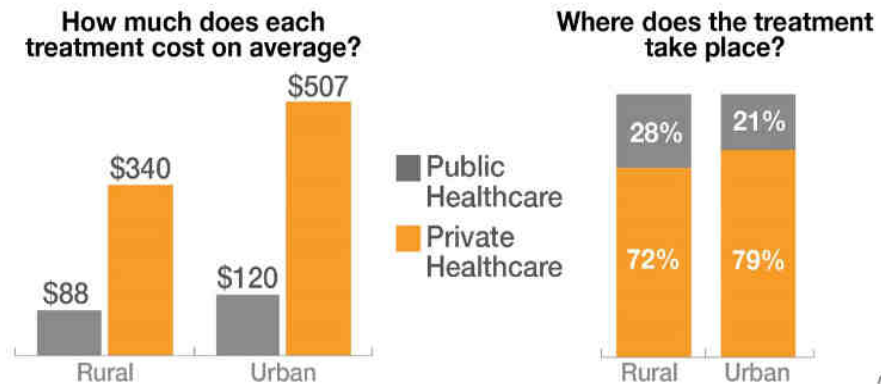
- ◆ The Indian healthcare system has evolved much over the last decade, owing to the adoption of new technologies as well as systemic changes and emphasis on service quality. However, healthcare standards are neither uniform nor inclusive across the country.
- ◆ Digital solutions can remove longstanding problems of Indian medical systems such as accessibility, even affordability. But basic systems must be in place.

Introduction

- ◆ Advanced and specialised healthcare is still a privilege for rural India, which makes up about two-thirds of our population. Only 13% of the people in rural India have access to a primary health centre, 33% to a sub-center and 9.6% to a hospital.
- ◆ The digital transformation of health services has been projected as an important process which will profoundly affect the various phases of healthcare delivery, including health promotion, prevention, primary care and specialised care. But India's public health system is still in its developing stage and the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the flaws in our existing health system.

Public vs private healthcare

Private healthcare in India costs about four times more than the public sector, yet majority of all cases are treated by the private sector.



- ◆ The government of India has launched National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), an ambitious project that's been two years in the making. The aim of the NDHM is to provide everyone in India with a unique national health ID that contains all their health records in a digital format. It will contain details of illnesses, treatments, hospital stays and discharges, along with any tests the person has had since birth to the present day. Both users and healthcare professionals will be able to view these records.

- ◆ Although it is not compulsory, the government is hoping the scheme will attract a large proportion of India's 1.35 billion populations. Those who don't wish to sign up will not be excluded from receiving treatment however.

- ◆ While the initiative has been widely welcomed, experts have emphasised that the privacy of people's health data is vital.

Measures to safeguard this include blockchain technology to ensure records are encrypted, consent when accessing and storing records, anonymising personal data and ensuring data stored in the cloud is secure from hackers.

- ◆ In May this year, India had tabled a resolution at World Health Organisation (WHO) for mHealth, which was supported by over 30 nations. This clearly signals India's intent to be a global leader in digital health.
- ◆ Digital health has the potential to revolutionize how populations interact with national health services and also strengthen health systems. India is now embarking on a futuristic journey to bridge the healthcare divide between have's and have-nots using digital health tools.

Emerging Platforms

- ◆ Platforms across the country are coming up with innovative options

using technology to help such patients get access to medical advice and care amid the lockdown.

- ♦ The government is advising hospitals to postpone elective surgeries (scheduled in advance and that do not involve an emergency) and other treatments to focus just on the pandemic. Where does that leave non-Covid patients who cannot step out of their homes during this crisis?
- ♦ Many innovative options are emerging across the world and in India mostly using technology to bridge this gap.
- ♦ In order to provide a proper framework to deliver healthcare services remotely, via phone or online, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with NITI Aayog, released the official guidelines for telemedicine practices in the country. The guidelines focus on important telemedicine practices, the data privacy and confidentiality of patients and documentation of the consultation.

Challenges and Solutions

- ♦ The COVID-19 crisis has made the cracks in the system appear more prominent. New challenges are emerging every day – it, therefore, becomes crucial to revisit the problems and chart out a plan to fix them.
- ♦ Awareness
 - ♦ Low health awareness can be attributed to poor education or functional literacy, as well as inadequate emphasis at different levels. However, regional efforts to enhance awareness have generally shown promising results.
 - ♦ For instance, behavioural change interventions in Bihar and Jharkhand resulted in improved awareness about abortion.
 - ♦ The power of education cannot be undermined, and efforts should be made, both on a personal and CSR level, to sensitise people on health

issues and promote healthy/safe behaviour.

- ♦ Accessibility
 - ♦ Accessibility to quality healthcare among the rural population is another major challenge. For some, travelling to a distant hospital for treatment means losing out on daily wages, and is put off until serious complications arise.
 - ♦ A lack of accessibility to healthcare negatively affects health-seeking behaviour and has a delayed but more severe impact on the country's healthcare burden.
 - ♦ It is important to identify and analyse barriers to access — geographical, financial, social and systemic — and sensitise people so that long-term action is taken to remove them.
 - ♦ Not only do doctors, nurses, medical and technical staff need to be trained, skilled and equipped, but their services have to be equitably distributed across regions.
 - ♦ Remote and rural areas are especially plagued with staff shortages.
- ♦ Data Leakage
 - ♦ How long would the system protect its data of many millions getting stored in the decentralised system holding transferable data? Informed consent may mean nothing to a patient or relatives even in normal times let alone in a time of medical emergency. Even highly educated and rational

Corona Data Hack

- The website of the Delhi State Health Mission (dshm.delhi.gov.in) had been taken down temporarily in June 2020 after a group of hackers exposed its vulnerability. They hacked the website and accessed personal data of more than 80,000 COVID-19 patients in Delhi.
- The hacker group which claimed the responsibility stated that, the hack was done to show the government, its ineffective data protection infrastructure.
- Group claimed that it hacked the server within 10 minutes and "We were appalled to witness sensitive data stored in these servers without any security. The accessed data contain COVID-19 patients' name, address, phone number, COVID-19 test result, quarantine surveillance data, airport data, passport details, hospital data, etc."
- The group also exposed that, "A hacker can edit, manipulate as well as misuse these data to make profits. The consequences can be the downfall of the entire Indian security. For instance, manipulating these data will cause miscalculations, and inaccuracy in tracking COVID-19."

people agree to part with their contacts, photographs and other data to avail nominal or momentary benefits offered by some smart mobile apps. Informed consent is too much of a luxury for the vulnerable and a poor defence against data leakage.

- ◆ Among independent practitioners in allopathic and the Indian systems of medicine who run small dispensaries especially in rural areas, there is no practice of even storing patient data on computers. It is largely based on mutual trust and personal memory. For most of them, it is not a feasible option to enter data in computers on their own or engage data entry operators merely to comply with the digitisation protocols.
- ◆ **Cost Effectiveness**
 - ◆ The healthcare sector needs to be cost conscious — expenditure on unnecessary tests and procedures must be eliminated.
 - ◆ Clear demarcation of processes and procedures are essential to ensure accountability.
 - ◆ The problem can be solved by cultivating communicative and responsible culture, clarifying expectations and identifying the many other sectors, digital innovation can play a huge role in overcoming challenges in the healthcare sector.
- ◆ **Availability**
 - ◆ On-demand health services, for instance, allow organisations to link doctors to patients via the in-person, web (website or app) or phone mediums.
 - ◆ Patients can search for specialists based on their expertise and schedule to book appointments.
 - ◆ Online patient portals also provide medical test results, diagnosis and give patients detailed explanations of their illnesses, saving doctors precious time.
 - ◆ Devices like health rate monitors, exercise and activity trackers and sweat meters allow people to keep track of some aspects of their health without having to visit a doctor. The use of such devices can help flag irregularities at an early stage.
- ◆ **Quality of Care**
 - ◆ A shortage of qualified general physicians in India has resulted in crowded waiting rooms, short visits and a chance for spreading infection. These factors eventually snowball into lack of comprehensive medical records of the patients, wrong prognosis and prolonged illness.
- ◆ **Use of Advanced Technology**
 - ◆ Other applications of technology in healthcare range from drone

delivery of life-saving medicines, blood components or devices to inaccessible areas to remotely conducted robotic surgeries and even use of augmented reality (AR) glasses that could allow first responders to connect with faraway specialists in a matter of seconds.

Way Forward

- ◆ Depending on the pace of digital adoption, these services could resolve issues of accessibility, absence, and possibly even affordability, in the long-term. However, it cannot be overstated that solving basic healthcare challenges is crucial for ensuring universal health coverage in a manner that is equitable, fair and transparent. 

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Topic:

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

Q. Online healthcare though has the ability to reduce the limitations of time, cost and distance, but it comes with its own set of challenges. Comment.

04 Monsoon Session of Parliament : Without Question Hour

Why in News?

- ♦ The decision to go without "Question Hour" during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, beginning September 14, has evoked serious concerns about the democratic functioning of the institution.
- ♦ In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, private members business, usually fixed for every Friday, has also been skipped.

Background

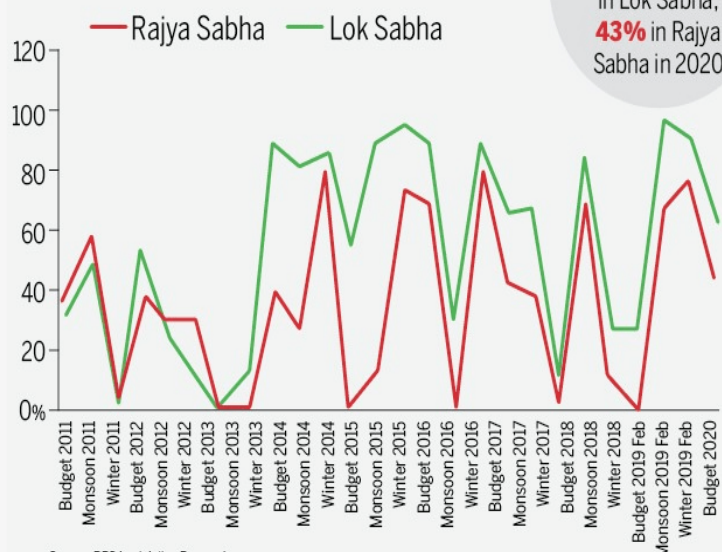
- ♦ India is a Parliamentary democracy where the executive is accountable to the electorate through a legislature which in turn is periodically elected by the people. This accountability, which lies at the heart of democratic governance, is implemented through procedures put in place by the legislature.
- ♦ The Lok Sabha, or House of the People, is the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament, with the upper house being the Rajya Sabha. Members of the Lok Sabha are elected by adult universal suffrage and a first-past-the-post system to represent their respective constituencies, and they hold their seats for five years or until the body is dissolved by the President on the advice of the council of ministers.
- ♦ The maximum strength of the House envisaged by the Constitution is 552, which is made up by election of upto

530 members to represent the States, upto 20 members to represent the Union Territories and not more than two members of the Anglo-Indian Community to be nominated by the Hon'ble President, which was abolished in January 2020 by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.

- ♦ Question Hour was first dispensed with was due to India-China war during the winter session of 1962. Similarly, in the 1971 winter session, it was suspended due to the war with Pakistan.
- ♦ During the Emergency, parliament functioned without the Question Hour for two sessions – monsoon session of 1975 and winter session of 1976.
- ♦ The decision taken by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha not to have

FUNCTIONING OF QUESTION HOUR

% of time utilised out of % of time allotted to question hour



Source: PRS Legislative Research

Question Hour during the ongoing monsoon session of parliament from September 14 has been questioned by constitutional experts who believe it was the one hour in which ministers are duty-bound to reply to every query posed by the members. However, they acknowledged that too many disruptions during this hour in the past has taken away some teeth from the argument that dispensing with it endangers the democracy.

Question Hour

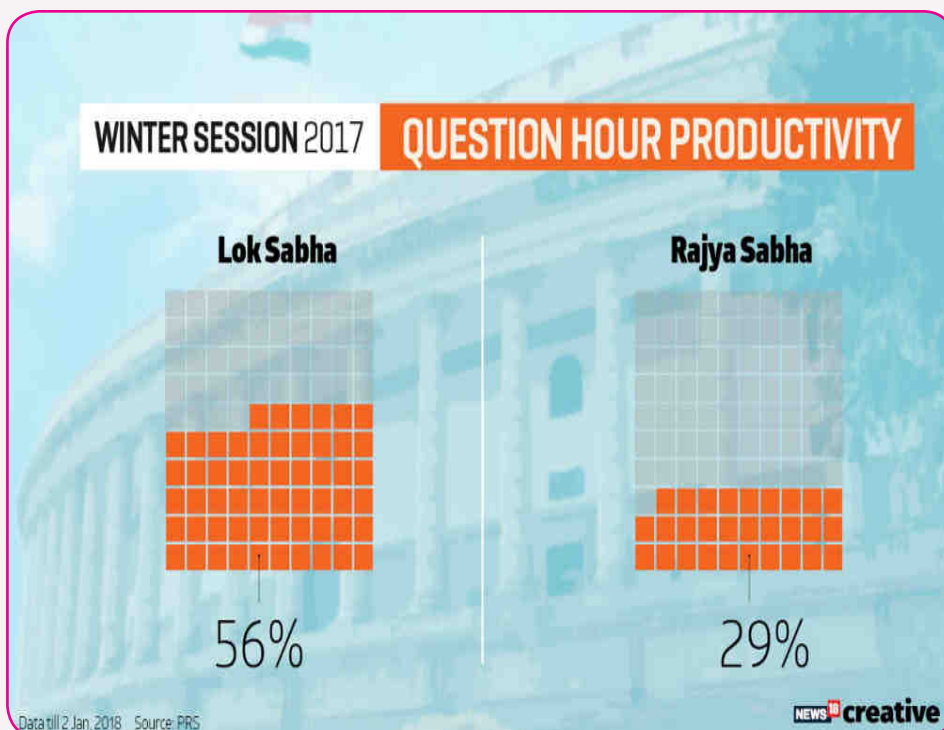
- ♦ The first hour of every sitting is called Question Hour. Asking questions in Parliament is the free and unfettered right of members, and during Question Hour they may ask questions of ministers on different aspects of

administration and government policy in the national and international spheres.

- ◆ Questions are of three types—Starred, Unstarred and Short Notice.
 - ◆ Starred Questions: Questions to which answers are desired to be given orally on the floor of the House during the Question Hour. These are distinguished in the printed lists by asterisks.
 - ◆ Unstarred Questions: Questions to which written answers are given by Ministers which are deemed to have been laid on the Table of the House at the end of the Question Hour.
 - ◆ Short Notice Questions: Such questions can be asked orally in the House and are asked by giving a notice of less than 10 days.
 - ◆ Supplementary Questions: These are questions which arise out of a Minister's answer to a Starred or Short Notice Question. These can be asked with the Chair's permission immediately after the Minister has answered the main question, for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact.

Importance of Question Hour

- ◆ It is basic essential right of Member of Parliament to question the ruling party.



- ◆ The domain is inclusive of every policy whether domestic or foreign.
- ◆ Since questions are generally 'pointed, specific and confined to one issue only', they tend to elicit specific information from the government to public domain.
- ◆ Indirectly it's not member who is asking question but its citizen who vote and choose the government to run the affairs and business of country.
- ◆ It's a kind of check and balance where government is answerable to concerns and allegation raised by Member of Parliament.
- ◆ From September 15 to October 1, it will sit from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Similarly, on September 14, the Rajya Sabha will sit from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. From the second day, it will transact business between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Parliament on Mute

- ◆ Under Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha ("the Rules"), the Speaker is empowered to direct whether the first hour of every sitting should be made available for questioning ministers.
- ◆ It is possible that there are logistical difficulties in obtaining data from various ministries due to social distancing norms, and if such a difficulty arises, the concerned minister can explain to the Speaker as to why an answer to a question cannot be provided and give an assurance

Staggered Timings

- ◆ The session will have staggered timings to accommodate members of one House in both chambers and follow strict physical distancing norms. On the first day, the Lok Sabha will have proceedings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- to the member that his or her question will be answered in the next sitting of the Parliament.
- ♦ A temporary arrangement along these lines can be made through directions issued by the Speaker using his residuary powers, or by convening the Rules Committee to propose temporary rules to the Lok Sabha.
- ♦ If ministers need to be briefed before providing an answer, then the officials can brief them virtually prior to the sitting. Instead of exploring such options, the Speaker has given a carte blanche to the government by suspending the question hour.
- ♦ Therefore, it is incumbent on the Speaker to explore less restrictive measures, such as reducing the number of questions to be answered on a given date or temporarily restricting the number of supplementary questions which can be raised. The Speaker could have also looked at the methods adopted in other Parliaments such as in the UK, which has conducted business despite the pandemic.
- ♦ Suspending starred questions is convenient for the ministers, and effectively places a muzzle on Parliament.
- ♦ At the request of the government, the Speaker has also suspended the time allotted to introduce and debate private member's bills. As per Rule 26, the last two and half hours of a sitting on a Friday is allotted for the transaction of private member's business, which includes private member's bills and private member's resolutions. A private member's bill is a bill introduced by an MP who is not a minister and has the same force as a government bill. Article 245 of the Constitution gives Parliament the power to make laws for the country.
- ♦ In light of the Opposition outrage to the suspension of question hour, the government has agreed to provide written responses to unstarred questions. However, this is inadequate as starred questions provide MPs the opportunity to cross examine the minister about the steps taken by the government. There have been instances in which the government has provided written answers, ignoring some of the components of the question posed to them. It would be more difficult for a minister to avoid difficult questions when they have to provide oral answers.

Way Forward

- ♦ The Chairman and the Speaker of house enjoys unquestionable power relating to the proceedings of their respective Houses. However at the same time they should act as savior of people's voice rather confining it to the avoidance within house.
- ♦ A resort to what has been called 'the politics of avoidance' does not help this democratic process. Executive accountability upfront cannot be allowed come under defence of pandemic. The presiding officers, so, could have explored alternatives like virtual question hours, special session on question hours etc
- ♦ The main crux of democratic setup is to have dialogues and debates where questions crystallize the core purpose of democracy which our fore father embedded in our organic constitution. 📌📌📌

General Studies Paper- II

Topic:

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

Q. Dropping of the 'Question Hour' citing pandemic as an excuse is undemocratic. Indian parliament could have adopted technological solutions like other democracies to conduct its democratic functions. Discuss.

05

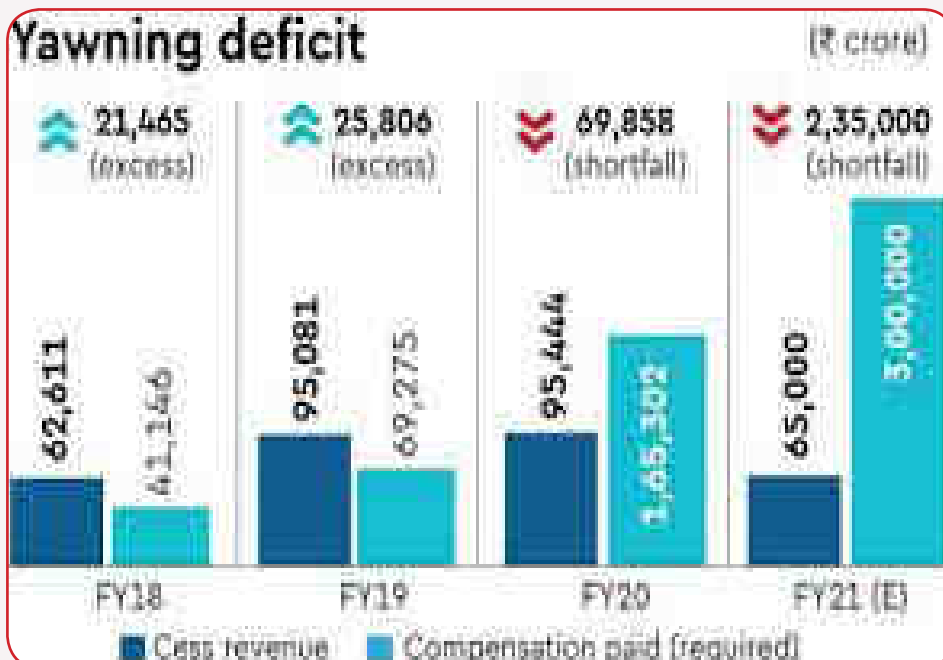
Issues in GST Compensation and Proposed Options

Why in News?

- Centre-state friction over pending compensation payments under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) took a new turn in the 41st GST Council meeting.
- At the GST Council meeting recently, the Centre suggested two options for borrowing by states to bridge shortfall. But many states are unconvinced.

Background

- The 41st meeting of the GST Council was held on August 27 2020, with the singular agenda of finding a solution to the question of how best to ensure that the compensation payable to the States as part of the implementation of the GST continues to be paid.
- background for the meeting was the fact that the Centre and the States were cognisant of the substantial impact on GST collections from the last fiscal year's economic slowdown and more recently the lockdowns and COVID-19-related curbs that have severely shrunk the economy.
- At the meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the GST Compensation Fund was projected to face a shortfall of about Rs. 2.35 lakh crore at the end of the current financial year and suggested two borrowing options that the States could choose from to bridge the shortfall.



- compensation payments to states have been pending since April, with the pending amount for April-July estimated at Rs 1.5 lakh crore. The GST compensation requirement is estimated to be around Rs 3 lakh crore this year, while the cess collection is expected to be around Rs 65,000 crore – an estimated compensation shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore.
- GST Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST. The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

GST: Provisions for Compensation

- The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016,

was the law which created the mechanism for levying a nationwide GST. Written into this law was a provision to compensate the States for loss of revenue arising out of implementation of the GST.

- Compensation will be provided to a state for a period of five years from the date on which the state brings its State GST Act into force.
- For the purpose of calculating the compensation amount in any financial year, year 2015-16 will be assumed to be the base year, from revenue will be projected. The growth rate of revenue for a state during the five-year period is assumed be 14% per annum.
- The base year tax revenue consists of the states' tax revenues from:
 - state Value Added Tax (VAT),
 - central sales tax, (iii) entry tax, octroi, local body tax, (iv) taxes on luxuries, (v) taxes on

advertisements, etc. However, any revenue among these taxes arising related to supply of (i) alcohol for human consumption, and (ii) certain petroleum products, will not be accounted as part of the base year revenue.

- ◆ A GST Compensation Cess may be levied on the supply of certain goods and services, as recommended by the GST Council. The receipts from the cess will be deposited to a GST Compensation Fund. The receipts will be used for compensating states for any loss due to the implementation of GST.
- ◆ The compensation payable to a state has to be provisionally calculated and released at the end of every two months. Further, an annual calculation of the total revenue will be undertaken, which will be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- ◆ The computation of the shortfall — the mechanism for which is spelt out in Section 7 of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 — is done annually by projecting a revenue assumption based on 14% compounded growth from the base year's (2015-2016) revenue and calculating the difference between that figure and the actual GST collections in that year. For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the revenue shortfall has been anticipated at Rs. 3 lakh crore, with the Compensation Fund expected to have only about Rs. 65,000 crore through cess accruals and balance to pay the compensation to the States.

The Two Solutions

- ◆ GST compensation has to be paid for the transition period from July 2017 to June 2022, but the compensation gap cannot be bridged using the Consolidated Fund of India. The Attorney General has suggested the compensation cess levy can be extended beyond five years to meet the shortfall.
- ◆ Asserting that it is under no obligation to make good any shortfall in the GST and that it is up to the GST Council to devise a solution, the Union government has proposed two solutions:
 - ◆ The first is to borrow the projected GST shortfall of Rs 97,000 crore, and an amount that can be repaid after five years of GST, ending June 2022, from the compensation cess fund. A 0.5% relaxation in the borrowing limit under The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act would be provided. This additional borrowing by the States will not be accounted for as a part of the State's debt for purposes of its overall debt calculation, and the repayment of the principal and interest on these borrowings will be done from the Compensation Fund by extending the period of cess collections beyond 2022.
 - ◆ The second option is to borrow the entire projected shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore — both on account of faltering GST collections and the expected

shortfall due to the pandemic — facilitated by the RBI. No FRBM relaxation has been mentioned for this option so far. In other words, States can sell debt in the market to raise the entire Rs. 2.35 lakh crore shortfall but with the terms of the borrowing being far less favourable.

- ◆ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that centre can facilitate borrowings from RBI but the loans will be in the name of states. FM Sitharaman said that two options were placed before states, including the option that centre will facilitate talking with RBI and help to get G-security linked interest rates so that each state does not have to struggle for loans.
- ◆ Therefore, the Centre has put the onus on the States to borrow funds with due facilitation and assistance from the Centre at a reduced rate of interest which can be paid back after the period of 5 years from collection of Cess.

Impasse Continues

- ◆ Twelve states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Odisha so far have opted for the first option offered by the centre — Rs 97,000 crore borrowing for compensation of revenue shortfalls due to goods and service tax (GST) transition.
- ◆ Manipur is the only state that has opted for the second option

that entails borrowing under the Rs 2.35 lakh crore window, which entails revenue shortfall due to GST transition as also Covid19 induced economic slowdown.

- ◆ Goa, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh are likely to give their preference among both the borrowing options provided by Centre last month, in a couple of days.
- ◆ About 10 Opposition led states have rejected both borrowing options on the grounds that the Centre should borrow instead of states, while some have also sought the Prime Minister's intervention to resolve the burning issue.
- ◆ The Centre has maintained that it is not under the obligation to compensate for loss of revenue, relying on the opinion of the Attorney General which has said that the GST Council has to find ways to meet the shortfall in compensation and not the Central government.
- ◆ In the current economic scenario it may not be possible to increase tax rates or do rate rationalisation to meet up the compensation shortfall, the Centre had said in the Council meeting on August 27, putting forth two borrowing options for states.

- ◆ The centre, which has additional borrowing planned for FY21, wants states to go for borrowing to meet the shortfall in the cess fund. Under the first window, both the principal and interest would be serviced via the cess fund and states would also receive balance compensation (COVID 19 revenue loss). In the second option, principal would be serviced by the cess fund.

Significance of GST for States

- ◆ States no longer possess taxation rights after most taxes, barring those on petroleum, alcohol, and stamp duty, were subsumed under GST. GST accounts for almost 42% of states' own tax revenues, and tax revenues account for around 60% of states' total revenues.
- ◆
 - Finances of over a dozen states are under severe strain, resulting in delays in salary payments and sharp cuts in capital expenditure outlays amid the pandemic-induced lockdowns and the need to spend on healthcare.
 - The Finance Secretary said GST collections had been severely impacted by the pandemic. Revenues are expected to be hit further; the economy is projected to record a recession

this year. Union Finance Minister has referred to the COVID-19 outbreak as an "act of God" that would result in a contraction of the economy in the current fiscal.

Way Forward

- ◆ Policy prescriptions during downturns include a Keynesian stimulus in the form of high expenditure by the governments. Hence, providing states with money to spend is critical for recovery as state expenditure has a higher impact on revival.
- ◆ However, with states rejecting proposals, the GST Council will have to find an alternative way to compensate the states. In the interim, states may have to resort to raising revenue via disinvestment in state PSUs and monetization of assets.



General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

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

Q. GST compensation is matter of union government's assurance more than just meeting GST shortfall. To recover the economy, we need federal cooperation not conflict. Discuss.

06

Export Preparedness Index 2020 : An Introduction

Why in News?

- Recently, the NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report 2020.
- Gujarat has topped the EPI followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in the second and third place respectively.

Introduction

- The Indian economy holds immense potential to become a strong exporter on the world stage. To realize this potential, it is crucial that India turns to its states and union territories and makes them active participants in the country's export efforts.
- In an attempt to realize this vision, the Export Preparedness Index 2020 evaluates states' potentials and capacities.
- The Export Preparedness Index is a data-driven effort to identify the core areas crucial for export promotion at the sub-national level. All the states and union

territories have been assessed on crucial parameters that are critical for any typical economic unit to achieve sustainable export growth.

- The Index would be a helpful guide for the state governments to benchmark regional performance with respect to export promotion and thus deliver key policy insights on how to improve and enhance the same.
- Rising exports must be an integral component of India's development strategy, especially since exports constitute one of the four pillars—the other three being human resources, investments, and governance—upon which the country has traditionally relied on to accelerate its growth since the economic reforms of the 1990s.
- In the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Export Preparedness Index is a crucial document to guide our fellow policymakers to make the most of the dynamic nature of global manufacturing and trade. India

has already taken major steps by initiating a Continuity Plan that would kickstart the growth of Indian exports. The plan also aims to increase the scale of Indian manufacturing and trade, which would further expand Indian products' footprint at a global level.

- It is the first report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states.

Structure of the Index

The structure of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 comprises of

4 Pillars-

- Policy:** A comprehensive trade policy providing a strategic direction for exports and imports.
- Business Ecosystem:** An efficient business ecosystem helping states attract investments and create an enabling infrastructure for individuals to initiate start-ups.
- Export Ecosystem:** It aims to assess the business environment, which is specific to exports.
- Export Performance:** This is the only output-based parameter and examines the reach of export footprints of States and Union Territories.

11 Sub-pillars-

- Export promotion policy; institutional framework;

Overall Rankings			
Rank	State	Export Preparedness	State Category
1.	Gujarat	75.19	Coastal
2.	Maharashtra	75.14	Coastal
3.	Tamil Nadu	64.93	Coastal
4.	Rajasthan	62.59	Landlocked
5.	Odisha	58.23	Coastal
6.	Telangana	57.43	Landlocked
7.	Haryana	56.03	Landlocked
8.	Chhattisgarh	55.95	Landlocked
9.	Karnataka	55.17	Coastal
10.	kerla	54.11	Coastal

business environment;
infrastructure; transport
connectivity; access to finance;
export infrastructure; trade
support; R&D infrastructure;
export diversification; and
growth orientation.

Key Findings

- ◆ The six coastal states namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala have featured in the top ten rankings which indicates the presence of strong enabling and facilitating factors to promote exports.
- ◆ Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan has performed the best, followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- ◆ Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand topped the chart, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh. Across Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.
- ◆ On policy parameters, Maharashtra topped the index followed by Gujarat and Jharkhand, while on business ecosystem parameter, Gujarat was ranked number one followed by Delhi and Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ In the export ecosystem parameter, Maharashtra topped the Index followed by Odisha and Rajasthan and on the export performance parameter, Mizoram led the index, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ◆ The report also highlights that export orientation and preparedness are not just

Index	Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	Trading Across Borders - Doing Business	Trade Facilitation Index	Enabling Trade Index
Publishing Agency	World Bank	World Bank	OECD	World Economic Forum
What it measures	Logistics Friendliness of countries	Time and cost of the logistical process of countries	Assessment of trade facilitation policies, areas for action and impact of reforms	Factors, policies and services that facilitate trade across borders and to destination.
India's Rank	44/160 (2018)	68/190 (2019)	1.52/2 (2018)	102/136 (As per 2016)
Best performing states/countries	Top 5: Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Austria, Japan	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Spain all tied for Rank 1	1.86/2- Netherlands	Top 5: Singapore, Netherlands, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Sweden

- restricted to prosperous states.
- ◆ Even emerging states can undertake dynamic export policy measures, have functioning promotional councils and synchronize with national logistical plans to grow their exports.
- ◆ Many north-eastern states under the Growth Orientation sub-pillar were able to export more by focusing on their indigenous product baskets.
- ◆ This shows that a focused development of such baskets (like spices) can drive exports on one hand and also improve farmer incomes on the other in these states.
- ◆ The new world order is one in which production systems are more consolidated, and supply chains significantly reduced in size to increase efficiency. Given this new paradigm of global production, India will face intense competition in exports from other regions that compete on cost-advantages, such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and the Philippines.
- ◆ The key moving forward will not only be the long-term productivity of Indian exporters but also their ability to produce complex, unique, and hard-to-replace commodities.
- ◆ Design, research, and development are incredibly high value-adding activities, which need to be supported if India is to export complex and unique economic goods in the global market. The focus on design and research is difficult to achieve organically as the firm structure in India is highly fragmented.

Top 10 Ranks

Challenges

- ◆ Based on the findings of the report, export promotion in India faces three fundamental challenges-
 - ◆ Intra- and inter-regional disparities in export infrastructure;
 - ◆ Poor trade support and growth orientation among states; and
 - ◆ Poor R&D infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.

Changing Paradigm

- ◆ There is a need to emphasize on key strategies to address these challenges-

- Indian states should also focus on other key components in order to improve export competitiveness;
- A joint development of export infrastructure;
- Strengthening industry-academia linkages;
- Need to create state-level engagements for economic diplomacy; and
- Harness the innovating tendencies to provide new use cases for such products, with adequate support from the Centre.

- These strategies could be supported by revamped designs and standards for local products.
- The per capita exports in India stood at about USD 241, as compared to USD 11,900 in South Korea and USD 18,000 in China. Therefore, Indian economy has a huge potential to become a strong exporter on the world stage. This can be achieved by making India's states and union territories active participants in the country's export efforts.
- The private sector should be indulged as it can also play an important role in export promotion.

Coastal

Rank	State	Export Preparedness
1	Gujarat	75.19
2	Maharashtra	75.14
3	Tamil Nadu	64.93
4	Odisha	58.23
5	Karnataka	55.17
6	Kerala	54.11
7	Andhra Pradesh	35.58
8	West Bengal	34.05

Himalayan

Rank	State	Export Preparedness
1	Uttarakhand	48.11
2	Tripura	40.79
3	Himachal Pradesh	38.85
4	Meghalaya	34.66
5	Mizoram	29.53
6	Nagaland	29.00
7	Arunachal Pradesh	28.28
8	Sikkim	26.75
9	Manipur	19.40

Way Forward

- Keeping in mind the concept of Aatmanirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India, it is time for our country to play a vital role in the present-day dynamic economic landscape. Attaining self-reliance implies becoming globally competitive by removing bottlenecks at various steps in the export process. India's exports sector holds immense potential to become a viable alternative supplier for some of the major economies.
- To realize this potential, it is crucial that India turns to its states and union territories and makes them active participants in the country's export efforts. This would be achieved by creating an

enabling framework, establishing the required institutions, removing bottlenecks, and incentivizing exports.

- Even in difficult times, when the world has been struggling with COVID-19, Indian states have responded by ramping up the production of essential products through successful national-level cooperation.



General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

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

Q. Discuss the significance of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 in making India as one of the leading global export destinations.

07

Adopting Micro Irrigation : Need of the Hour

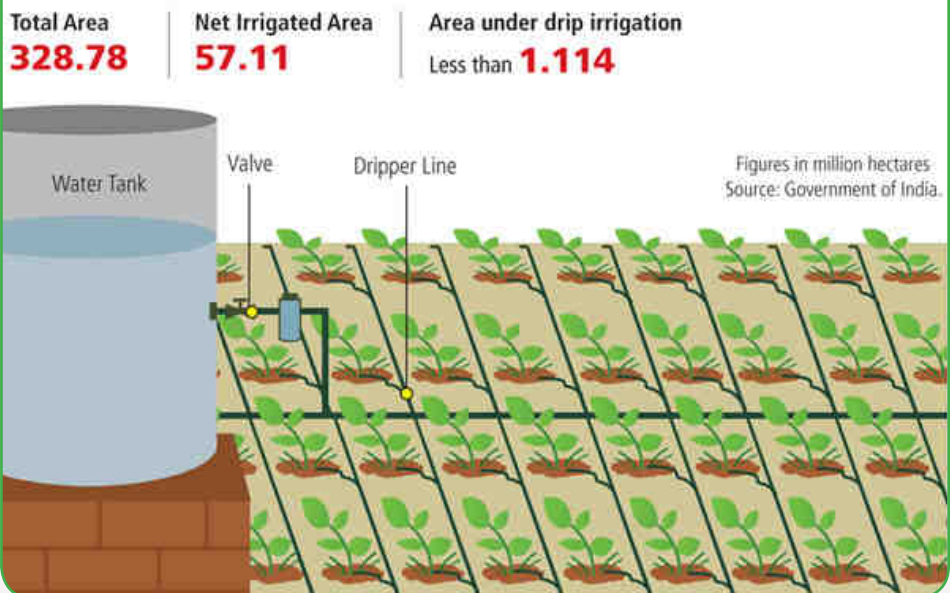
Why in News?

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Narendra Singh Tomar, said recently, that the government has set the target of covering 100 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation in five years' time.

Background

- India is facing the twin challenge of water scarcity and population explosion. The ongoing water crisis has affected nearly 600 million people and is expected to only worsen: The country's population is touted to increase to 1.6 billion by 2050.
- The agriculture sector is the largest consumer of water in India. It accounts for approximately 90 per cent of 761,000 billion liters of annual freshwater withdrawals in the country. Per capita consumption of water in agriculture sector ranges from 4,913 to 5,800 kilolitre per capita per year.
- Agriculture may have to face the brunt. Water would be diverted to other sectors and agriculture would have to make its peace with lesser and poorer quality of water.
- Climate change too has aggravated water scarcity concerns. It can, through its impact on weather patterns, affect livelihoods and well-being of our farming community.

POTENTIAL FOR DRIP IRRIGATION IN INDIA



- The impact of climate change is much more evident in Indian agriculture, where around 85 per cent farmers are small and marginal and 60 per cent agriculture is dependent upon the vagaries of monsoon. The role of irrigation, therefore, takes the front seat.
- The continued irrigation through traditional practices since the introduction of Green revolution in the 1960's, however, has begun to show its multitudinous ill effects on groundwater quality and height, water logging, soil salinity, soil health, crop productivity, partial factor productivity and cost economics of farm practices.
- through conveyance, run-off, deep percolation and evaporation.
- These losses are unavoidable in traditional irrigation practices; micro-irrigation, through its water-saving approach, has paved the way for higher water use efficiency of around 75-95 per cent.
- Another resource saving practice possible through micro-irrigation is fertigation, which comprises combining water and fertiliser application through irrigation. Fertigation results in balanced nutrient application, reduced fertiliser requirement of around 7 to 42 per cent (thus, saving expenditure cost incurred by farmer), higher nutrient uptake and nutrient use efficiency.
- It is quite apparent that in the present scenario, vertical expansion of agricultural lands is not possible. Therefore, in order to

increase the yield and productivity, we have to focus on degraded and waste lands.

- ◆ Micro-irrigation provides this opportunity. A national-level survey undertaken for the Union government showed that farmers were able to bring 519.43 hectares of degraded land under cultivation through the technique. It also helped use saline water for irrigation without causing salinity or osmotic stress to plants.

Adopting Micro Irrigation

- ◆ Micro-irrigation practice needs wide scale adaptation in India, particularly in the Indo-Gangetic plains where the soil salinity is high.
- ◆ Israel can be a good example — a desert nation with water scarcity has become a water surplus nation because it adapted micro-irrigation practises, especially drip irrigation that saves almost three-fourths of the water used

for irrigation done through open canals.

- ◆ Drip irrigation is the most effective practice with water use efficiency of around 85-90 per cent.
- ◆ Significant electricity savings — on an average 30.5 per cent — have been estimated and high fertilizer-use efficiency reported, resulting in an average consumption reduction of 28.5 per cent, according to a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry report.
- ◆ Another advantage is maintenance of optimum soil moisture conditions that help increase overall productivity and profitability. Across various studies, it has been found that the adoption of micro-irrigation systems helped boost the yield of fruit as well as vegetable crops.
- ◆ The productivity for fruit crops increased 42.3 per cent and that of vegetable crops by 52.8 per cent.

There was an average reduction of 31.9 per cent in irrigation cost thorough higher water use efficiency. Another gain has been the adaptation of diverse cropping patterns.

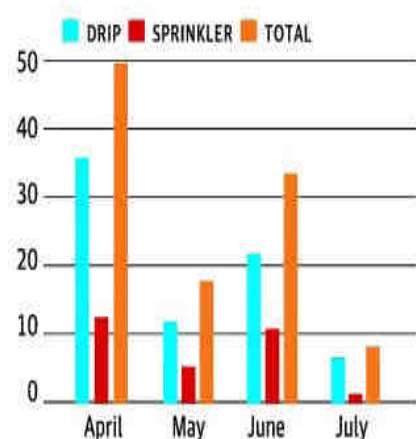
Har Khet Ko Pani

- ◆ Government of India is committed to accord high priority to water conservation and its management. To this effect Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) (formulated in 2015) has been formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet ko pani' and improving water use efficiency 'More crop per drop' in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities.
- ◆ PMKSY has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC).
- ◆ Under the programme, financial assistance of up to 55 per cent is available for small and marginal farmers and 45 per cent for other farmers for adoption of micro-irrigation systems. The funding pattern between the Union governments and the state government's share since

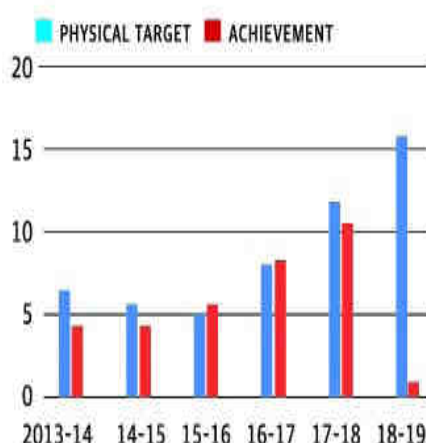
Status check

A look at micro irrigation area coverage under PMKSY

Micro irrigation area coverage (2018-19)
(in thousand hectares) in India



Micro irrigation target achievement
(Area in lakh hectare) 2013-2018



Source: PMKSY, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Image of Watershed Development Projects

November 2015 has been 60:40 for all states except the North East and the Himalayan states, for which the funding pattern is 90:10.

- ◆ The programme is supervised and monitored by an Inter-Ministerial National Steering Committee (NSC), under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister with Union Ministers from concerned Ministries.

Per Drop More Crop

- ◆ Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare is implementing 'Per Drop More Crop' component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY-PDMC). The PMKSY- PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation technologies viz. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems. Drip micro irrigation technique not only helps in water saving but also in reducing fertilizer usage, labour expenses and other input costs.
- ◆ For the current year, annual allotment of Rs. 4000 crore has already been allocated and conveyed to the State Governments. The State Governments have identified the beneficiaries to be covered under the programme. Fund release to some of the States is already under process for the year 2020-21.

- ◆ Further, Micro Irrigation Fund corpus of Rs. 5000 crore has been created with NABARD. The objective of the fund is to facilitate the states in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation by taking up special and innovative projects and also for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under PMKSY-PDMC to encourage farmers to install micro irrigation systems.

New Funding

- ◆ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned micro irrigation projects worth Rs 3,805.67 crore so far.
- ◆ The projects have been sanctioned under the dedicated Rs 5,000 crore Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) set up under NABARD in FY20 to facilitate states in mobilising resources for expanding coverage of micro irrigation.
- ◆ The states will access MIF for incentivising micro irrigation through an additional (top up) subsidy over and above the one available under the PDMC component of PMKSY for achieving the target.
- ◆ The states will also access the fund for innovative integrated projects,

including projects in public private partnership (PPP) mode, depending on state specific requirements to bring additional area under micro irrigation PDMC.

Way Forward

- ◆ It is quite evident that importance of micro-irrigation to achieve sustainability in Indian agriculture cannot be neglected. But it's a long way ahead and requires extensive demonstrations, training and awareness programs to bring Indian farming community abreast with micro-irrigation practices.
- ◆ The farmers are one of the most distressed communities of our society. We have to work with the community and show them the practical and achievable benefits of the technique.



General Studies Paper- III

Topic:

- Major crops - cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems - storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Q. Micro-irrigation is one of the sustainable agricultural techniques which can shield farmers from the hazards of climate change. Discuss.

7

IMPORTANT BRAIN BOOSTERS

01

What Counts as 'Act of God'

1. Why in News?

- Attributing the shortfall in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections to disruptions due to COVID-19, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the economy is facing an Act-of-God-like situation.



2. Background

- The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown imposed across the globe to contain the spread of the virus has resulted in major disruptions in economic activity.
- Businesses are looking towards a legal provision — the force majeure or “Act of God” clause — to cut losses.
- On February 19, The Finance Ministry had issued an office memorandum inviting attention to the force majeure clause (FMC) in the 2017 Manual for Procurement of Goods issued by the Department of Expenditure clarifying that the pandemic “should be considered a case of natural calamity and FMC may be invoked, wherever considered appropriate”.

3. Force Majeure Clause

- The ‘Act of God’ is a clause used in private contracts to indemnify one or both parties from carrying out the terms of the contract due to events beyond their control.
- The law of contracts is built around a fundamental norm that the parties must perform the contract. When a party fails to perform its part of the contract, the loss to the other party is made good. However, the law carves out exceptions when performance of the contract becomes impossible to the parties. A force majeure clause is one such exception that releases the party of its obligations to an extent when events beyond their control take place and leave them unable to perform their part of the contract.
- FMC is a clause that is present in most commercial contracts and is a carefully drafted legal arrangement in the event of a crisis.
- Generally, an “Act of God” is understood to include only natural unforeseen circumstances, whereas force majeure is wider in its ambit and includes both naturally occurring events and events that occur due to human intervention. However, both concepts elicit the same consequences in law.

5. Global Precedents

- In China, where the COVID-19 outbreak originated, the Council for Promotion of International Trade is issuing force majeure certificates to businesses. China’s Supreme People’s Court had recognised the 2002 SARS outbreak as a force majeure event.
- Singapore enacted the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act in April to provide relief to businesses that could not perform their contractual obligations due to the pandemic.
- The Paris Commercial Court in July ruled that the pandemic could be equated to a force majeure event.
- In the UK, the Financial Conduct Authority has brought in a test case before the High Court to look into business insurance contracts and interpret the standard wordings in such contracts.

4. Flip Side

- The stance of the Centre in this matter is extremely worrying in a number of respects. For one, the entire burden has been put on States at a time when they can scarcely afford it.
- More importantly, the language used by the Centre, claiming an ‘Act of God’, reveals a distressing tendency for the Centre to step back at the same time when it is most needed.
- It is worrying that the Centre conceives of itself as a private player in a market economy, when what is urgently required is for it to transcend this role.
- In adopting the logic of a private contract, the Centre is jeopardising the social contract upon which our democratic system rests.
- While private entities in a situation of profound economic distress may claim force majeure to protect against risks, the government of a country must not do so.

02

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

1. Why in News?

- Neighbours and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Greece and Turkey have been locked for weeks in a tense standoff in the eastern Mediterranean, where Turkey is prospecting the seabed for energy reserves in an area Greece claims as its own continental shelf.



2. Turkey-Greece Crisis

- The current crisis is the most serious in the two countries' relations in decades. The neighbours have come to the brink of war three times since the mid-1970s, including once over maritime resources in the Aegean Sea.
- Simulated dogfights between Greek and Turkish fighter pilots have multiplied over the Aegean Sea and the eastern Mediterranean.
- A Turkish and a Greek frigate collided last month, reportedly causing minor damage to the Turkish frigate but no injuries.
- Escorted by a fleet of Turkish battleships, the Oruc Reis survey vessel has drawn the attention of the entire Greek fleet, which has been watching its every move for over a month now, ready to retaliate if, as the Greek government has said, it attempts to drill in areas of the seabed Greece claims as its own.
- Turkey rejects the claims, saying islands are not entitled to what is known as an exclusive economic zone. Ankara instead believes it has the right to explore the oil- and mineral-rich eastern Mediterranean seabed after a recent maritime agreement it concluded with Libya.

3. French-Turkey Dispute

- NATO is investigating an incident in the Eastern Mediterranean in which France says Turkish frigates were "extremely aggressive" towards a French navy vessel participating in a NATO mission in the area.
- France was carrying out a NATO mission and trying to uphold the UN's arms embargo to Libya and suspected Turkish vessel Cirkin for smuggling arms to Libya.
- France who is also a member of NATO just like Greece and Turkey has publicly sided with Greece and has sent war ships to eastern Mediterranean in support of Greek Navy.
- Ankara and Paris have been at odds over the civil war in Libya, accusing each other of supporting opposing sides in the country.

4. Turkey in Discord with NATO

- The recent incidents caused by Turkey inside the alliance are only the latest in a series of tensions caused by Ankara.
- Turkey still continues to block a NATO defence plan for Poland and Baltic states despite a deal last year between Turkey's president and allied leaders.
- The plan for the Baltic states and Poland, drawn up at their request after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, has no direct bearing on Turkey's strategy in Syria, but it raises issues about security on all of NATO's frontiers.
- Diplomats said while Ankara has approved the plan, known as Eagle Defender, it has not allowed NATO military chiefs to put it into action.
- Turkey had threatened to block the NATO agreement unless the alliance agreed to designate Syrian Kurdish fighters Ankara targeted in an October military offensive as terrorists.
- NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) on April 4, 1949, which sought to create a counterweight to Soviet armies stationed in central and Eastern Europe after World War II.
- The heart of NATO is expressed in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, in which the signatory members agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all they have a right to either unilaterally or collectively take action against such attack.

03

Merger of Two Black Holes

1. Why in News?

- A team of international gravitational wave astronomers has detected the most massive and most distant black hole collision recorded till date.
- This is the first time that a collision leading to the formation of a black hole, which is 142 times heavier than the Sun.

2. What are Gravitational Waves?

- Gravitational waves are invisible ripples that form when a star explodes in a supernova; when two big stars orbit each other; and when two black holes merge. Travelling at the speed of light, gravitational waves squeeze and stretch anything in their path.
- Gravitational waves were proposed by Albert Einstein in his General Theory of Relativity over a century ago. It was only in 2015, however, that the first gravitational wave was actually detected — by LIGO. Since then, there have been a number of subsequent detections of gravitational waves.



3. About Collision

- Billions of years ago, a collision between two black holes sent gravitational waves rippling through the universe. In 2019, signals from these waves were detected at the United State's gravitational wave observatory Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory (LIGO) (United States) and VIRGO interferometer, located in Italy.
- Subsequent analysis suggested that GW190521 had most likely been generated by a merger of two black holes. The signal likely represented the instant that the two merged. It was calculated to have come from roughly 17 billion light years away, and from a time when the universe was about half its age.
- All the black holes observed so far belong to either of two categories. One category ranges between a few solar masses (one solar mass is the mass of our Sun) and tens of solar masses. These are thought to form when massive stars die.
 - The other category is of supermassive black holes. These range from hundreds of thousands, to billions of times that of our sun.
- According to traditional knowledge, stars that could give birth to black holes between 65 and 120 solar masses do not do so — stars in this range blow themselves apart when they die, without collapsing into a black hole.
- But in the merger leading to the GW190521 signal, the larger black hole was of 85 solar masses — well within this unexpected range, known as the pair instability mass gap. It is the first "intermediate mass" black hole ever observed. (In fact, the smaller black hole too is borderline, at 66 solar masses.)
- The two merged to create a new black hole of about 142 solar masses. Energy equivalent to eight solar masses was released in the form of gravitational waves, leading to the strongest ever wave detected by scientists so far.
- Black holes, formed when massive stars collapse and die, is an invisible space located in the centre of the galaxy. It is packed with huge amounts of matter fused into a relatively small space.

4. General Relativity

- General relativity is a theory of space and time.
- In 1905, Albert Einstein determined that the laws of physics are the same for all non-accelerating observers, and that the speed of light in a vacuum was independent of the motion of all observers. This was the theory of special relativity. It introduced a new framework for all of physics and proposed new concepts of space and time.
- Einstein then spent 10 years trying to include acceleration in the theory and published his theory of general relativity in 1915. In it, he determined that massive objects cause a distortion in space-time, which is felt as gravity.
- The central idea is that space and time are two aspects of spacetime. Spacetime is curved when there is gravity, matter, energy, and momentum.

04 COVID-19 and Great Andamanese Tribe

1. Why in News?

- Nine members of the dwindling Great Andamanese tribe have tested COVID-19 positive, setting off alarm bells in the Union Territory. While the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have so far recorded 2,985 novel coronavirus cases, 676 of which were active by early September, it is for the first time that cases are reported from among the five Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) living in the islands.



2. Andamans and PVTGS

- The Great Andamanese speak Jeru dialect among themselves and their number stands at 51 as per the last study carried out by Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti in 2012.
- The five PVTGS residing in Andamans are Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.
- Among the five, the Great Andamanese are the only ones who visit and live in the capital city of Port Blair frequently. The PVTGs are communities that are more vulnerable among tribal groups, and are put under a special category by the government of India.
- While five among the nine Great Andamanese who are infected are residents of Port Blair, four others live in the remote Strait Island that is reserved for the tribe.

3. Great Andamanese: History

- Anthropologists classify the Great Andamanese as part of the Negrito tribes that inhabit isolated parts of Southeast Asia and the Andaman Islands.
- Recent studies by geneticists indicate that the Andamanese are possibly related to the Negritos of the Malay peninsula and in the Philippines.
- Originally, the Great Andamanese were ten distinct tribes, including the Jeru, Bea, Bo, Khora, and Pockiwar, each with its own separate language.
- In 1788, when the British first tried to colonise the islands, the Great Andamanese numbered between 5,000 and 8,000.
- Several members of the tribe were killed in encounters with the British to protect their territories.
- Later, many were wiped out in epidemics brought in by the colonisers, such as measles, syphilis and influenza.
- In the 1860s, the British established an 'Andaman Home' where they kept captured Great Andamanese. Hundreds of the tribe died from the disease and abuse in the home, and of 150 babies born there, none survived beyond the age of two.
- The language of the Great Andamanese, Sare, has largely been lost, with the last surviving speaker dying earlier this year. The tribe now speaks mostly Hindi.

4. PVTGS

- 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as PVTGs. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UTs of A&N Islands.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)" exclusively for them.
- Under the scheme, Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment, which are then appraised and approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry.
- Activities for development of PVTGs are undertaken in Sectors of Education, Health, Livelihood and Skill Development, Agricultural Development, Housing & Habitat, Conservation of Culture etc.

05 India GDP Data 2020

1. Why in News?

- The Indian economy saw its worst contraction in decades, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrinking by a record 23.9% in the April to June quarter in comparison to the same period last year, according to data released by the National Statistical Office.



2. Cause Behind Contraction

- The contraction reflects the severe impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, which halted most economic activities, as well as the slowdown trend of the economy even pre-COVID-19.
- Economists expect this to contribute to a contraction in annual GDP this year, which may be the worst in the history of independent India.
- What is worse is that, because of the widespread lockdowns, the data quality is sub-optimal and most observers expect this number to worsen when it is revised in due course.

3. Economics of GDP Contraction

- In any economy, the total demand for goods and services — that is the GDP — is generated from one of the four engines of growth.
- The biggest engine is consumption (C) demand from private individuals. In Indian economy, this accounted for 56.4% of all GDP before this quarter. It has fallen by 27%. In money terms, the fall is of Rs 5,31,803 crore over the same quarter last year.
- The second biggest engine is the demand generated by private sector businesses. Let's call it I, and this accounted for 32% of all GDP in India. It has fallen even harder — it is half of what it was last year same quarter. In money terms, the contraction is Rs 5,33,003 crore. So, the two biggest engines, which accounted for over 88% of Indian total GDP, Q1 saw a massive contraction.
- The third engine is the demand for goods and services generated by the government (G). It accounted for 11% of India's GDP. Government's expenditure went up by 16% but this was nowhere near enough to compensate for the loss of demand (power) in other sectors (engines) of the economy.
- The last engine is the net demand on GDP after we subtract imports (N) from India's exports (X). In India's case, it is the smallest engine and, since India typically imports more than it exports, its effect is negative on the GDP.
- So total GDP = C + I + G + NX

5. Deeper Concerns

- The major burden on the economy is the contraction you are seeing in private final consumption, which has a weight of almost 60% in the GDP. If 60% of demand is growing negatively, the task is formidable, because unless this is turned around, nothing will happen.
- The investment outlook is very bleak and may fall further. Consumption indicators are improving sequentially, but continue not on a year on year basis.
- Only government expenditure can rescue the economy, but its own finances are too stretched.

4. Covid Hit Economy

- The total value of goods and services produced in India in April, May and June this year is 24% less than the total value of goods and services produced in India in the same three months last year.
- In terms of the gross value added (a proxy for production and incomes) by different sectors of the economy, data show that barring agriculture, where GVA grew by 3.4%, all other sectors of the economy saw their incomes fall.
- The worst affected were construction (−50%), trade, hotels and other services (−47%), manufacturing (−39%), and mining (−23%). It is important to note that these are the sectors that create the maximum new jobs in the country.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry also released data on the eight core infrastructure sectors, showing that output contracted for a fifth straight month in July, with the 9.6% decline driven by a fall in production in the steel, cement and refinery products industries.

06

Qatar's New Labour Laws

1. Why in News?

- Recently, Qatar has brought about a change in its labour laws, scrapping rules requiring migrant workers to take their employers' permission before changing jobs, and setting the monthly minimum wage at about \$274 (1000 Qatari Riyals), an increase of over 25 per cent.



5. Shift in Focus

- The amendments come as the country continues to face a scathing attack from across the world for exploiting its labour force. Thousands of migrant workers, including those building stadiums for the world cup, are forced to work in potentially life-threatening conditions, activists and international NGOs have alleged.
- Foreign workers account for 95% of Qatar's workforce and about 90% of its population.
- As Qatar is moving towards a knowledge-based economy, it wants to attract more labour, specially skilled and educated.
- Qatar wants to create a competition for talent which will be healthy for the local market, even at the risk of driving poor performers out of business or pitting them against foreign competitors.

2. Ease in Changing Jobs

- The country has dismantled its old and highly criticised 'Kafala' (Arabic word for sponsorship) system, which required workers to take the consent of their employers before switching jobs.
 - ☛ With the new announcement, workers in Qatar now have the freedom to change jobs without obtaining a no-objection certificate (NOC) first.
- According to the new rules, either party must provide one month written notice in the first two years of the contract or two months' notice beyond the second year of the contract.
- The concerned ministry will be working with employers to update all employment contracts where workers earn less than the amount established by the new law (minimum wage).

3. Minimum Wages Upgraded

- The second reform involves increasing the minimum wage by 25 per cent to \$274 (1000 Qatari Riyals). The new minimum wage, which comes into effect in six months, is non-discriminatory and applies to all workers.
- In addition to the minimum wage, the ministry has also announced the provision of 500 riyals (\$137) for accommodation and 300 riyals (\$82.2) for food if those expenses are not provided as part of the contract.
- The new laws have been welcomed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) which described the announcement as a "huge milestone in labour reform agenda for the state of Qatar".

4. Much Needed Reforms

- Qatar is hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup and in the run-up to the sporting event that is viewed by more than half of the global population, the country has faced flak for its labour laws, seen by many as being exploitative of migrant labourers.
- Qatar is the first country in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to announce permanent, minimum wage for non-citizens and offer them flexibility in changing jobs.
 - ☛ The Middle Eastern country is heavily dependent on foreign labour; there are over 6,30,000 Indian migrants in Qatar.
- ILO said that the introduction of the non-discriminatory minimum wage would affect over 400,000 workers in the private sector and will increase remittances in the workers' country of origin.

07

RBI Panel for One time Loan Restructuring

1. Why in News?

- A five-member expert committee headed by K V Kamath, former Chairman of ICICI Bank, recently came out with recommendations on the financial parameters required for a one-time loan restructuring window for corporate borrowers under stress due to the pandemic.



2. Key Proposals

- The committee was set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The RBI has broadly accepted the committee's recommendation to take into account five financial ratios and sector-specific thresholds for each ratio in respect of 26 sectors while finalising the resolution plans. These ratios are:
 - total outside liabilities to adjusted tangible net worth;
 - total debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBIDTA);
 - debt service coverage ratio (DSCR);
 - current ratio; and
 - average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR).
- The RBI has now finalised sector-specific ceilings for each of these ratios that should be considered by lending institutions.
- The parameters have been specified depending on severity of the impact of the pandemic.
- The hardest-hit sector real estate, for instance, has been provided the highest permissible debt-to-EBIDTA ratio for a resolution plan.

3. Implementation

- The RBI has allowed banks to recast loans which were classified as standard as on March 1, 2020.
- For implementing resolution plans, signing of an inter-creditor agreement (ICA) is mandatory in all cases involving multiple lending institutions.
- The resolution framework will be invoked before December 31, 2020 and will be implemented before 180 days from the date of invocation.
- The process has to be approved by lenders with 75% in value and 60% in numbers.
- Lenders signing ICA will have to make a 10% provision and non-signing lenders at 20%.
- Restructuring can be done via the extension of residual tenor by a maximum of two years with or without moratorium and may include conversion of loan into equity.
- Any default by the borrower with any of the lenders that signed an ICA during the monitoring period would trigger a review period of 30 days.
- If the borrower remains in default at the end of the period, all lenders would downgrade the account as a non-performing asset (NPA).

5. Effectiveness of the Proposals

- Restructuring announcements in the past (FY08-11 and FY13-19) had raised concerns about the efficacy of the restructuring mechanism, as most of the restructured assets eventually slipped into NPAs.
- While the RBI has put into place several guardrails this time in the form of defined timelines and external vetting, success of the plan will still largely depend upon a significant revival in the economy.

4. Sectors Impacted

- The Kamath committee noted that corporate sector debt worth Rs 15.52 lakh crore has come under stress after COVID-19 hit India, while another Rs 22.20 lakh crore was already under stress before the pandemic. This effectively means Rs 37.72 crore (72% of the banking sector debt to industry) remains under stress. This is almost 37% of the total non-food bank credit.
- The Kamath panel has said companies in sectors such as retail trade, wholesale trade, roads and textiles are facing stress. Sectors that have been under stress pre-Covid include NBFCs, power, steel, real estate and construction.
- Banks are working out individual plans for retail borrowers and small units; the conditions for big borrowers do not apply to them. At least Rs 210,000 crore (1.9% of banking credit) of the non-corporate loans are likely to undergo restructuring, which would have otherwise slipped into NPAs.

7 MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

01 What Counts as 'Act of God'

Q1. With reference to the clause of 'Act of God' cited by Finance Minister for COVID-19, consider the following statements:

1. Act of God is basically another term for 'Force Majeure Clause (FMC)', where something unexpected happens and can derails a legal commitment.
2. Act of God clause is mostly used by private business or commercial institutions.

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. "Act of God" is understood to include only natural unforeseen circumstances, whereas force majeure is wider in its ambit and includes both naturally occurring events and events that occur due to human intervention. However, both concepts elicit the same consequences in law.

Statement 2 is correct. The 'Act of God' is a clause used in private contracts to indemnify one or both parties from carrying out the terms of the contract due to events beyond their control. FMC is a clause that is present in most commercial contracts and is a carefully drafted legal arrangement in the event of a crisis.



02 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Greece – Turkey dispute is over naval exercises being held in eastern Mediterranean sea near Cyprus.

2. Both countries are part of the 30-member NATO alliance.
3. NATO is a military alliance established on April 4, 1949.

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Turkey is prospecting eastern Mediterranean sea for gas and hydrocarbons. The area which Turkey is exploring is claimed by Greece. Turkey rejects the claims, saying islands are not entitled to what is known as an exclusive economic zone. Ankara instead believes it has the right to explore the oil- and mineral-rich eastern Mediterranean seabed after a recent maritime agreement it concluded with Libya.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) on April 4, 1949, which sought to create a counterweight to Soviet armies stationed in central and eastern Europe after World War II.

Neighbours and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Greece and Turkey have been locked for weeks in a tense standoff in the eastern Mediterranean.



03 Merger of Two Black Holes

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The theory of 'General Relativity' states that, massive objects cause distortion in space-time, which is felt as gravity.

2. Recently LIGO and Virgo discovered gravitational waves from a binary black hole merger which upheld the theory of 'General Relativity'.
3. LIGO and Virgo studied the black holes where the merger was led by the black holes of equal masses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. Albert Einstein published his theory of general relativity in 1915. In it, he determined that massive objects cause a distortion in space-time, which is felt as gravity. The central idea is that space and time are two aspects of spacetime. Spacetime is curved when there is gravity, matter, energy, and momentum.

On April 18, 2020, the (LIGO) Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Interferometer Collaboration announced the discovery of gravitational waves from a binary black hole merger, labelled GW190412.

Statement 3 is incorrect. GW190412 is unique in that it is the first black hole merger where the masses of the two black holes are definitively unequal — one black hole in the system is more than 3 times heavier than the other.



04 COVID-19 and Great Andamanese Tribe

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to the COVID-19 spread amongst 'Great Andamanese' tribe:

1. Anthropologically, Great Andamanese are a part of the Negrito tribes.
2. Great Andamanese has been given the "Scheduled Tribe", status to protect their distinct language, culture and society.
3. Great Andamanese contracted COVID-19, as the ones who visit other cities within Andamans and are in contact with the outer world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Anthropologists classify the Great Andamanese as part of the Negrito tribes that inhabit isolated parts of Southeast Asia and the Andaman Islands. Recent studies by geneticists indicate that the Andamanese are possibly related to the Negritos of the Malay peninsula and in the Philippines. Originally, the Great Andamanese were ten distinct tribes, including the Jeru, Bea, Bo, Khora, and Pockiwar, each with its own separate language.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Great Andamanese are given Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) status. The PVTGs are communities that are more vulnerable among tribal groups, and are put under a special category by the government of India.

Statement 3 is correct. The five PVTGs residing in Andamans are Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese. Among the five, the Great Andamanese are the only ones who visit and live in the capital city of Port Blair frequently.



05 India GDP Data 2020

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian economy saw its worst contraction in decades, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrinking by a record 23.9% in the April to June quarter 2020.
2. Agriculture was the only sector which recorded modest growth of 3.4% in year on year terms.

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 statements are correct. The Indian economy saw its worst contraction in decades, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrinking by a record 23.9% in the April to June quarter in comparison to the same period last year, according to data released by the National Statistical Office.

Agriculture was the only sector which recorded modest growth of 3.4% in year on year terms. All other sectors saw contraction, with the steepest fall coming from the 50% in construction, and 47% fall in trade, hotels, transport and communication. Manufacturing shrank more than 39%, while mining and quarrying dropped 23%.



06 Qatar's New Labour Laws

Q6. With reference to the reforms in Qatar's labour laws, consider the following statements:

1. After Saudi Arabia and UAE, Qatar is the third country to abolish 'Kafala sponsorship system' to ease working for migrant labour in Arab world.
2. Qatar has also increased the minimum wage by 25 per cent to \$300 (1100 Qatari Riyals).

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: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. Qatar is the first country in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to announce permanent, minimum wage for non-citizens and offer them flexibility in changing jobs. Kafala system is common in the Gulf region and requires workers to have a sponsor in the country they are working, who then becomes responsible for their visa and legal status.

The second reform involves increasing the minimum wage by 25 per cent to \$274 (1000 Qatari Riyals). The new minimum wage, which comes into effect in six months, is non-discriminatory and applies to all workers.



07 RBI Panel for One time Loan Restructuring

Q7. Consider the following statements with reference to one time loan restructuring scheme by RBI :

1. One time loan restructuring scheme by RBI is basically for those whose loan is between 500 to 1,000 crores.
2. The Kamath committee noted that 72% of the banking sector debt to industry effectively means (Rs 37.72 crore) remains under stress.

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. While the RBI provided the broad contours of the one-time loan restructuring plan, the KV Kamath committee recommended the sector-specific benchmark ranges for financial parameters to be factored into each resolution plan for borrowers with an aggregate exposure of Rs 1,500 crore or above at the time of invocation.

Statement 2 is correct. The Kamath committee noted that corporate sector debt worth Rs 15.52 lakh crore has come under stress after COVID-19 hit India, while another Rs 22.20 lakh crore was already under stress before the pandemic. This effectively means Rs 37.72 crore (72% of the banking sector debt to industry) remains under stress. This is almost 37% of the total non-food bank credit.



7 IMPORTANT NEWS

01

Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill 2020

- ◆ The Parliament has passed the 'Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill 2020'.

Key Highlights

- ◆ It will pave the way to establish a state-of-the-art Ayurvedic institution called the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar, Gujarat, and to confer the status of Institution of National Importance (INI) to it.
- ◆ The ITRA is sought to be established by conglomerating the presently existing Ayurveda institutes at Gujarat Ayurved University campus Jamnagar.
- ◆ This is a cluster of highly reputed institutions, namely, (a) Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, (b) Shree GulabKunverba Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, and (c) Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical sciences, (d) MaharshiPatanjali Institute for Yoga Naturopathy Education & Research (to be made part of the Department of Swasthviritta of the proposed ITRA). These institutions had come up over the past many decades,

Upgrading Standard of Ayurveda Education
Institution of National Importance Status to Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar

Institute to include cluster of Ayurveda Institutes

- Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda
- Shri Gulabkunwerba Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya
- Institute of Ayurveda Pharmaceutical Sciences including Pharmacy Unit

will enable the institute to function autonomously including framing of its own courses, development of tertiary care, etc

CABINET DECISION
8 January, 2020

and together made a unique family of Ayurveda institutions existing in close proximity.

- ◆ It is expected that the enactment of the proposal will further provide autonomy to the institute to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate education in Ayurveda and Pharmacy. The synergies among the different constituent institutions will help ITRA to demonstrate high standards of such education and to emerge as a lighthouse institution to the entire AYUSH Sector. It is expected to provide the highest

level of training of personnel in all important branches of Ayurveda including Pharmacy, and to take up in-depth study and research in the field of Ayurveda.

- ◆ ITRA will be the first institution with INI status in the AYUSH Sector, and this will enable the institution to be independent and innovative in the matter deciding course content and pedagogy. The decision comes at a time when global interest in health solutions based on traditional wisdom is at an unprecedentedly high level and ITRA is poised to take Ayurveda education to new vistas.

02

Three Agricultural Ordinances and Related Protest

- ◆ Three Bills on agriculture reforms – The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 – were introduced in the Parliament on September 14 to replace the ordinances issued during the lockdown.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

- ◆ It seeks to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels to promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside physical premises of markets or deemed markets notified under various State agricultural produce market legislations; to provide a facilitative framework for electronic trading and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

- ◆ It seeks to provide for a national framework on farming agreements

Farmers Income to be Doubled Under Modi Government. (2/2)

Salient features of The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020.



This will increase competitiveness in the market and farmers will get good prices for their produce.



Farmers or traders can engage in trade within a state or with other states through electronic trading platforms.



This bill will promote the concept of 'One Nation One Market' and allow farmers to sell their produce across the country.



© harshavardhanmuppavarapu

that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agribusiness firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- ◆ It seeks to remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. This will remove fear of private investors of excessive regulatory interference in their business operations. The freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing of economies of scale and attract private sector/foreign direct investment into agriculture sector.

Key Issues

Cooperative federalism

- ◆ Since agriculture and markets are State subjects – entry 14 and 28 respectively in List II – the ordinances are being seen as a direct encroachment upon the

functions of the States and against the spirit of cooperative federalism enshrined in the Constitution.

End to MSP?

- ◆ Critics view the dismantling of the monopoly of the APMCs as a sign of ending the assured procurement of food grains at minimum support prices (MSP). To the Centre's 'one nation, one market' call, critics have sought 'one nation, one MSP'.

No Mechanism for Price Fixation

- ◆ The Price Assurance Bill, while offering protection to farmers against price exploitation, does not prescribe the mechanism for price fixation. There is apprehension that the free hand given to private corporate houses could lead to farmer exploitation.

Deregulation of Food Items

- ◆ The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance removes cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. The amendment will deregulate the production, storage, movement and distribution of these food commodities.
- ◆ It would lead to exporters, processors and traders hoarding farm produce during the harvest season, when prices are generally lower, and releasing it later when prices increase.



03

Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework and Streets for People Challenge

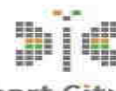
- ◆ The government has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge'.

CSCAF 2.0

- ◆ The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments. In the last decade, an increasing frequency of cyclones, floods, heat waves, water scarcity and drought-like conditions have had adverse impacts on many of our cities. Such extreme events and risks cause loss of life as well as impact the economic growth.
- ◆ In this context, CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India. The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely; (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii)



Ministry of Housing
and Urban Affairs
Government of India



Smart City
REDEFINING URBAN LIVING

ClimateSmart Cities ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Supported by

giz

German Development Cooperation
GIZ - International Services for Sustainable Development

in partnership with



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

Ministry of Urban Development
Government of India



National Institute of Urban Affairs

Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Management and (v) Waste Management. The Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.

Streets for People Challenge

- ◆ The Streets for People Challenge is the response to the need for making our cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly. The Challenge

builds on the advisory issued by MoHUA for the holistic planning for pedestrian-friendly market spaces, earlier this year. The Challenge will support cities across the country to develop a unified vision of streets for people in consultation with stakeholders and citizens. Adopting a participatory approach, cities will be guided to launch their own design competitions to gather innovative ideas from professionals for quick, innovative, and low-cost tactical solutions.



04

NGT and Mangrove in Kakinada

- ◆ Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), South Zone has constituted a four-member joint committee to probe into the alleged damage done to the mangrove mudflat at Kumbabhisekham near Kakinada by GMR Energy Limited and East Coast Concessions Private Limited (ECPL).

Background

- ◆ Former bureaucrat and environmental activist E.A.S. Sarma and wetland expert K. Mrutyumjaya Rao moved the NGT,



alleging the destruction of the mangrove cover by the GMR and the ECPL.

- ◆ Alleging that a bund has been built to prevent the entry of seawater into the mangrove, they claimed

that the area fell in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ-1) category.

- ◆ Early this year, the GMR and the ECPL dredged the mudflat on the seafront for creating a channel to transport its decommissioned barge mounted power plant and dumped the dredge spoil on the mudflat.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The panel has been directed to look into the nature of damage done to the mangrove mudflat due to the alleged dumping of dredge spoil, the construction of the bund and its effects on the eco-sensitive zone of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ◆ The panel will also suggest

remedial measures to restore the damage, apart from assessing the environmental compensation needed.

- ◆ The mangrove at Kumbabhisekham mudflat is one of the prime habitat for two birds—Great knot, an endangered species, and Indian skimmer, which has been listed in vulnerable category. 

05

Banking Regulation Amendment Bill, 2020

- ◆ Recently, Lok Sabha has passed Banking Regulation Amendment Bill, 2020 to bring the cooperative banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India. In the wake of deteriorating condition of cooperative banks in the country, the central government amended the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The Bill will replace the the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. In June, the union cabinet approved the ordinance to bring 1,482 urban and 58 multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of the central bank.
- ◆ The Bill allows the central bank to initiate a scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation of a bank without placing it under moratorium.
- ◆ If the central bank imposes moratorium on a bank, the lender can not grant any loans or make investments in any credit instruments during the moratorium tenure, according to the Bill.

Green Signal

BANKING LAWS AMENDED

- Reserve Bank to have control over cooperative banks
- Move to ensure better professionalism, corporate governance
- RBI can supersede management if cooperative bank fails
- Will protect interest of depositors
- Coop banks to be audited as per RBI rules
- Prior nod from RBI required for CEO appointment



New Port at Vadhavan

- In-principle approval given by Cabinet
- Port to be developed in Maharashtra on 'landlord' model
- Project cost: ₹65,544 cr

BCCL

- ◆ The co-operative banks will be allowed to issue equity, preference, or special shares on face value or at a premium to its members, or to any other person residing within their area of operations. The banks may also issue unsecured debentures or bonds or similar securities with maturity of ten or more years to such persons. However, a prior approval from RBI is mandatory for such issuance.
- ◆ RBI may supersede the board of directors of a multi-state co-operative bank for up to five years under certain conditions. These conditions include cases

where it is in the public interest for RBI to supersede the Board, and to protect depositors.

- ◆ The Banking Regulation Amendment Bill, 2020 will not be applicable to a) Primary agricultural credit societies, b) Cooperative societies whose principal business is long term financing for agricultural development.
- ◆ These two societies must not: a) use the term 'bank', 'banker' or 'banking' in their name or in connection with their business, b) Act as an entity that clears cheque. 

06

BlackRock Android Malware

- ◆ Security firm ThreatFabric has alerted about a new malware, called BlackRock, which can steal information like passwords and credit card information from about 377 smartphone applications, including Amazon, Facebook, Gmail and Tinder.

Key Highlights

- ◆ BlackRock is not exactly a new malware. In fact, it is based on the leaked source code of the Xeres malware, itself derived from malware called LokiBot. The only big difference between BlackRock and other Android banking trojans is that it can target more apps than previous malwares.
- ◆ BlackRock works like most Android malware. Once installed on a phone, it monitors the targeted app. When the user enters the login and/or credit card details, the malware sends the information to a server. BlackRock uses the phone's Accessibility feature, and then uses an Android DPC (device policy controller) to provide access to other permissions.



- ◆ When the malware is first launched on the device, it hides its icon from the app drawer, making it invisible to the end-user. It then asks for accessibility service privileges. Once this privilege is granted, BlackRock grants itself additional permissions required to fully function without having to interact any further with the victim. At this point, the bot is ready to receive commands from the command-and-control server and execute overlay attacks.
- ◆ But BlackRock isn't limited to online banking apps and targets general purpose apps across various categories of Books & Reference, Business, Communication, Dating, Entertainment, Lifestyle, Music & Audio, News & Magazine, Tools, and Video Players & Editors. 📖📰🎵📺

07

Procurement of Minor Forest Produces under Minimum Support Price

- ◆ One bright spot in this turbulent and challenging year has been the record procurement of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for MFP Scheme in 16 states which has now touched Rs. 148.12 crores.
- ◆ This is the highest-ever in terms of the number of MFPs, the total value of procurement and the number of states involved, since the implementation of the scheme. With this, the total procurement for the year (both Government and private trade) crossed more than Rs 3000 crores, proving to be a much needed panacea in these distressing times of the COVID-19 pandemic which has disrupted lives and livelihoods of tribal people.
- ◆ Over the last few months since April 2020, with the government



push and the 'Van Dhan Scheme' has provided to be a catalyst and active participation from the states.

♦ Van Dhan Scheme was launched in 2018. The scheme is being implemented by Tribal Cooperative Marketing

Development Federation of India (TRIFED). It proposed to set-up tribal community owned Minor Forest Produce (MFP)-centric multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (the Kendra) in predominantly tribal districts.

- ♦ TRIFED, as the nodal agency working to empower the tribal population, has been supporting and assisting the State in all their efforts during this crisis. With Government of India and State agencies accounting for over Rs 1000 crores at MSP, the private trade has procured over Rs 2000 crores above MSP. <><>

7

IMPORTANT PRACTICE QUESTIONS (For Mains)



01

Assess the impact of COVID-19 on the life of rural population with examples.

02

Critically discuss the controversial provisions that bother protesting farmers of the three agricultural ordinances.

03

What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain?

04

Can the strategy of self-reliance model help in promoting employment in India?

05

India should opt for income support for poor households so that pandemic does not turn into a financial crisis. Comment.

06

How can technology help to improve the living standards of farmers? Discuss.

07

Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications.

7

IMPORTANT FACTS (For Prelims)



- 01** What is the rank of India in recently released World Bank's 'Human Capital Index 2020'?

116th
- 02** Who has been elected as new Prime Minister of Japan?

Yoshihide Suga
- 03** Which country has elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women?

India
- 04** Which state government will set up a special security force on the lines of 'Central Industrial Security Force'?

Uttar Pradesh
- 05** Who has been re-elected as deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha?

Harivansh Narayan Singh
- 06** Who has won the Women's Singles Championship in the US Open 2020?

Naomi Osaka
- 07** Who has won the Men's Singles Championship in the US Open 2020?

Dominic Thiem

7

IMPORTANT QUOTES (For Essay and Answer Writing)



01



03



05

01

"There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing."

Swami Vivekanand

02

"It is the health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

Mahatma Gandhi

03

"Be kind to all creatures; this is the true religion."

Gautam Buddha

04

"We are unnecessarily wasting our precious resources in wars... if we must wage war, we have to do it on unemployment, disease, poverty, and backwardness."

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

05

"Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the Nation and the citizens of tomorrow."

Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru

06

"A mind all logic is like a knife all blade. It makes the hand bleed that uses it."

Rabindra Nath Tagore

07

"A great man is different from an eminent one in that he is ready to be the servant of the society."

Dr. B R Ambedkar

AN INTRODUCTION

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

Quite a large number of students dream of building a career for themselves are absolutely less equipped for the fairly tough competitive exam they have to appear in. Several others, who have a brilliant academic career, do not know that competitive exams are vastly different from academic examinations and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here you might have got a head start but are ahead of many others who lag behind. Dhyeya IAS is enriched with qualified & experienced faculties besides specially designed study material that helps the students in achieving the desired goal.

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

OSDL Prepare yourself from distance

Distance Learning Programme, OSDL, primarily caters the need for those who are unable to come to institute for economic or family reason but have ardent desire to become a civil servant. Simultaneously, it also caters to the need of working professionals, who are unable to join regular classroom to increase in workload or places of their posting. The principal characteristics 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. Overcoming the difficulties faced by aspirants of distant areas, especially working professionals, 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 easy-to-understand nature. To this it is made 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 8-10 books available in the market / library. That means, OSDL study material is undoubtedly the most comprehensive material which will definitely give you added advantage in your preparation as well as exam preparation. 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 online materials available for any student preparing for Civil Services Examination. We adhere all values of distance education.

Face to Face Centres

DELHI (MUJHERJEE NAGAR) : 011-49274400 | 9205274741, **DELHI (RAJENDRA NAGAR)** : 011-41251555 | 9205274743, **DELHI (LAXMI NAGAR)** : 011-43012555 | 9205212500, **ALLAHABAD** : 0532-2260189 | 8853467068, **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ)** 9506256789 | 7570000014, **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR)** 7234000501 | 7234000502, **GREATER NOIDA RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY** : 9205336037 | 9205336038, **BHUBANESWAR** : 8699071655, **SRINAGAR (J&K)** : 9205982002 | 9988085811

Live Streaming Centres

BIHAR: PATNA – 6204373873, 9334100961 | **CHANDIGARH** – 9218776076, 9991816500 | **DELHI & NCR: FARIDABAD** – 9711394350, 1294054621 | **GUJARAT: AHMEDABAD** – 9879113469 | **HARYANA: HISAR** – 9906687706, 9991667706, **KURUKSHETRA** – 9950708524, 9807221300 | **MADHYA PRADESH: GWALIOR** 9990135886, 9990481642, **JABALPUR** 9992080203, 9992082030, **REWA** 9826207755, 7652400099 | **MAHARASHTRA: MUMBAI** 9324012565 | **PUNJAB: PATIALA** – 9941030070, **LUDHIANA** – 9876218943, 9880178344 | **RAJASTHAN: JODHPUR** – 9928965998 | **UTTARAKHAND: HALDWANI-TORU** 172525 | **UTTAR PRADESH: ALIGARH** – 9837877671, 9412175550, **AZAMGARH** – 7817077051, **BAHRAICH** – 7275756422, **BAREILLY** – 9017600098, **GORAKHPUR** – 7080847474, 7764884116, **KANPUR** – 7275010962, **LUCKNOW (ALAMBAGH)** 7518573333, 7518273333, **MORADABAD** 9927622321, **VARANASI** 7400986688



dhyeyaias.com

f /dhyeya1

STUDENT PORTAL

Dhyeya IAS Now on Telegram

We're Now on Telegram



Join Dhyeya IAS Telegram

Channel from the link given below

"https://t.me/dhyeya_ias_study_material"

You can also join Telegram Channel through
Search on Telegram

"Dhyeya IAS Study Material"

Join Dhyeya IAS Telegram Channel from link the given below

https://t.me/dhyeya_ias_study_material

नोट : पहले अपने फ़ोन में टेलीग्राम App Play Store से Install कर ले उसके बाद लिंक में
क्लिक करें जिससे सीधे आप हमारे चैनल में पहुँच जायेंगे।

You can also join Telegram Channel through our website

www.dhyeyaias.com

www.dhyeyaias.com/hindi



Address: 635, Ground Floor, Main Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009
Phone No: 011-47354625/ 26 , 9205274741/42, 011-49274400

Subscribe Dhyeya IAS Email Newsletter

(ध्येय IAS ई-मेल न्यूजलेटर सब्सक्राइब करें)

जो विद्यार्थी ध्येय IAS के व्हाट्सएप ग्रुप (Whatsapp Group) से जुड़े हुये हैं और उनको दैनिक अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त होने में समस्या हो रही है | तो आप हमारे ईमेल लिंक Subscribe कर ले इससे आपको प्रतिदिन अध्ययन सामग्री का लिंक मेल में प्राप्त होता रहेगा | **ईमेल से Subscribe करने के बाद मेल में प्राप्त लिंक को क्लिक करके पुष्टि (Verify) जरूर करें** अन्यथा आपको प्रतिदिन मेल में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त नहीं होगी |

नोट (Note): अगर आपको हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों माध्यम में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त करनी है, तो आपको दोनों में अपनी ईमेल से **Subscribe** करना पड़ेगा | आप दोनों माध्यम के लिए एक ही ईमेल से जुड़ सकते हैं |



Join Dhyeya IAS Whatsapp Group by Sending "Hi Dhyeya IAS" Message on 9205336039.

Subscribe Dhyeya IAS Email Newsletter

Step by Step guidance for Subscription:

- **1st Step:** Fill Your Email address in form below. you will get a confirmation email within 2 min.
- **2nd Step:** Verify your email by clicking on the link in the email. (Check Inbox and Spam folders)
- **3rd Step:** Done! you will receive alerts & Daily Free Study Material regularly on your email.

Subscribe



ADMISSIONS OPEN

FOR NEW ONLINE BATCH

IAS PRE-CUM-MAINS

PCS

OPTIONAL

HINDI & ENGLISH MEDIUM

Call: **9205962002**
9506256789

Whatsapp:
9205274741

Visit:
dhyeyaiaas.com