VEDHIK IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 2021

FOR CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMINARY, MAINS, STATE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS UNDER UPSC, SSC AND STATE PSCs

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HEAD OFFICE: M4 - Houz Khas New Delhi - 16
REGISTERED OFFICE: 4th Floor, Building No.61/832, Mercy Estate,
Ravipuram, Ernakulam, Kerala - 682 015
E-mail: info@vedhikiasacademy.org www.vedhikiasacademy.org
7777 87 55 88 | 0484 4452 7777

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HISTORY - ARTS AND CULTURE

RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS

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ONAKE OBAVVA JAYANTI

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BIRSA MUNDA

BATTLE OF REZANG LA

PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR

GURU NANAK DEV JAYANTI

RANI GAIDINLIU

RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS

UNITY DAY PLEDGE: In the year 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had administered the National Unity Day pledge at the Statue of Unity, Gujarat.

ABOUT RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS OR NATIONAL UNITY DAY

- DATE: October 31, since 2014.
- COMMEMORATION: Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- FOCUS: Honour the efforts of Patel in post-independence consolidation of India.
- HIGHLIGHT: Resilience of India towards dangers posed against the security, unity and integrity of India.

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel is endeared as Sardar. He was an Indian statesman, who served as the first Deputy Prime Minister of India during 1947-1950. He was an Indian barrister and served as a senior leader of the Indian National Congress (INC). He played a leading role in the struggle for independence of India. He guided on the integration of India into a united, independent nation. He also served as Home Minister during political integration of India and during India-Pakistan War of 1947. Sardar Patel was a pivotal figure in India's independence fight as well as its integration

STATUE OF UNITY

Colossal statue of independence activist Vallabhbhai Patel facing Sardar Sarovar Dam.
World's tallest statue.
HEIGHT OF STATUE: 182 metres.
PLACE: Kevadia, Gujarat. 100 kilometres southeast of Vadodara city and 150 kilometres from Surat.

INAUGURATION OF THE SAMADHI OF ADI SHANKARACHARYA

PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones and dedicated several development projects in Kedarnath to the nation.

ABOUT ADI SHANKARACHARYA

Shankara : c. 700 CE - c. 750 CE
Born: Kalady, Chera Kingdom (present-day Kochi in Kerala, India)
DIED: Kedarnath, Gurjara-Pratihara Empire (present-day Uttarakhand, India)
Religion: Hinduism
Known for: Expounded Advaita Vedanta
Philosophy: Advaita Vedanta
NOTABLE WORKS: Vivekachudamani, Maneesha Panchakam, and Saundaryalahiri.

Indian philosopher and theologian who travelled over Indian subcontinent for propagating his philosophy through discourses and debates with other thinkers belonging to orthodox Hindu traditions as well as heterodox non-Hindu-traditions.He founded four monasteries (Mathas) believed to have helped in historical development, propagation and revival of Advaita Vedanta. He laid the foundation of a strong Brahmanical papal organisation by setting up four Hindu Madhs in four corners of India-Badari in the north, Sringeri in the South, Puri in the East and Dwaraka in the West.

ABOUT ADVAITA VEDANTA:

- One among the six schools of Hindu philosophy.
- Brahman alone is ultimately real, while transient phenomenal world is an illusory appearance of Brahman.
- Doctrine of oneness of the individual soul and the Supreme God which is the Ultimate Reality (formless and without any attributes Brahm).

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Union Ministry of Culture has launched three nationwide competitions for Deshbhakti Geet writing, Lori writing and Rangoli Making on the occasion of National Unity Day.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Competitions will be held from Tehshil level, Taluka level to National level.
- Entries for the competition was opened for public competition.
- Public participation was introduced by eminent personalities on social media. For example: Lata Mangeshkar tweeted for Deshbhakti Geet competition, A.R Rahman for Lori or Lullaby writing competition while Sudarsan Pattnaik for Rangoli making competition.
- Competition will go on for some months as *"#Unity In Creativity"* and winners will be rewarded.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

- Initiative by the Government of India (GoI).
- Launched to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India.
- Celebrating the glorious history people, culture and achievements of India.
- Celebration is dedicated to the people of India, who played an instrumental role in realizing the achievements of India.
- People of India also represents the social, political, cultural, and economic identity of India.

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

National Education Day that mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was observed across schools by organising several functions and programs since 2008.

ABOUT NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

DATE: November 11

OBJECTIVE: Tribute to contributions of Maulana Abul Azad to education system of Independent India

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Celebrated annually in schools by organising several interesting and informative seminars, essay-writing, rallies, symposia, etc.
- Students and teaches come together and talk about the significance of literacy and nation's commitment across all aspects of education.

ABOUT MAULANA ABUL AZAD

- Indian independence activist, writer, Islamic theologian, and a senior leader of Indian National Congress (INC).
- **NOTABLE WORKS:** India Wins Freedom, Ghubar-e-Khatir, Tazkirah, Tarjumanul Quran
- **EDITOR:** Al-Hilal (Weekly Journal in Urdu)
- Youngest person to serve as President of Indian National Congress (INC) in 1923 at the age of 35.
- First Minister of Education of Independent India and served from 1947 to 1958 in Pandit Jawa harlal Nehru's cabinet.

ONAKE OBAVVA JAYANTI

Karnataka government started celebration of 'Onake Obavva Jayanti' on the 11th of November from the year 2021.

ABOUT ONAKE OBAVVA

- 'Epitome of Kannada female pride'.
- Woman-soldier who had fought against
- Hyder Ali forces in Chitradurga in 18th century.
- Onake Obavva died fighting the troops of Hyder Ali, a ruler of the Mysore Kingdom and father of Tipu Sultan, when he invaded the Chitradurga Fort, which was ruled by Madakari Nayaka in the 18th century.
- Chitradurga Fort, locally known as Elusuttina Kote, (the fort of seven circles in Kannada), is situated in Chitradurga, 200 km north west of Bengaluru.

OTHER WOMEN WARRIORS OF KARNATAKA

- Abbakka Rani, first Tuluva Queen of Ullal in coastal Karnataka: Fought the Portuguese.
- Keladi Chennamma, Queen of the Keladi Kingdom: Fought against Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.
- Kittur Chennamma, Queen of Kittur: Fought against the British East India Company in the Revolt, 1824.

KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE CORRIDOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating Kashi Viswanath Temple Corridor project in Varanasi on December 13, 2021. This temple is called as Kashi Viswanath temple because, Varanasi city was called as Kashi in ancient times.

KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE CORRIDOR PROJECT

- Paved Walkway connecting Kashi Viswanath temple with the Ghats of Holy Ganga.
- Facilities for a museum, library, a Mumuksha Bhawan (Salvation House) and a facilitation centre for pilgrims.

KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE

- One among the twelve Jyotirlingams
- Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva located in Vishwanath Gali of Varanasi on western bank of the river Ganga.
- MAIN DEITY: Shri Vishwanath and Vishweshwara, which means 'Lord of the Universe'.

KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

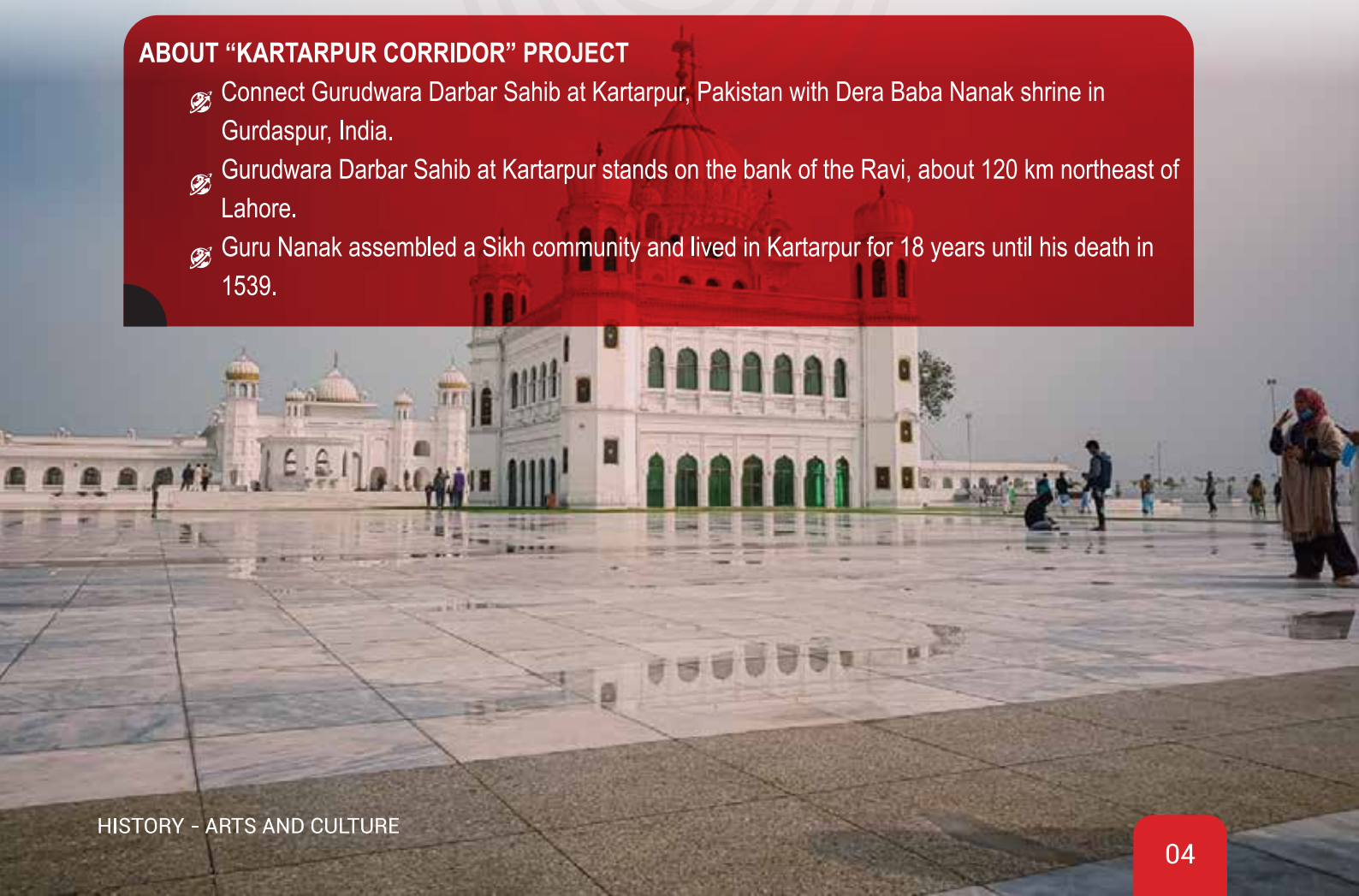
*The government plans to reopen **Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara corridor** to Pakistan on **November 19,** the birth anniversary of **the Sikh founder Guru Nanak,** known as Gurpurab or "Prakash Parv".*

ABOUT KARTARPUR CORRIDOR AGREEMENT:

- Allows Passport carrying Indian pilgrims of all faiths and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to travel visa free through the corridor.
- Persons of Indian Origin need to carry OCI card along with the passport of their country.

ABOUT "KARTARPUR CORRIDOR" PROJECT

- Connect Gurudwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur, Pakistan with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur, India.
- Gurudwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur stands on the bank of the Ravi, about 120 km northeast of Lahore.
- Guru Nanak assembled a Sikh community and lived in Kartarpur for 18 years until his death in 1539.



ATLANTIC CHARTER

President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently reaffrimed their commitment to the principles of Atlanti Charter and stressed the need for new Atlantic Charter, pledging to "defend the principles, values, and institutions of democracy and open societies."

ABOUT THE NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER

- Created in the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and following the recent AUKUS trilateral security partnership between Australia, U.K. and the U.S.
- Supports countries in every region of the world as they work to protect and ensure the resilience of their critical infrastructure.
- Provides policy advice, an investment vehicle and a technology development platform to help government agencies and commercial entities counter digital authoritarianism.

ABOUT THE ATLANTIC CHARTER

Joint declaration by the United States and Great Britain issued on August 14, 1941 during World War II (1939-45), later endorsed by a group of 26 Allied nations by January 1942.

NOTABLE PERSONALITIES: British PM Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

SIGINIFICANCE: Set out a vision for the postwar world and considered as the first key steps toward the establishment of the United Nations in 1945.

EIGHT PRINCIPAL CLAUSES OF THE CHARTER:

1. DECOLONISATION: No further territorial gains by the United States or the United Kingdom.
2. BOUNDARY DEMARCATION: Territorial adjustments must be in accordance with the wishes of the concerned people.
3. SELF-DETERMINATION: Upheld the right to self-determination for all people.
4. FREE TRADE: Lower trade barriers.
5. GLOBAL COOPERATION: Promote global economic co-operation and advancement of social welfare.
6. GLOBAL WELFARE: Signatories to work for a world free of want and fear.
7. FREEDOM OVER SEAS: Signatories to work for freedom of the seas.
8. GLOBAL DISARMAMENT: Disarmament of aggressor nations and a broader post-war disarmament.

RANI KAMLAPATI

India's first provately operated Railway Station, Habibganj railway station at Bhopal has been named as Rani Kamlapati station. The station has been redeveloped at a cost of around Rs 100 crore with private participation — a first such large-scale PPP model in station redevelopment in India, in the works for the past few years.

RANI KAMLAPATI

- Rani Kamlapati, the widow of Nizam Shah, whose Gond Dynasty ruled the then Ginnorgarh, 55 km from Bhopal, in the 18th century is known to have shown great bravery in facing aggressors during her reign after her husband was killed.
- The Gond are one of the largest tribal communities in India, spread across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar and Odisha.

- Last Hindu queen of Bhopal
- LEGACY: Water management and set up parks and temples.

BIRSA MUNDA

Birth anniversary of Birsa Munda was observed on November 15th. In recognition of his impact on the national movement, the state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary in 2000.

ABOUT BIRSA MUNDA

- folk hero and a tribal freedom fighter hailing from the Munda tribe.
- Spearheaded the Millenarian movement that arose in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt in the 19th century under British colonisation.
- He is also known as 'Dharti Abba' or the Earth Father.
- Born on 15th November 1875.

PILLARS OF BIRSAIT

- Reform the tribal society
- Opposed the tribal beliefs in witchcraft
- Opposed alcohol
- Stressed on the importance of prayer and faith in God
- Observing a code of conduct.

MUNDA REBELLION

- Most important tribal movements.

LEADER: Birsa Munda in the south of Ranchi in 1899-1900.

- Identified following forces as the cause of the misery the Mundas were suffering:
- Land policies of the British were destroying their traditional land system.
- Hindu landlords and moneylenders were taking over their land.
- Missionaries were criticising their traditional culture.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MUNDA REBELLION:

- Forced the colonial government to introduce laws so that the land of the tribals could not be easily taken over by dikus (Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908).
- Showed that the tribal people had the capacity to protest against injustice and express their anger against colonial rule.

"If you want to shine like a sun, First burn like the sun."

— A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

BATTLE OF REZANG LA

A memorial was inaugurated on November 18 to mark the 59th anniversary of the Battle of Rezang La.

ABOUT BATTLE OF REZANG LA

- Rezang La: Mountain pass located between village of Chushul and the Spanggur Lake that stretches across both Indian and Chinese territories on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.
- EVENT: Troops from the 13 Kumaon Regiment sucessfully defended several waves of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in a heroic battle on 18 November 1962.
- SIGNIFICANCE: Rezang La serves as a passage to the Leh.

NOTABLE INDIA-CHINA BORDER SKIRMISHES

- 1967: Nathu La and Cho La clashes - Border clashes between India and China alongside the border of the Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim, then an Indian protectorate.
- 1986–87: Sumdorong Chu Valley standoff - Military standoff between India and China in the Sumdorong Chu Valley bordering the Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh and Cona County, Tibet.
- 2013: Depsang standoff / Daulat Beg Oldi incident - Incursion and sit-in by a platoon-sized contingent of the Chinese PLA in the valley of Raki Nala, 30 km south of Daulat Beg Oldi near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the disputed Aksai Chin region.
- 2017: Doklam standoff - Military standoff between India and China in the disputed territory of Doklam, near the Doka La pass over construction of a road in the disputed area
- 2020: Galwan Valley - Indian and Chinese troops engaged in a brawl in the Galwan River valley which reportedly led to the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers.

PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Puri heritage corridor is being developed at a cost of Rs 800 crore in Odisha. Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath. This temple was called the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).

PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT

- OBJECTIVE: Transform the holy town of Puri into an international place of heritage.
- FINANCE: Funding from the State Government Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture at Puri (ABADHA) scheme.
- SALIENT COMPONENTS: Redevelopment of Puri lake and Musa river revival plan.

ABOUT PURI JAGANNATH TEMPLE

- Vaishnavite temple dedicated to Jagannath, a form of Sri Krishna in Puri in Odisha.
- TIME OF CONSTRUCTION: 12th century
- PATRON: King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- FAMOUS: Annual Ratha Yatra, or chariot festival, in which the three principal deities are pulled on huge and elaborately decorated temple cars.

GURU NANAK DEV JAYANTI

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Jayanti, also known as Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav and Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurpurab is celebrated on the full moon day of Kartik month, also known as Kartik Poornima celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak. It will mark the 552nd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first of the ten Sikh gurus.

ABOUT GURU NANAK DEV

- BORN: 1469 - Talwandi Rai Bhoe (Nankana Sahib), near Lahore.
- DEATH: 1539 - Kartarpur.
- Founded Sikh religion.
- Initiated inter-faith dialogue in the 16th century and had conversations with most of the religious denominations of his times.
- Fifth Sikh Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606) compiled written compositions to be included in the Adi Granth, known as Guru Granth Sahib after the additions made by the 10th guru Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708).

TEACHINGS OF GURU NANAK:

- Preached universal peace, harmony and equality.
- Aimed at creating a casteless society in which there is no hierarchy.
- Opposed discriminations and multiple identities based on caste, creed, religion and language.
- Founded three pillars of Sikhism namely Naam Japna, Kirat Karni, and Vand Chakna.
- Consciously went on long journeys (called Uddasian) to far off places along with his two companions Bhai Bala, a Hindu, and Bhai Mardana, a Muslim, to hold dialogues with many saints and Sufis even, some char latans who claimed some spiritual powers and had some social following.

RANI GAIDINLIU

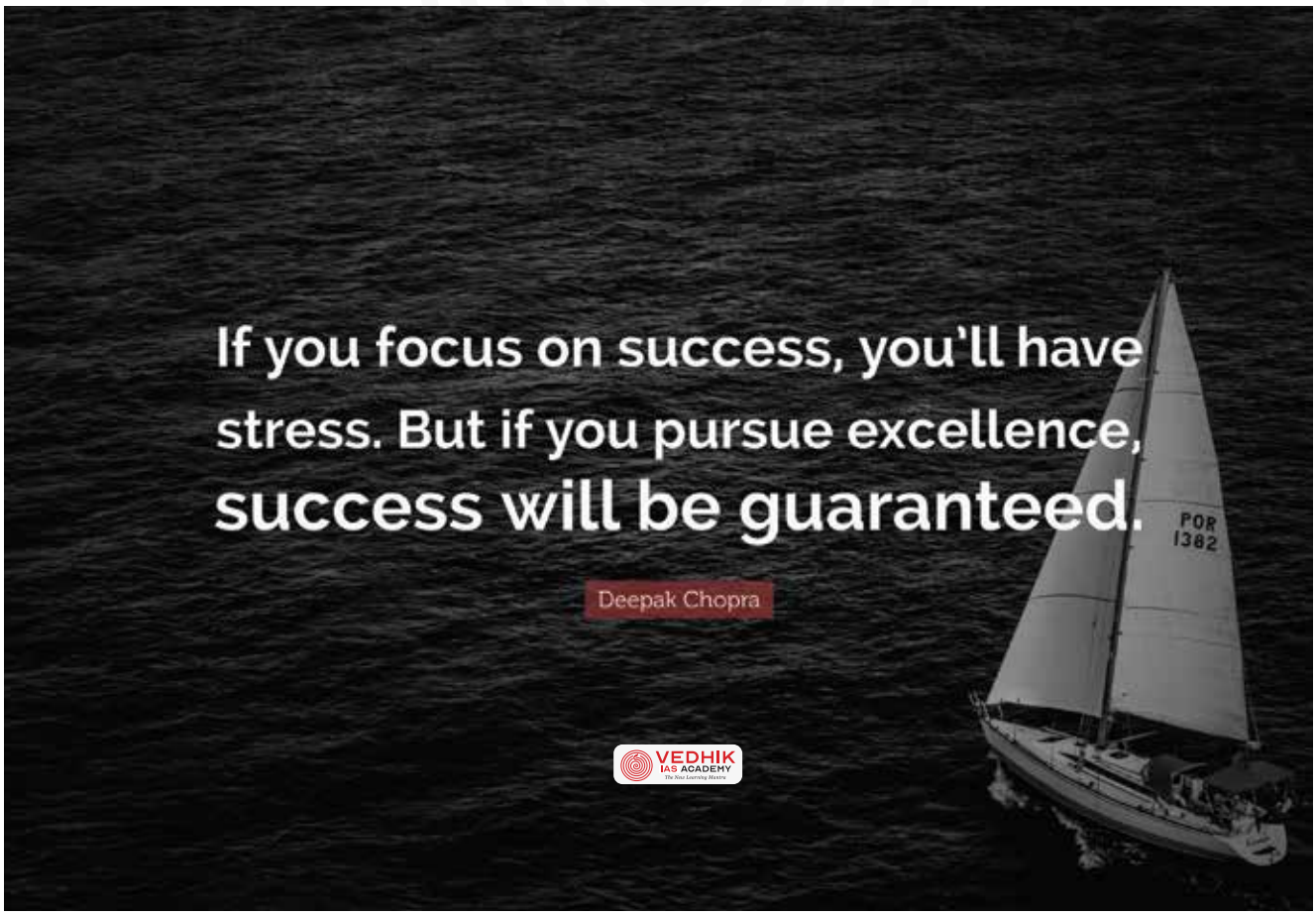
The 'Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum' is being built in Manipur's Tamenglong district (Rani Gaidinliu's birthplace). The museum would help preserve and exhibit artefacts related to the tribal freedom fighters, involved in different stages of the fight against the British colonial rule like Anglo-Manipuri War, Kuki-Rebellion, Naga-Raj movements, among others.

HERAKA MOVEMENT:

Haipou Jadonang, a Rongmei freedom fighter and religious leader started the 'Heraka movement' based on ancestral Naga religion, and envisioned an independent Naga kingdom (or Naga-Raja). After the execution of Jadonang, Rani Gaidinliu took up the leadership of the movement — which slowly turned political from religious. Rani started a serious revolt against the British and was eventually imprisoned for life. She was released after 14 years, in 1947. Unlike Jadonang, whose approach was inclined to be "millenarian", Rani orchestrated for the need of an armed movement against colonial rule.

ABOUT RANI GAIDINLIU

- Naga spiritual leader, belonging to Rongmei clan of the Zeliangrong tribe.
- BORN: January 26, 1915, Tamenglong district, Western Manipur.
- LEGACY: Jawaharlal Nehru called her the "Daughter of the Hills" and gave her the title "Rani" or queen acknowledging her role in the struggle against the British.



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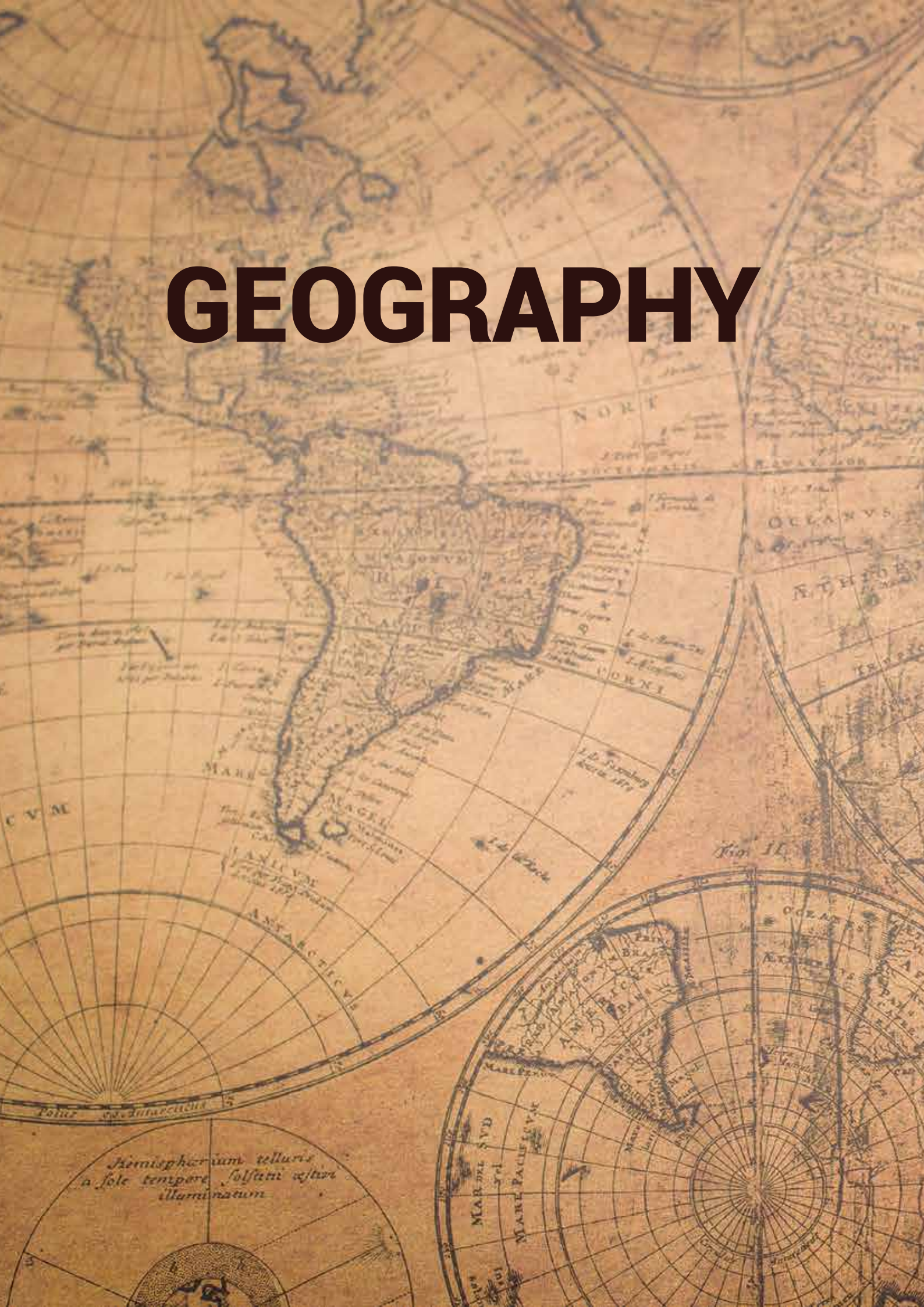
ONLINE IAS ACADEMY

IAS

വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ സ്വപ്നം
വേദിക്കിന്റെ വാഗ്ദാനം!!!!

GEOGRAPHY


NORT
OCEANVS
MARE
MAGELL
ANTARCTICVS
Hemisphærium telluris
a sole tempore solstitii æstivi
illuminatum
MARE PACIFICVM

LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER

DIEGO GARCIA

PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER

The annual Leonids Meteor Shower has started and will be active between November 6 and 30, 2021.

- DATE OF PEAK TIME: November 17.
- OBSERVATION: Cosmic debris appear like a display of fireworks in the sky.
- PEAK TIME: Earth passes through densest part of the debris.
- COMET: "55P/Tempel-Tuttle" in the constellation Leo.

ABOUT LEONIDS

- Major shower, with some of the fastest meteors usually travelling at speeds of 71 km per second.
- Bright colour and Earth-gazer meteors streaking close to the horizon.
- Friction between meteorite and molecule present in Earth's atmosphere creates light.

METEOR STORM

- Leonid shower turns into a meteor storm, every 33 years.
- Hundreds to thousands of meteors are observed every hour.
- LAST METEOR STORM: 2002.

FAVOURABLE FACTORS

- Cloudless night.
- New Moon.
- No light pollution.

DIEGO GARCIA

International Court of Justice (ICJ) has advised the UK to return the Diego Garcia (Chagos Islands) to Mauritius as rapidly as possible. The ICJ has said that Britain must give Mauritius control of the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean. The advisory has been issued by the ICJ on the request of the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to look into the issue.

ABOUT CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

- CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO: Group of 7 atolls consists of more than 60 individual tropical islands in the Indian Ocean about 500 km south of the Maldives archipelago.
- DIEGO GARCIA: Coral atoll located south of the equator in the central Indian Ocean
- TYPE: British Overseas Territory.
- STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE:

The United States developed Diego Garcia as a strong American military base in Indian Ocean, operating a large naval ship and submarine support base, military air base, communications and space tracking facilities, and an anchorage for pre-positioned military supplies for regional operations aboard Military Sealift Command ships in the lagoon.

PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

On November 19, 2021 in the morning, several countries will witness the longest partial lunar eclipse of the century.

SALIENT FEATURES

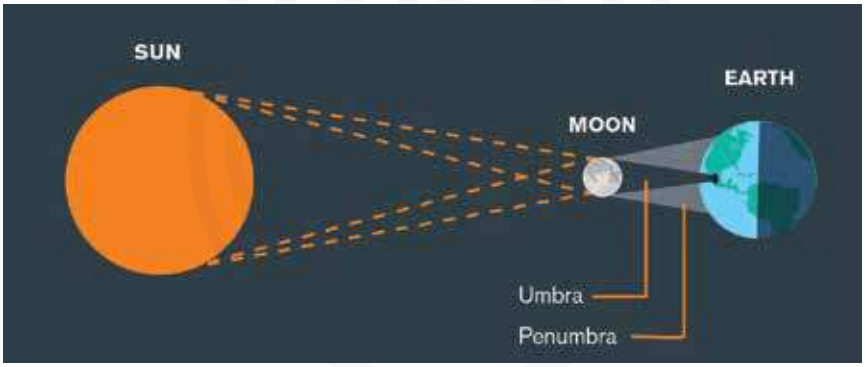
- Second lunar eclipse of 2021 and the longest lunar eclipse in 580 years.
- DURATION: 3 hours, 28 minutes and 23 seconds.
- 4% of the Moon's diameter will be immersed in the dark umbral shadow of Earth at maximum eclipse.

UMBRA

- Innermost and darkest part of a shadow, where the light source is completely blocked by occluding body.
- Observers within the umbra observes a total eclipse.
- Distance from the Moon to the apex of its umbra is equal to distance between the Moon and Earth that is 384,402 km. As the diameter of Earth is 3.7 times the Moon's diameter, its umbra extends correspondingly farther, that is around 1.4 million km.

FROST MOON

The full moon, that will be observed on November 19, is also known as the frost moon or beaver moon. Full moons in November have been named so, because this is the time of first snowfall and frost, while beavers start building their traps or dams.



OUR LEADERS

DR J Alexander IAS

President, Vedhik Academy, Former Chief Secretary Govt. of Karnataka

DR. J Alexander, IAS (Retired), Former Chief Secretary and Cabinet Minister, Karnataka State, India, is the President of Vedhik IAS Academy. He did his M.A in English Literature from University College, Trivandrum and his Ph.D in Philosophy from Karnataka University. He started his career as a lecturer in English in Fatima Mata National College, Kollam and joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1963, where he was allotted to the Karnataka State IAS cadre. He served for 33 years in various departments, rising to the post of the District Commissioner and District Magistrate of Dharwad District, Karnataka, Revenue Commissioner of Karnataka State and Chairman, Karnataka State Revenue Appellate Tribunal. He was also Commissioner and Chief Executive of Bangalore City Municipal Corporation. chairman of the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Karnataka state Urban water supply and sewerage Board, Slum Clearance Board, and housing Board. He was also the Chief Executive of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Chairman and Managing Director, Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers, Mangalore, and chairman of several other enterprises. Finally, he was Chief Secretary(CEO), of the State of Karnataka.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

In countries in the Northern Hemisphere, clocks are usually set ahead one hour in late March or in April and are set back one hour in late September or in October.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (SUMMER TIME)

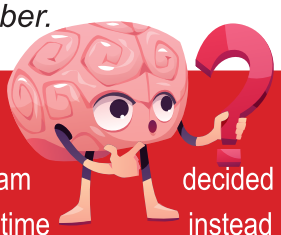
System for uniformly advancing clocks extending daylight hours during conventional waking time in the summer months.

- PROPOSER: Benjamin Franklin, 1784.
- OBJECTIVES:
- LONGER EVENING DAYTIME: Clocks show a later sunrise and later sunset.
- SAVE ENERGY: Savings in energy with appropriate working hours.

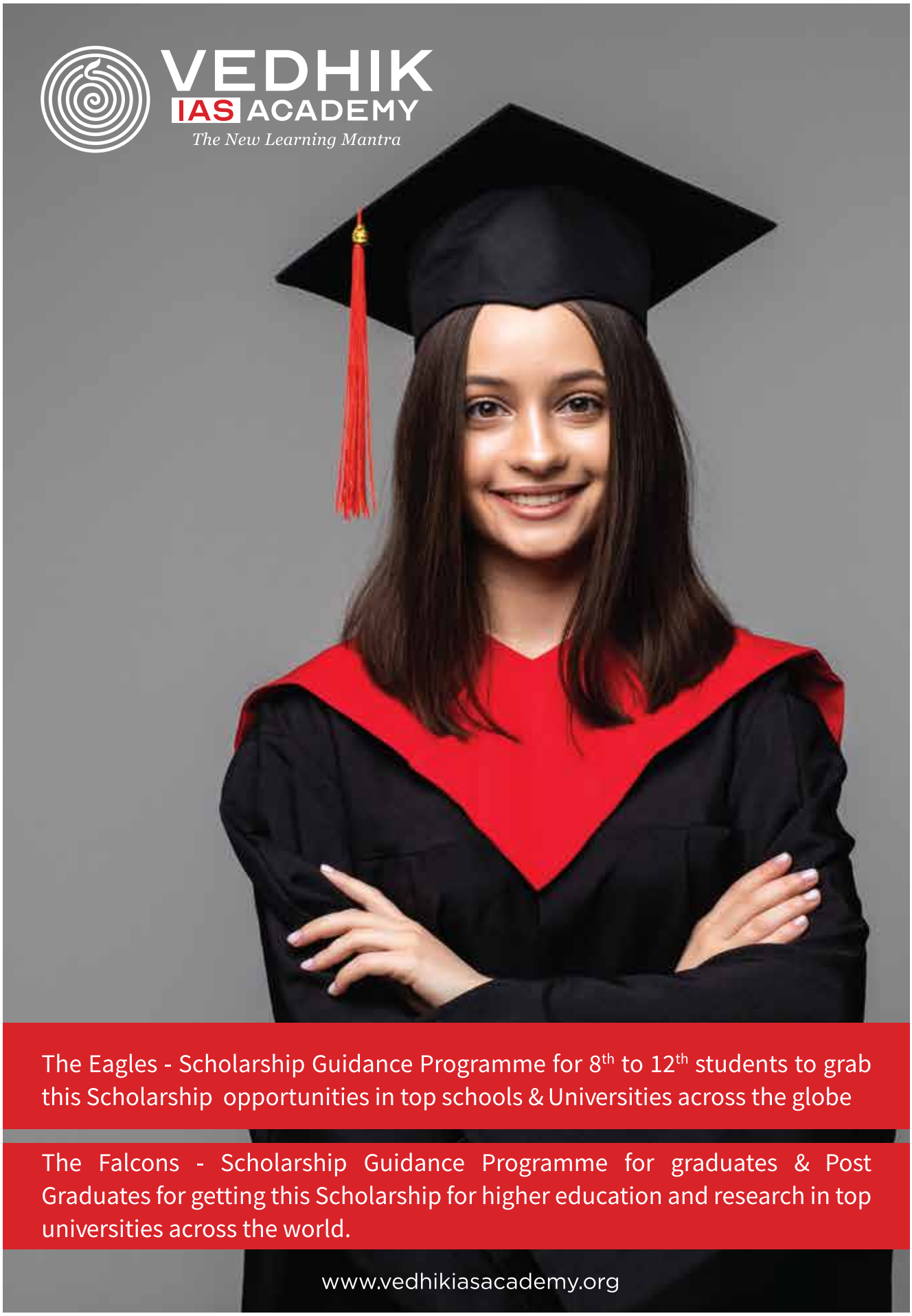
ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- AGRICULTURE:
  Grains are best harvested after dew evaporates.
  Labour is less valuable when field hands arrive and leave earlier in summer.
  Delivering milk earlier disrupt the timing of milking among cows.
- WORKPLACE:
  Reported increase in mining injuries of nearly 6 percent on the Monday following the shift to daylight saving time across the U.S.Workplace productivity during the the week after DST drastically decreases with people tired and lethargic due to a less sleep.

Do you know



The state of Assam decided to follow the 'chaibagaan' time instead of the Indian Standard Time (IST). The chaibagaan time or bagaan time – Introduced by British people over 150 years ago, was set 1 hour ahead of the Indian Standard Time (IST) for tea estates, collieries and oil industry of Assam. This Baggan time is more suitable for tea plantations. The bagaan time will be helpful to save energy, reduce power consumption and increase productivity. IST is calculated on the basis of solar time in Allahabad in the northern-central state of Uttar Pradesh. States located to the west of this longitude have more daylight hours as compared to those in the east. Assam lies in the extreme east of the country and borders Bangladesh and Bhutan. This means that the sun sets as early as 16:31 (4:31 p.m.) IST in November and December. Clocks in India are 5:30 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), making the country one of the few territories with a half-hour UTC offset. If the time zone change is implemented, Assam will be 6:30 hours ahead of UTC.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POLITY AND GOVENANCE

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2019

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT (UAPA)

DRAFT MEDIATION BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

POSHAN TRACKER

“Tele-Law on Wheels” CAMPAIGN

SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

LEGAL SERVICES DAY

DELTA RANKING

MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME

SMILE SCHEME

Bhuvan - YUKTDHARA

RESOLUTION AGAINST FARM LAWS

AUDIT DIWAS

UNIQUE LAND PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ULPIN) SCHEME

ORDINANCES TO EXTEND TENURE OF THE DIRECTORS OF CBI AND ED

STARS PROJECT

SPECIAL COURTS TO TRY MPS

SC, HCS CAN’T INTERFERE IN DAILY TEMPLE RITUALS

AUTONOMY OF CBI

KHASI INHERITANCE OF PROPERTY BILL, 2021

PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST MINISTER

JPC RETAINS EXEMPTION CLAUSE

‘SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS ACT)

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2019

The Personal Data Protection (PDP) law makes Aadhaar compulsory for several services including the banks.

ABOUT PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2019

- Protect "personal data" of people.
- Defines "sensitive personal data" to include personal data such as financial data, caste, religious & political opinions, biometric data, and so on.
- Establish a "Data Protection Authority" to develop a framework for processing personal data.
- Regulate processing of "personal data" of Indian citizens by the Government and private entities-both domestic, foreign and Multi-National in nature.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE BILL

- Section 35: Empowers the Centre with the right to suspend all or any portions of the Act for government agencies in the interests of India's sovereignty and integrity, state security, public order, and cordial relations with foreign governments.
- Section 12: Allows for the processing of data for the advantage or service of the data principal. However, advance warning is required.

UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY OF INDIA (UIDAI)

- CATEGORY: Statutory Authority
- STATUTE: Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits, and Services) Act, 2016, also known as the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits, and Services) Act, 2016
- DATE OF ADOPTION BY PARLIAMENT: March 11, 2016
- NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- ROLE AND DUTIES: Provide residents of India with Unique Identification Numbers (UIDs) known as "Aadhaar."

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT (UAPA)

*The Parliament of India amended the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967** to **effectively prevent unlawful activities associations in India.***

SALIENT FACTS

- Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
- Applicable to offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
- Investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.

SECTION 15 UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967

Section 15 defines a “terrorist act” as any act committed with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in

the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country.

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

- Empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency. Earlier, an investigating officer needs to take prior permission of the Director General of Police of a State for conducting raids, and seizing properties that are suspected to be linked to terrorist activities.
- Central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are required to obtain prior permission from the state government since law and order is a state subject under the Constitution.
- Empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism. Earlier, only officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police of the NIA shall have the power to investigate offence under the UAPA law.
- Included the provision of designating an individual as a "terrorist" if they are found committing, preparing for, promoting, or involved in an act of terror.
- Empower individual designated as a "terrorist" with the "Right to seek a review" within one month of rejections of the application by the government. The Centre will set up the review committee consisting of a chairperson (a Retired / Sitting Judge Of A High Court) and three other members to order the government to delete the name of the individual from the schedule that lists "terrorists", if it considers the order to be flawed.

ABOUT UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967

- ENACTMENT: 1967
- OBJECTIVE: Effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- CRITICISM: Assigns absolute power to the Centre to assign an activity as unlawful via Official Gazette.
- PUNISHMENT: Prescribe death penalty and life imprisonment.

DRAFT MEDIATION BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Indian government issued a Draft Mediation Bill that seeks to safeguard the interest of litigants to approach competent adjudicatory forums for Public consultation.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Substantive law on mediation regarding the issues of domestic and international mediation. India is a signatory to the Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- Adopted international practice of using terms like 'conciliation' and 'mediation', into contemplation.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Makes provision for constituting a Mediation Council of India.
- Makes provision for pre-litigative mediation.
- Safeguards the interest of litigants to approach competent adjudicatory forums and courts for urgent relief.
- Introduced the concept of Mediation Settlement Agreement, an outcome of consensual agreement between the parties.
- Makes successful outcome of mediation enforceable by law, in the form of Mediation Settlement Agreement.

- Safeguards the confidentiality of the mediation process, with immunity in certain cases against its disclosure.
- Registration of Mediation Settlement Agreement has been provided with the legal authorities in State, District and Taluk within 90 days for ensuring maintenance of authenticated records of the settlement.

MEDIATION AS AN ADR

As an Alternate Dispute Redressal (ADR), mediation provides an informal, simple, non-adversarial approach for resolving several types of disputes like civil disputes, commercial disputes and family disputes etc. In such cases, parties are not able to start any negotiation and reach to the settlement on their own.

POSHAN TRACKER

PM Narendra Modi launched the POSHAN TRACKER app to effectively address the issue of malnourishment.

SEVERELY ACUTE MALNOURISHED (SAM)

- CRITERIA: Very low weight-for-height or the mid-upper arm circumference lesser than 115 mm, or presence of nutritional oedema. Children suffering from SAM have low weight for their height.
- ESTIMATED: 17,76,902.
- STATISTICS: More than half of the children are in the severely malnourished category.
- SIGINFICANCE: Nine times more likely to die due to diseases because of their weakened immune system.

MODERATELY ACUTE MALNOURISHED (MAM)

- CRITERIA: Moderate wasting or mid-upper-arm circumference (MUAC) greater than 115 mm but less than 125 mm. Children suffering from SAM have low weight for their height.
- ESTIMATED: 15,46,420
- SIGINFICANCE: Children suffering from MAM are at increased risk of mortality and morbidity during childhood.

ABOUT POSHAN ABHIYAN / NATIONAL NUTRITION STRATEGY

- NODAL AGENCY: National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog
- MANDATE: "Malnutrition Free India (Kuposhan Mukt Bharat)-2022".

PROXIMATE DETERMINANTS OF NUTRITION

- Food
- Drinking water & sanitation
- Uptake of health services
- Income & livelihood

STRATEGY

Utilise the existing ICDS infrastructure to achieve convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, Janani Suraksha Yojana, National Health Mission, Swachh-Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

ABOUT POSHAN TRACKER app

- DATE: 2020
- SIGNIFICANCE: Governance tool for monitoring the nutritional outcomes in real-time.
- NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Women and Child Development

"Tele-Law on Wheels" CAMPAIGN

Department of Justice launched the week-long "Tele-Law on Wheels" campaign, on November 8, 2021, joining the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

SALIENT FEATURES

- DATE OF CAMPAIGN: November 08, 2021 - November 14, 2021.
- THEME: "Justice for All by digital legal empowerment" of the needy people.
- NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Justice
- OBJECTIVE
  - > Empower people by pre-litigation advice in order to rightfully claim their entitlements and timely redressal of their difficulties.
  - > Special Login week is being organized across India to encourage those in need to seek legal advice and consultation using tele-and video conferencing facilities.

ABOUT TELE-LAW

- DATE OF LAUNCH: 2017
- OBJECTIVE: Video conferencing facility and telephone services to connect lawyers to litigants who need legal advice.
- BENEFICIARIES: Needy especially the marginalized and disadvantaged
- NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Law and Justice in collobaration with Union Ministry of Electronics and Infoformation technology (MEiTy).
- STRATEGY: Common Service Centers or CSCs located at Gram Panchayat level as Resource centres.
- CHARGE: Fee of INR 30, except for those eligible for free legal Aid as mentioned under Section 12 of Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.

SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT

The Cabinet Committee on Parliament Affairs (CCPA) recommended to hold the Winter session of Parliament from November 29 to December 23.

CONSTITUIONALITY ABOUT SESSIONS

- Summon and prorogue both Houses of the Parliament and dissolve only the Lok Sabha Article 85: Summon both Houses of Parliament, either jointly or separately with intervening period between last sitting in one session and the date appointed for first sitting in the next session exceeding not more than 6 months;

prorogue (Discontinuing a session without dissolution) any or either Houses of the Parliament and dissolve only the House of the People.

- The power to convene a session of Parliament rests with the government. The decision is taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, which currently comprises nine ministers, including those for Defence, Home, Finance, and Law. The decision of the Committee is formalised by the President, in whose name MPs are summoned to meet for a session.
- PARLIAMENTARY CLANEDAR: India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar. By convention, Parliament meets for three sessions in a year. The longest, the Budget Session, starts towards the end of January, and concludes by the end of April or first week of May. The session has a recess so that Parliamentary Committees can discuss the budgetary proposals.

LAME-DUCK SESSION

- Last session of the existing Lok Sabha, after a new Lok Sabha has been elected.
- Members of the existing Lok Sabha who could not get re-elected to the new Lok Sabha are called lame-ducks.

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

The Competition Commission of India (CC) has recommended the creation of a National Digital Drugs Databank and strict enforcement of drug quality standards to boost price competition among generic drugs in India.

HISTORY:

- The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act, 1969 was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the ***Raghavan Committee.***

ABOUT COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

- ESTABLISHED: 2009
- STATUTE: Competition Act, 2002.
- ROLE: Ensure a healthy competition in market.
- MEANS OF APPOINTMENT: The Commission comprises a Chairperson and not less than 2 and not more than 6 other members appointed by the Central Government.

MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION

- Make the markets work for the benefit and welfare of consumers.
- Ensure fair and healthy competition in economic activities in the country for faster and inclusive growth and development of the economy.
- Implement competition policies with an aim to effectuate the most efficient utilization of economic resources.
- Develop and nurture effective relations and interactions with sectoral regulators to ensure smooth alignment of sectoral regulatory laws in tandem with competition law.
- Effectively carry out competition advocacy and spread the information on benefits of competition among all stakeholders to establish and nurture competition culture in Indian economy.

COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2007

The Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 acts against practices that causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

- Prohibits anti-competitive agreements;
- Abuse of dominant position by enterprises;
- Regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A).

OUR LEADERS

DR Alexander Jacob IPS

Academic Dean, Vedhik Academy, Former DGP Govt. of Kerala

DR. Alexander Jacob IPS BSc (Chemistry), MA (English), MA (History), MA (Politics), MA (Sociology), PhD. English, the Academic Dean of Vedhik IAS Academy. He rose to the rank of Director General of Police in the Kerala Police Force heading the Prisons Department and assumed Charge as the Managing Director Of Kerala Police Housing Construction Corporation. He was the Superintendent of Police at Kottayam and Kannur. He also worked as the Commissioner of Police at Kochi. He was the Principal of Police Training College, Trivandrum. He was the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Northern Range (Kerala) and DIG, Armed Police Battalion. He was the Director of Kerala Women's Commission, Secretary-Institute of Management in Government and Joint Director of Kerala Police Academy. He was the Inspector General of Police(training), Director of Kerala Police Academy. He was awarded the President Police Medal for Meritorious Service by the President of India on the Republic Day, 2004. He was also awarded the Most Prestigious Presidents Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2011 Republic Day. DR. Jacob is also involved in teaching many different groups of students for Civil Services and more than 480 students are now serving as IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS officers including All India First rank, Second Rank, Third Rank, Fourth Rank holders in Civil Services Examination.

OUR LEADERS

DR Babu Sebastian

Founder and Chancellor, Vedhik Academy, Former Vice Chancellor, MG & Kannur University

DR.Babu Sebastian MA, MBA, MFT, PhD is the founder and Chancellor of Vedhik IAS Academy. He is the former Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University and Kannur University, Kerala. He was the Director of State Institute of Educational Technology, IT@School Project, Victors Educational Channel and State Open School, Government of Kerala. He is the former Professor and Research Guide, Department of Malayalam, St.Thomas College, Pala and produced Seven PhDs. He published books on knowledge management, educational technology Instructional Design and Malayalam Literature. He was the founder of Kerala State E-learning project and produced more than six thousand educational video programmes, three thousand educational audio programmes, two thousand interactive multimedia programmes and presented more than two thousand educational programmes through the Doordarshan Channel. He bagged the prestigious E-learning Award from Government of Kerala, E-content Award from Government of India, Global E-learning Award from CMAI India, Education Excellence Award from Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage and best Vice-Chancellor in India Award from Confederation of Indian Universities. He was the Founder of Pala Civil Service Institute and produced Thirty-Two IAS, Twenty Eight IPS, Nine IFS and Thirty One IRS from the State of Kerala, including All India First Rank, Second Rank, Third Rank, Fourth Rank and his 186 students are now serving in the Indian Civil Services.

LEGAL SERVICES DAY

November 9: *Legal Services Day.*

ABOUT LEGAL SERVICES DAY

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) celebrates Legal Services Day on November 9 annually in India.
- Commemorate the enactment of Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 in India
- Raise awareness among people regarding several provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act.
- Raises awareness on rights of the litigants.
- Keeps citizens informed and works for encouraging free proficient legal services for the people belonging to weaker section of the society.
- Provides a perfect opportunity for raising issues and problems with the justice system of India

ABOUT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987

- DATE OF ADOPTION: October 11, 1987
- DATE OF ENACTMENT: November 9, 1995.
- ABOUT NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (NALSA)
- TYPE: STATURORY BODY
- FOUNDED: 1995
- STATUTE: Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- ROLES AND DUTIES
  - > Undertook the activities like free legal aid and advice to the needy.
  - > Disposes off the cases through mediation and amicable settlement.
  - > Minimizing the backlogs of courts in India and
  - > Afford access to justice for the needy.

DELTA RANKING

NITI Aayog has announced the top five aspirational districts in education sector.

ABOUT DELTA RANKING

- PUBLISHER: NITI Aayog.
- SIGNIFICANCE: Yardstick of incremental progress in developmental indices.
- FOCUS AREAS:
  - > Health & Nutrition
  - > Education
  - > Financial Inclusion
  - > Agriculture & Water Resources
  - > Skill Development
  - > Basic Infrastructure

सत्यमेव जयते
NITI Aayog

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

- DATE OF LAUNCH: January 2018.
- NODAL AGENCY: NITI Ayog
- OBJECTIVE: Help of several stakeholders for improving the living standards of people in aspirational districts.
- OBJECTIVE: Bringing rapid transformation in districts that have made comparative progress across key social sectors.

MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME

Centre directed states and UT's to resume Midday meal scheme Post Covid-19

ABOUT THE MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

- **DATE OF LAUNCH:** 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP – NSPE).
- **DATE OF RELAUNCH**: 2004, as the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry for Human Resources and Development (HRD).
- **OBJECTIVE:**

  Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.
- **OBJECTIVE**

  > Guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madarsas supported
  > under Samagra Shiksha.
  > Address hunger and malnutrition,
  increase enrolment and attendance in school,
  Improve socialisation among castes,
  > Provide employment at grassroot level especially to women.

MID-DAY MEAL (MDM) RULES 2015

- The place of serving meals to the children shall be school only.
- The State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month if the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason.
- The School Management Committee mandated under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 shall also monitor implementation of the Mid-day meal Scheme.

NUTRITIONAL NORMS

- children in primary schools: At least 450 calories with 12 grams of protein
- children in upper primary schools: At least 700 calories with 20 grams of protein.
- The food intake per meal by the children of primary classes, as provided by MHRD

SMILE SCHEME

A scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" formulated which includes sub scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. Pilot projects initiated on Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging in ten cities namely Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Indore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmadabad.

ABOUT SMILE SCHEME:

- **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- **FOCUS OF THE SCHEME:** Rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages etc.
- **STRATEGY:** Use of the existing shelter homes available with the State/UT Governments and Urban local bodies for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of Begging. In case of non-availability of existing shelter homes, new dedicated shelter homes are to be set up by the implementing agencies
- **BENIFCIARIES:** Marginalized Individuals.
- **PARTNERING AGENCIES:** State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) , institutions and others.

Bhuvan - YUKTDHARA

The Government has introduced a new portal under "Bhuvan Yuktdhara" to facilitate planning of new MGNREGA assets using Remote Sensing and GIS based information. This platform is built by joint efforts of ISRO and Ministry of Rural development for rural planning in support of decentralized decision making.

- CATEGORY: Geospatial Planning Portal under 'Bhuvan'.
- NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- PURPOSE: Repository (Storehouse) of assets (Geotags) created under various national rural development programmes i.e. MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, etc
- SIGINFICANCE:
  - > Portal integrates a wide variety of thematic layers, multi-temporal high resolution earth observation data with analysis tools.
  - > Planners will analyse previous assets under various schemes and facilitate identification of new works using online tools.
  - > Facilitate Gram Panchayat level planning of MGNREGA.

RESOLUTION AGAINST FARM LAWS

Punjab Assembly adopted a resolution against three contentious farm laws of the Centre on November 11, 2021. This resolution was passed claiming farm laws as unlawful legislative venture of Centre to the domain of the State.

ABOUT THE RESOLUTION

- Punjab Legislative Assembly strongly deprecates and condemns the Farm Bills passed by the Parliament of India.
- The State Legislative Assemblies can adopt resolutions against the legislative Business of the Parliament of India in "limited terms".

FARMERS' PRODUCE TRADE & COMMERCE (PROMOTION & FACILITATION) ACT, 2020

- Opening agricultural sale and marketing outside notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis for farmers.
- Removes barriers to inter-State trade as well as provides a framework for electronic trading of agricultural produce.
- Expands the scope of trade areas of farmers' produce from select areas.
- Seeks to break monopoly of government-regulated mandis and allows farmers to sell directly to private buyers.

FARMERS (EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION) AGREEMENT ON PRICE ASSURANCE AND FARM SERVICES ACT, 2020

- Creates a national framework for contract farming.
- Provides a legal framework for farmers to enter into written contracts with companies and produce for them.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020

- Removes pulses, cereals, edible oils, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.
- Seeks to deregulate the production, movement, storage, and distribution of these food commodities.

REPEALING A LAW

MEANING: A way to nullify a law either in its entirety when Parliament thinks there is no longer a need for the law to exist, or in part, or even just to the extent that it is in contravention of other laws. Legislation can also have a "sunset" clause, a particular date after which they cease to exist.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS:

- The Parliament can enact laws on any subject matter included in the Union or concurrent List for the whole or any part of the Indian territory.
- The Parliament enjoys 'extra-territorial' legislative jurisdiction - enact laws applicable to the Indian citizens and their property outside Indian territory.
- The Parliament of India can enact laws to give the legislative body the power to repeal them through the Repealing and Amending Act, 1950.

PROCEDURES TO REPEAL A LAW

- Introduce a bill in the Parliament to repeal the laws;
- Promulgate an ordinance that will have to be subsequently replaced with a Bill within six months.

AUDIT DIWAS

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is set to address the event of first Audit Diwas on November 16, 2021. Currently, former Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu Kashmir G. C. Murmu is serving as CAG of India. He is the 14th CAG of India. His tenure started in August 2020.

ABOUT COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

- **CATEGORY:** Constitutional Body. Article 148
- **NATURE:** Independent office to serve as the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- **APPOINTMENTS:** President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- **TENURE:** Six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- **ROLE AND DUTIES**

  The Parliament enacted Comptroller & Auditor General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Act, 1976 to regulate duties and powers of the CAG. The Comptroller & Auditor General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Act, 1976 assigned the duty of preparing accounts of the Union and State Governments to the Controller General of Accounts.

  > Guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels- the centre and state.
  > Article 150: Advice the President to frame guidelines and principles regarding the maintenance of
  > Union Accounts to be submitted before both Houses of the Parliament.
  > Article 151: Advice the Governor to frame guidelines and principles regarding maintenance of State accounts to be submitted before both Houses of State legislature.
  > Uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.

UNIQUE LAND PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ULPIN) SCHEME

India Habitat Centre at New Delhi hosted 'Bhumi Samvaad' – a National Workshop on Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). The ULPIN is being described as "the Aadhaar for land".

ABOUT UNIQUE LAND PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ULPIN) SCHEME

14-digit Unique Identification Number issued to every plot of land in the country.

- Geo-coordinate based Unique ID for the parcels generated and assigned to the plots. The longitude and latitude of the land parcel, and is dependent on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.

CHALLENGES

- Protect land from shabby land transaction.
- Land records are outdated and disputed, especially in rural India.
- Dubious land ownership.

BENEFITS

- Uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud.
- Authenticate land ownership with single source of information.
- Help identify the government lands easily

NATIONAL GENERIC DOCUMENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM (NGDRS)

- 'One Nation One Software' for registration of documents & properties to 'empower citizens'
- IMPLEMENTATION in 10 States / Union Territories:
  Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram and Punjab, benefiting 10.47 crore population.

BENEFITS

- Reduction in land disputes;
- Check on fraudulent transactions;
- SMS and email enabled alerts related to transactions on property;
- External system integrations
- Improve ranking of the country in Ease of Doing Business

ORDINANCES TO EXTEND TENURE OF THE DIRECTORS OF CBI AND ED

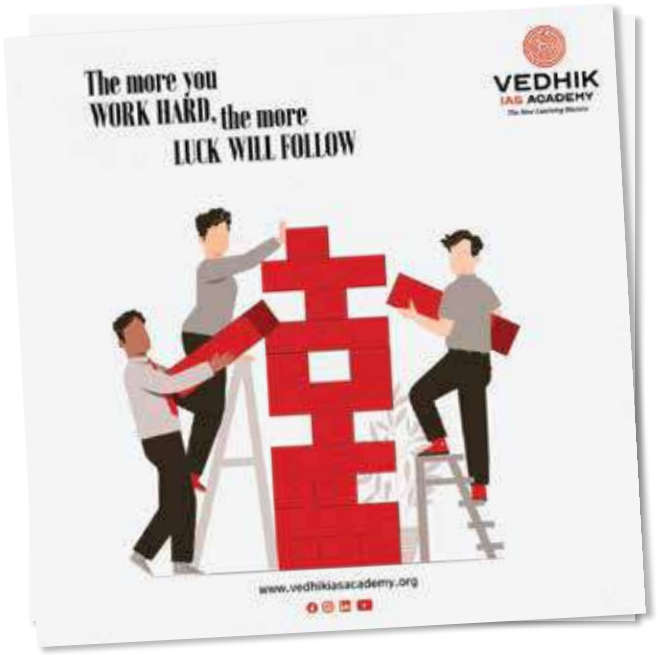
The Government of India has brought two ordinances to extend tenure of directors of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) for up to five years. Currently, Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Director, Intelligence Bureau and Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing enjoys a tenure appointed for a period of two years can be extended upto a maximum for 3 more years via three separate annual extensions.

ABOUT CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2021

- PROVIDES SECURITY OF TENURE: ED Director cannot be removed before the end of their tenure.
- EXTENSION OF TENURE: Director ED appointed for a period of two years can be extended upto a maximum for 3 more years via three separate annual extensions.

ABOUT DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2021

- PROVIDES SECURITY OF TENURE: CBI Director cannot be removed before the end of their tenure.
- EXTENSION OF TENURE: Director CBI appointed for a period of two years can be extended upto a maximum for 3 more years via three separate annual extensions.



ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

DATE OF CONSTITUTION: Enforcement Unit, May 01, 1956 under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

DATE OF RECONSTITUTION: Enforcement Directorate, 1957 under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

MANDATE:

Enforce the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)

Enforce the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

ORDINANCE MAKING POWER OF THE PRESIDENT

- The President of India can promulgate ordinances under Article 123 of the Indian Constitution only when both Houses of Parliament or any one of the two Houses of Parliament is in recess.
- The President promulgate ordinances only upon satisfied with existence of circumstances rendering it necessary to take immediate action.
- The ordinance-making powers of the President are not discretionary in nature. The President can promulgate or withdraw ordinances only on advice of the Union Council of Ministers.
- Ordinance-making powers of the President are co-extensive with legislative powers of the Parliament.
- An ordinance issued by the President has the same force and effect as well as limitations of an Act of Parliament.
- The ordinance making powers of the President are absolute. The President needs no instruction promulgate ordinances.
- The President of India can withdraw an ordinance at any time.
- All ordinances issued by the President cease to operate, unless laid before and ratified by both Houses of the Parliament within 6 weeks from the reassembly of Parliament. It may cease to operate even earlier than the prescribed 6 weeks, if a resolution disapproving it is passed by the Parliament.

STARS PROJECT

Ministry of Education, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), and World Bank have signed an agreement for the financial support worth Rs 5718 crore towards the implementation of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project

- CATEGORY: Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- NODAL MINISTRY: Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- OBJECTIVE: Improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.
- STATES: Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan.
- BENIFICIARIES: 25 Cr. students aged between 6 and 17 in 15 lakh schools, and over 1 Cr. teachers will benefit from the program.

REFORM INITIATIVES UNDER THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

> Provide appropriate local-level solutions towards improving delivery of education services school at the state, district and sub district levels.

> Ensure greater accountability producing better data to assess the quality of learning and inclusion giving special attention to students from vulnerable section.

> Equip teachers recognizing the vital role of teachers in achieving better learning outcomes.

> Investing more in developing India's human capital needs by strengthening foundational learning for children in classes 1 to 3 and preparing them with the cognitive, socio-behavioural and language skills to meet future labour market needs.

UNIQUE COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

CONTINGENCY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPONENT (CERC)

- Enable it to be more responsive to any natural, man-made and health disasters.
- Help the government respond to situations leading to loss of learning such as school closures/infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and use technology for facilitating remote learning etc.
- Facilitate the rapid re-categorization of financing and the utilization of streamlined financing request procedures.

PARAKH

- Establishment of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) as a National Assessment Centre.
- Included in the National Education Policy 2020
- Autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry will set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country,
- Guide standardised testing to monitor learning outcomes at the State and national levels.

SPECIAL COURTS TO TRY MPS

The Supreme Court decided to examine questions regarding the legal jurisdiction of the special courts set up to exclusively prosecute Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies for various offences.

CURRENT SCENARIO

- More than 4000 criminal cases are pending against current and former legislators across the country.
- The total number of criminal cases against sitting Members of Parliament and State legislatures was 2,556. The criminal cases include corruption, money laundering, damage to public property, defamation and
- cheating.

STORY SO FAR

- 2017: The Supreme Court of India order authorised the Centre to set up 12 Special Courts to exclusively try criminal politicians across the country.
- November 2020: A three-judge Committee of the Madras High Court questioned the constitutional validity of setting up special courts to exclusively try MPs and MLAs for various crimes.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- Power of Parliament to provide for the establishment of certain additional courts [Article 247]
- The Parliament can constitute additional courts for effective administration of existing laws or any laws enacted regarding any subject included in the Union List.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

The 'offence-centric' and not 'offender-centric' Special courts deprive the accused of their right to a rung of appeal. An MLA or MP whose offence is directly placed before a Special Court. The accused loose the right to defend the case before a Magistrate as wella as the right to make the first appeal before a sessions court. Special courts can only be constituted by a statute and not by executive or judicial fiats.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

- Political parties should themselves refuse tickets to the tainted.
- Amend the Representation of People Act, 1951 to debar persons against whom cases of a heinous nature are pending from contesting elections.
- Establish Fast-track courts to decide the cases of tainted legislators quickly.
- Bring greater transparency in campaign financing.
- Effectively utilise the powers of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to audit the financial accounts of political parties.

SC, HCS CAN'T INTERFERE IN DAILY TEMPLE RITUALS

A writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court alleging that rituals were not being performed as per traditions at the famous Tirumala Tirupati temple.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

- Constitutional courts could not interfere with day-to-day rituals and sevas performed in temples on the basis of "public interest" petitions.
- Religious scholars and priests were best equipped to go into the question whether rituals in a temple were being conducted in accordance with customs and traditions.
- Enjoy limted powers for the writ jurisdiction of a constitutional court under Articles 226 and 32 with such matters.

RIGHT TO CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDIES

- ARTICLE 32 (1): Guarantees the citizens to approach the Court of law to seek enforcement or protection against infringement upon their Fundamental Rights.
- ARTICLE 32 (2): Prerogative writs are issued by the Supreme Court of India to enforce the Fundamental Rights under the Right to Constitutional Remedies.
- ARTICLE 32 (4): Fundamental Rights shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution.

- Affirms the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution.
- It states that the Supreme Court "shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part".

KEY FEATURES

- A person can approach the Supreme Court directly under Article 32 upon violation of any of these Fundamental Rights.
- A person can approach the State High Courts directly under Article 226 upon violation of any of these Fundamental Rights. Article 226, however, is not a fundamental right like Article 32.

NOTABLE OBSERVATIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT ON ARTICLE 32

- Article 32 provides a "guaranteed" remedy for the enforcement of fundamental rights.
- Supreme Court observations in Romesh Thappar vs State of Madras (1950)
  The citizen loses his right to approach the court under Article 32. Supreme Court observations in Additional District Magistrate, Jabalpur vs S S Shukla (1976)

Scope of term 'law' in Article 13:

- Permanent laws enacted by the Parliament or the state legislatures.
- Temporary laws like ordinances issued by the President or the State Governors.
- Statutory instruments via delegated legislation (executive legislation) like order, bye-law, rule, regulation or notification.
- Non-legislative sources of law, ie, custom or usage having the force of law.

AUTONOMY OF CBI

The Centre objecting to a suit filed by the Government of West Bengal held that CBI is an "autonomous body" and it has no 'control' over the investigative agency in the Supreme Court of India. The Government of West Bengal challenged the jurisdiction of the CBI to register FIRs and conduct investigations in the State. The State had withdrawn its "General consent" to the CBI in 2018.

ABOUT CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- TYPE: Investigating Agency uder Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- CATEGORY: Executive
- GOVERNING STATUTE: Section 4A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.
- ORIGINAL MANDATE: Investigate bribery and governmental corruption
- EXTENDED MANDATE:
  - > Investigate breaches of central laws enforceable by the Government of India,
  - > Investigate multi-state organised crime,
  - > Investigate multi-agency or international cases.

GENERAL CONSENT

CBI governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 must mandatorily obtain the consent of the concerend State Government before initiating investigation of a crime in a state. The consent of the state government can be either case-specific or general. A "general consent" is normally given by states to help the CBI in seamless investigation of cases of corruption against central government employees in their states. Almost all states have traditionally given such consent, in the absence of which the CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case, and before taking even small actions. Eight states have currently withdrawn consent to the CBI: Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Mizoram.

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KHASI INHERITANCE OF PROPERTY BILL, 2021

The Khasi District Autonomous Council in Meghalaya announced introduction of the 'Khasi Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL

- Equitable distribution" of parental property among siblings – both male and female.
- Empower parents with inheritance rights they want their property to inherit.
- Prevent a sibling from getting parental property if they marrying a non-Khasi and accept the spouse's customs and culture.

SCHEDULED TRIBAL AREAS (AMTM)

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution contains special provisions for the administration of Tribal Areas present in the 4 north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Scheduled Tribal Areas are inhabited by tribes with a distinctive culture, customs and civilization. Governed by Autonomous District and Regional Councils

ROLE OF STATE GOVERNORS IN SCHEDULED TRIBAL AREAS

- Organise Autonomous Districts and Regions
- Reorganise Autonomous Districts and Regions altering their area, names, boundaries etc.
- The State Governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. He may dissolve a District or Regional Council on the recommendation of the commission.
- The State Governor prescribes jurisdiction of State High Courts over these suits and cases.

AUTONOMOUS DISTRICTS COUNCILS:

- Constitute Autonomous Districts Councils for a term of 5 years comprising of 30 members
- 4 MEMEBERS: Nominated by the State Governor
- 26 MEMBERS: Directly elected amongst following the principle of Universal Adult Suffrage.

ROLE AND POWERS OF AUTONOMOUS DISTRICTS COUNCILS

- Repeal or amend any particular Act of Parliament or the State Legislature, applicable to a Tribal Area.
- Enjoys legislative powers with prior assent of the Governor of the State over land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, property inheritance, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on.
- Frame regulations to control with the assent of the Governor.
- Business of money lending.
- Trading by non-tribals.
- Constitute Village Councils for trial of suits and cases between the tribes.
- Establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
- Assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.

PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST MINISTER

Jairam Ramesh, Congress chief whip in the Rajya Sabha has moved a privilege motion against Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy over the appointment of former MP Tarun Vijay as the Chairperson of the National Monuments Authority.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES

RIGHTS, IMMUNITIES AND EXEMPTIONS: Collective or of individual nature enjoyed by House Members, including Attorney General of India and Union Ministers, Parliamentary Committees and both Houses of Parliament as a whole.

SOURCES OF PRIVILEGES:

- Constitution of India,
- Statutes,
- Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business,
- Parliamentary Conventions and
- Judicial interpretations.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide immunities and exemptions from prosecution for House Members for any act of conduct during the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees.
- Help maintain their authority, dignity and honour nor can protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their parliamentary responsibilities.

MOTION AGAINST BREACHES

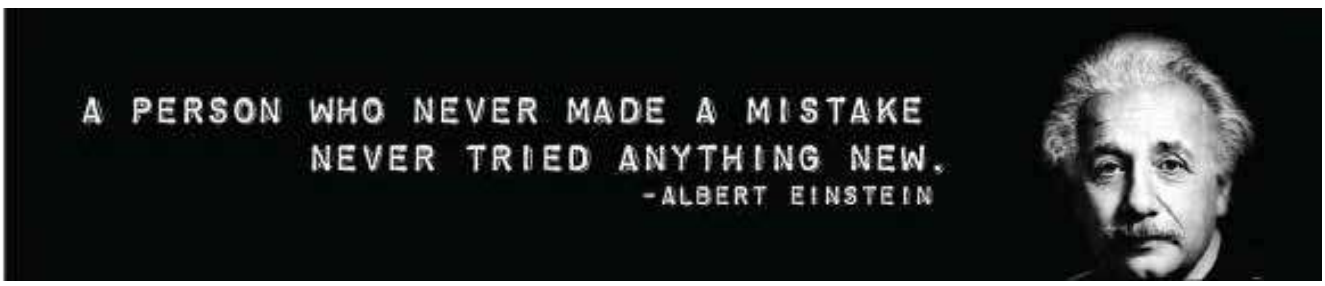
- When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament. A notice is moved in the form of a motion by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege.

ROLE OF THE SPEAKER/RAJYA SABHA (RS) CHAIRPERSON

- The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.
- The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.
- If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under relevant rules, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

APPLICABILITY:

- The Constitution also extends the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees. These include the Attorney General of India.
- The parliamentary privileges do not extend to the President who is also an integral part of the Parliament. Article 361 of the Constitution provides for privileges for the President.



JPC RETAINS EXEMPTION CLAUSE

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019 submitted its report retaining the controversial exemption clause that allows the Government to keep any of its agencies outside the purview of the law with minor changes.

SALIENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Treat all non-intermediary social media platforms as publishers to be held accountable for hosting content they from verfied and unverified accounts on their platforms.
- Makes it mandatory for the parent company handling the technology of the social media platforms to set up an office in India.
- Set up a statutory media regulatory authority, on the lines of the Press Council of India for the regulation of the contents on all such platforms irrespective of the platform where their content is published.
- Development of an alternative indigenous financial system for cross-border payments on the lines of Ripple (U.S.) and INSTEX (European Union).

CLAUSE 35– CONTROVERSIAL PROVISION IN THE BILL:

CLAUSE 35: Allowed exemption from all or any provisions of the law for any agency under the Union Government on grounds of "public order", "sovereignty", "friendly relations with foreign states" and "security of the state".

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (JPC)

- Bofors scandal (1987)
- Harshad Mehta Stock market scam (1992)
- Ketan Parekh share market scam (2001)
- Soft drink pesticide issue (2003)
- 2G spectrum case (2011)
- VVIP Chopper scam (2013)
- Land Acquisition (2015)
- NRC (2016)
- Personal Data Protection Bill (2019)

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (JPC)

- TYPE: Ad Hoc Parliamentary committee
- CONSTITUTION:
  Adoption of motion by one House and supported or agreed by the other House.
  Concensus of Presiding officers of both Houses

STRENGTH:

The Lok Sabha members are double compared to Rajya Sabha.The strength of a JPC may be different each time.

POWERS

- Obtain evidence of experts, public bodies, associations, individuals or interested parties suo motu or on requests made by them.
- A witness failing to appear before a JPC in response to summons constitutes a contempt of the House.
- Take oral and written evidence or call for documents in connection with a matter under its consideration.
- Proceedings of JPC can be circulated in public
- Ministers are not generally called by the committees to give evidence, except with the permission of the Speaker, seeking information on certain points from ministers.
- The government may withhold or decline to produce a document if it is considered prejudicial to the safety or interest of State. The Speaker has the final word on any dispute over calling for evidence against a person or production of a document.

'SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS ACT)

The President of India has empowered (under clause (1) of Article 239 of the Constitution) the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the State Government under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 within the Union territory.

ABOUT THE FOREST RIGHTS ACT:

YEAR OF ENACTMENT: 2006

- OBJECTIVE: Grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities.

Rights under the Act:

TITLE RIGHTS –

- Ownership to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers as on 13 December 2005, subject to a maximum of 4 hectares;
- Ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family as on that date, meaning that no new lands are granted.

UTILISATION RIGHTS –

- Minor forest produce (also including ownership), grazing areas, pastoralist routes, etc.

RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS –

- Rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.

FOREST MANAGEMENT RIGHTS –

Protect forests and wildlife.

Eligibility criteria of Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST): [Section 2(c) of Forest Rights Act (FRA)]

- Must be a Scheduled Tribe in the area where the right is claimed; and
- Primarily resided in forest or forests land prior to 13-12-2005; and
- Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.

And to qualify as Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD) and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, two conditions need to be fulfilled:

- Primarily resided in forest or forests land for three generations (75 years) prior to 13-12-2005.
- Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.

PROCEDURE OF RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS:

- Gram Sabha / Village Assembly: Adopt a resolution recommending recognition of rights of Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST) and Other Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST) over resources.

SUB-DIVISION (OR TALUKA) SCREENING COMMITTEES :

- Screening and agranting approvals of the recommendations of the Gram Sabha / Village Assembly
- Hear appeals over the recommendations of the Gram Sabha / Village Assembly.
- The screening committees consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level.

DISTRICT LEVEL SCREENING COMMITTEES :

- Screening and agranting approvals of the recommendations of the taluka level screening committees
- Hear appeals over the recommendations of the taluka level screening committees .
- The screening committees consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SECURITY DIALOGUE ON AFGHANISTAN

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN)

GLOBAL DRUG POLICY INDEX

LIKE MINDED-GROUP OF DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES (LMDC)

HISTORICAL RESOLUTION

ISTANBUL CONVENTION ON

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

G 20 SUMMIT, ROME

UN ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

IRAN INVITES THE UN NUCLEAR BODY

CHIEF TO TEHRAN FOR TALKS

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

ASEAN MEET

QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE

SECURITY DIALOGUE ON AFGHANISTAN

India hosted the "Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, on November 10, 2021.

SALIENT FACTS

- PARITICPANTS: Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- SIGNIFICANCE: It is for the first time that not just Afghanistan's immediate land neighbours, but all Central Asian countries will participate.
- SIGINIFICANCE FOR INDIA: Discuss the overall security situation in Afghanistan in the aftermath of Taliban's capture of power.
- CHAIR PERSON: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.

INDIA'S STAND ON AFGHANISTAN PEACE PROCESS

- Afghan-led, Afghan-controlled and Afghan-owned.
- Achieve peace by initiating a dialogue process involving all stakeholders within the Afghan community.
- Emphasizes on greater involvement of international community, such as by raising financial commitments under the Heart of Asia Conference for rebuilding Afghanistan.

INDIA'S AID IN AFGHANISTAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: India has made contributions of around US $3 billion to Afghan redevelopment. Developmental projects include:

- Afghan Parliament
- Salma Dam, Herat province.
- Zaranj-Delaram Highway.
- Health infrastructure.
- Mid-Day meal to the schools.
- Scholarships for Afghan students to study in India.
- Vocational training for Afghan women.

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) selected Srinagar among 49 cities as part of the creative city network under the Crafts and Folk Arts category. The inclusion of Srinagar in the creative city network for the arts and crafts has paved a way for the city to represent its handicrafts on the global stage through UNESCO.

ABOUT UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN)

ESTABLISHED: 2004

OBJECTIVE:

- Promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- Placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
- Cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society in order to:
- Strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services;

- Develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector;
- Improve access to and participation in cultural life, in particular for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals;
- Fully integrate culture and creativity into sustainable development plans.

FOCUS AREAS

- Crafts and Folk Arts
- Media Arts
- Film
- Design
- Gastronomy
- Literature
- Music

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN)

- Jaipur-Crafts and Folk Arts(2015)
- Varanasi-Creative city of Music (2015)
- Chennai-Creative city of Music(2017)
- Mumbai – Film (2019)
- Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019)

GLOBAL DRUG POLICY INDEX

The inaugural Global Drug Policy Index was released by the Harm Reduction Consortium, on November 7, 2021. The Global Drug Policy Index is a data-driven analysis of drug policies and their implementation across the world.

RANKING

- TOP PERFORMERS: Norway > New Zealand > Portugal > UK > Australia
- WORST PERFORMERS: Brazil > Uganda > Indonesia > Kenya > Mexico
- RANK OF INDIA: 18

NODAL AGENCY: Harm Reduction Consortium

RANKING PARAMETERS

- Criminal justice
- Health and harm reduction
- Access to internationally controlled medicines
- Extreme responses
- Development

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LIKE MINDED-GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LMDC)

Recently, most of the developing nations like China, India and African countries, have asked around US $1.3 trillion per year from wealthy countries in climate finance which will start from 2030.

SALIENT FEATURES

- This demand is likely to cause further consternation even as countries negotiate on this amount at COP26.
- Group of 24 nations, calling themselves Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), and countries from Africa put forward this demand in a proposal to enhance finance flows.
- These countries are pushing for inclusion of proposal in the final decisions which will be agreed at the climate conference in Glasgow.

LIKE MINDED-GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LMDC)

- Grouping of Developing countries representing about half of the global population, organised as a block negotiator in international organizations like United Nations and World Trade Organization.
- *Member countries: Bangladesh, Algeria, Bhutan, Belarus, Cuba, China, India, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Philippines, Syria, Sudan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.*

ABOUT COP26

- COP26: Conference of Parties -26, 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference. The CoP comes under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC). UNFCCC was established in 1994.
- LOCATION: Glasgow, Scotland.
- DATE: October 31 - November 12.

GOALS OF COP26

- Secure global net-zero by mid-century and to keep 1.5 degrees within limit
- Protect communities and natural habitats
- Mobilise finance for mitigation of greenhouse gases.
- Work together to deliver

HISTORICAL RESOLUTION

Ruling Communist party (CCP) of China passed a 'Historical Resolution', third resolution of its kind in the CCP's 100-year history.

- First Resolution,1949: Cemented the position of Mao Zedong as the Paramount leader of China.
- Second Resolution, 1980: Endorsed the economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping who made China an economic powerhouse.
- Third Resolution, 2021: Endorsed the role of President in rejuvenation of China.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Elevate the political stature of Xi to the level of Mao and Deng to help secure his political future, after CCP dismissed presidential term limits in 2018.

ISTANBUL CONVENTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Recently, Turkey withdrew from the Instanbul Convention. Turkey became the first country to ratify the Istanbul convention On November 24, 2011.

ABOUT ISTANBUL CONVENTION

OFFICIAL NAME: Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

ORGANISATION: Council of Europe Committee of Ministers - April 07, 2011.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- World's first binding instrument to prevent and tackle violence against women.
- Comprehensive legal framework to tackle violence against women and girls, covering domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, female genital mutilation (FGM), so-called honour-based violence, and forced marriage.

G 20 SUMMIT, ROME

G 20 Leaders discussed on issues of global importance like fighting covid-19 pandemic, improving health infrastructure, strengthening economic cooperation and furthering innovation at the G 20 summit held at Rome.

ABOUT G 20 SUMMIT, 2021

- DATE: October 31, 2021 - October 31, 2021.
- PLACE: Rome
- CHAIRPERSON: Mario Draghi, Italian Prime Minister.
- FOCUS: Energy and climate
- NOTABLE EVENT: Adopted the 'Rome Declaration'

ROME DECLARATION

Sixteen mutually agreed principles, which aims to guide joint action for preventing future health crises and to build a safer, equitable and sustainable world. Following are the principles under the Rome Declaration:

- Supporting and enhancing the existing multilateral health architecture for detection, response, prevention and preparedness.
- Working towards monitoring & implementation of multi-sectoral, evidence-based One Health approach in a bid to address risks emerging due to interface between human, animal & environment.
- Fostering all-of-society and health-in-all policies.
- Promotion of multilateral trading system.
- Enabling equitable, affordable and global access to high-quality, safe & effective health systems.
- Supporting low and middle-income countries in a bid to build expertise, and develop local & regional manufacturing capacities.
- Focus on data sharing, capacity building, voluntary technology and licensing agreements.
- Enhancing support to existing preparedness and prevention structures.
- Investing in worldwide health & care workforce.
- Investing in adequate resources, training, and staffing of diagnostic public & animal health laboratories.
- Investments for developing and improving inter-operable early warning surveillance, information, and trigger systems
- Investments in domestic, international & multilateral cooperation for the purpose of research, development & innovation
- Increasing effectiveness of preparedness & response measures by extending support and promoting meaningful & inclusive dialogue.
- Ensuring effectiveness of financing mechanisms.
- Coordination on pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical measures and emergency response with respect to sustainable and equitable recovery.
- Addressing the need of streamlined, enhanced, sustainable and predictable mechanisms for financing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response in long term.

ABOUT G 20

ESTABLISHED: London Summit, 2009

TYPE: Non-Treaty based Informal Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO)

SECRETARIAT: No permanent secretariat

FOCUS AREAS:

- Global economy
- International financial stability
- Climate change mitigation
- Sustainable development

SIGINIFICANCE OF MEMBERSHIP: World's largest economies, including both industrialized and developing nations, and accounts for around

- 90% of gross world product (GWP),
- 75–80% of international trade,
- two-thirds of the global population, and
- Half the world's land area

MEMBER COUNTRIES: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

UN ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) recently held a meeting with the women activists and applauded their courage and affirmed that the UN will continue to stand by the people of Afghanistan.

ABOUT UNAMA

- ESTABLISHED: March 28, 2002 via United Nations Security Council Resolution # 1401.
- OBJECTIVE: Assist Afghanistan to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.
- ORIGINAL MANDATE: Support the implementation of the Bonn Agreement (December 2001).
- NATURE: Integrated Mission, with the Special Political Mission, all UN agencies, funds and programmes, work in a multidimensional and integrated manner to better assist Afghanistan according to nationally defined priorities.

ABOUT BONN AGREEMENT

Political and administrative roadmap for post-War reconstruction of Afghanistan.

- Organised an Emergency Loya Jirga (Grand Council);
- Established the transitional administration;
- Ratified a new Constitution in early 2004;
- Held Presidential and Parliamentary elections in 2004 and 2005.

UN SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

Entities that are not managed or directed by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) such as the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

UN SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

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IRAN INVITES THE UN NUCLEAR BODY CHIEF TO TEHRAN FOR TALKS

Iran has invited the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for talks after the UN official expressed concern over a lack of contact with Iranian authorities.

STORY SO FAR:

- 2015: Iran concluded the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA with P5 +1 countries. The deal promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for limits on its nuclear program.
- 2018: The U.S. unilaterally pulled out of the deal, but Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia have tried to preserve the accord.
- 2021: Iran has produced more than 120 kilograms (265 pounds) of 20% enriched uranium.

GENEVA AGREEMENT:

COMMITMENTS OF IRAN UNDER THE GENEVA AGREEMENT

- Halt weapons-grade Uranium Enrichment Programme.
- Freeze its stockpile of 3.5 % enriched Uranium, limit enrichment of Uranium above 5 % and stop further enrichment beyond 20 %.
- Cut its stockpile of enriched uranium from 8 tonnes to 300 kg.
- Close down Fordow nuclear enrichment facility and Arak Heavy-water Reactor.

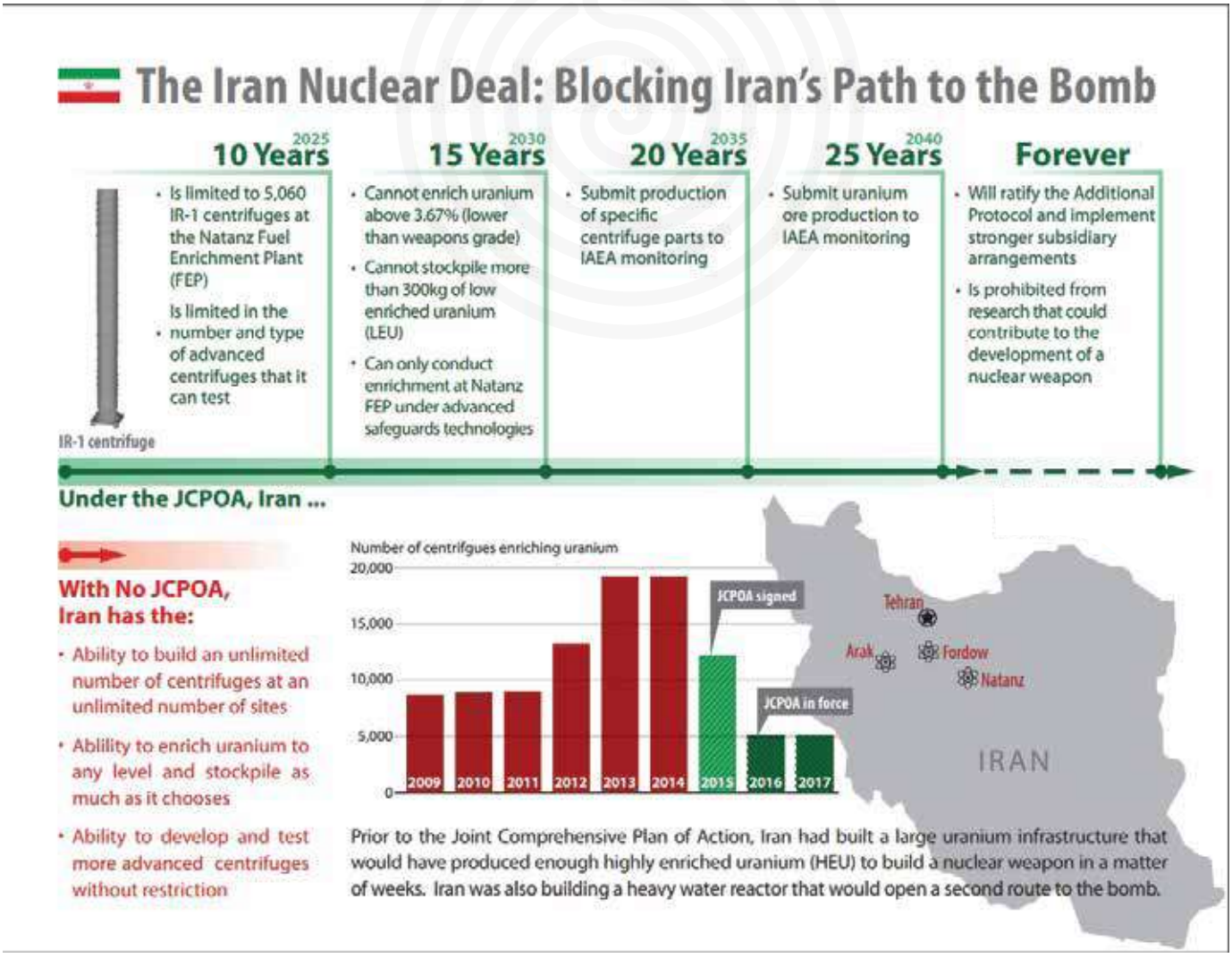
- Retain the 'Right to Civilian Nuclear efforts' at Natanz facility
- Cut down 19,000 installed centrifuges by 75 % to 5,000.
- Permit IAEA to inspect activities.

COMMITMENTS OF US and West UNDER THE GENEVA AGREEMENT

- Relax existing secondary unilateral US sanctions on Iranian oil exports.
- Blanket US waivers for commerce in Iranian oil.
- Withhold "primary sanctions" prohibiting US citizens and companies to engage with Iranian entities.
- De-freeze overseas Iranian assets worth $6 billion.
- Ease international restrictions on flow of capital, technology transfer and commerce in conventional arms.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY:

- FOUNDED: 1957, Set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization within the UN family.
- CATEGORY: INDEPENDENT, reporting to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- HEADQUARTERS: Vienna, Austria.
- FUNCTIONS: Promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.



ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

New Zealand is hosting this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

ABOUT APEC:

ESTABLISHED: 1989

TYPE: Regional economic forum

OBJETIVE: Create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

HEADQUARTERS: Singapore

FUNCTIONS:

- Help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy.
- Recognise the impacts of climate change.
- Allow members to deal with important new challenges to the region's economic well-being.

INITIATIVES

Provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad.

Implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources.

Ensuring disaster resilience, planning for pandemics, and addressing terrorism.

MEMBERS:

APEC's 21 member economies spaning the Pacific rim, from Chile to Russia to Thailand to Australia

Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

India has an observer status at Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) since 2011

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Nearly 3 billion people and
- About 60% of the world's GDP.
- Nearly half of the world's trade

ASEAN MEET

China has announced USD 1.5 billion development assistance for the ASEAN besides the elevation of the ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership to strengthen security cooperation with the 10-nation bloc at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) -China Special Summit to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

ABOUT ASEAN

ESTABLISHED: 1967

TYPE: Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO)

CONSTITUTING TREATY: Bangkok Declaration

MOTTO OF ASEAN: "One Vision, One Identity, One Community"

OBJETIVE: Create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta

FOUNDING FATHERS OF ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

MEMBERS: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ASEAN FOR INDIA:

- Epicentre of India's Act East policy and held that a cohesive and responsive ASEAN is essential for security and growth for all in the region.
- Necessary for the success of the Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) Vision.
- Significant for diversification and resilience of supply chains for post-Covid-19 economic recovery.
- 4th largest trading partner of India with about USD 86.9 billion in trade.

QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, also known as the QUAD is a strategic dialogue between the United States, India, Japan and Australia. The diplomatic and military arrangement was widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power. During 2017, the member States revived the quadrilateral alliance in order to counter China militarily and diplomatically in the South China Sea.

CORE OBJECTIVE OF THE QUAD

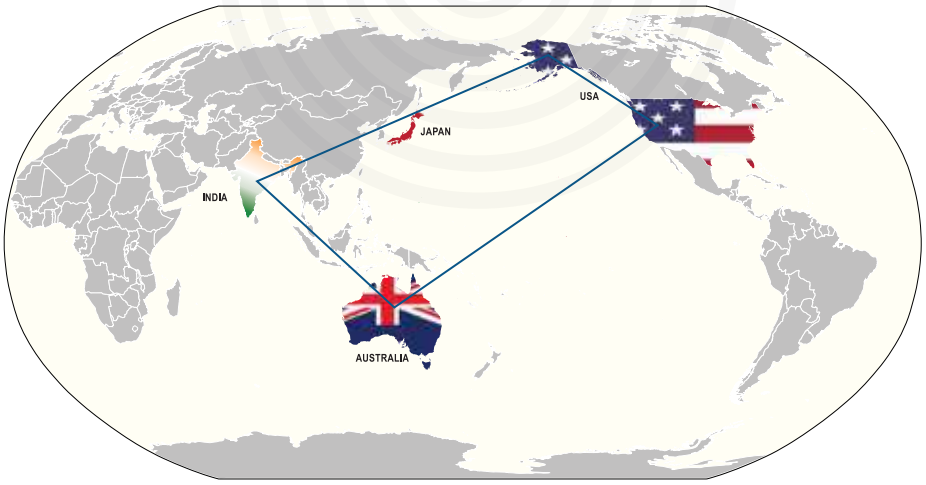
- Secure a rules-based global order,
- Freedom of navigation and a liberal trading system.
- Offer alternative debt financing for nations in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Strategic sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any military or political influence.

ABOUT QUAD

- ESTABLISHED: 2007.
- RE-ESTABLISHED: 2017
- OBJECTIVE: Work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
- TYPE: Inter-governmental security forum
- REGION: Indo-pacific region
- MEMBERS: India, United States of America, Japan, Australia

NATURE OF ENGAGEMENT:

- Meetings and Semi-regular summits: 2 + 2 Dialogue
- Information exchanges
- Military drills: Exercise Malabar.



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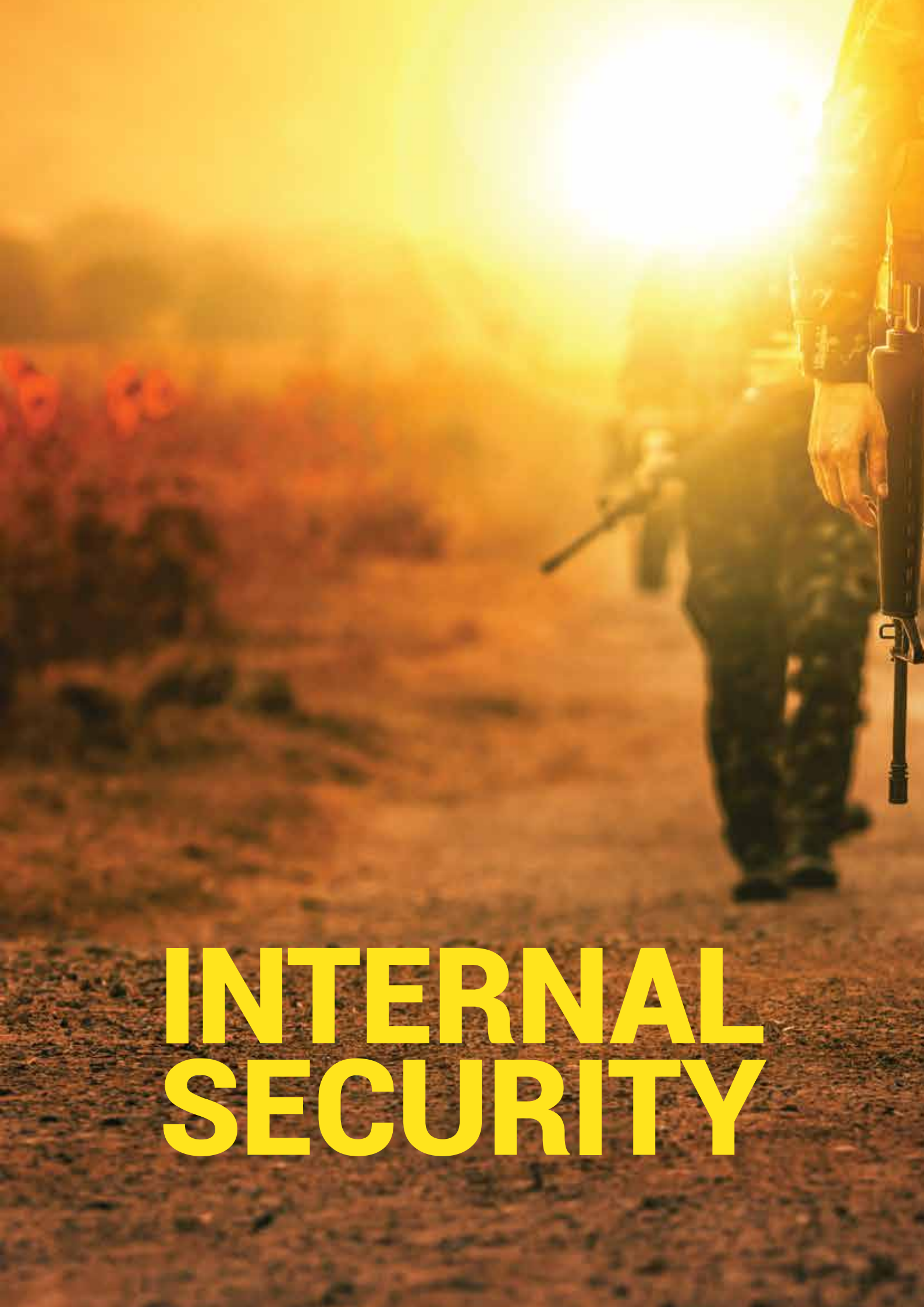


INTERNAL SECURITY

INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS

ISLAMIC STATE KHORASAN PROVINCE

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS

GS Paper III Topics Covered: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

In a fresh push towards the creation of theatre commands to fight the next wars in an integrated manner, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) under the Defence Ministry has asked the three services to conduct studies on the structures of the new formations and submit their reports by April next year.

PROPOSALS REGARDING INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS

- Kargil Review Committee: Need for Integrated Theatre Command.
- Naresh Chandra Committee: Structural changes in higher defence management.
- Shekatkar Committee: Create the post of CDS and Integrated Theatre Commands.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Currently, India has 19 military commands with 17 service-oriented commands.
- Both the Army and the Air Force have seven commands each, the Navy has three commands.
- India has a Tri-Service Command — Andaman & Nicobar Command — besides the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), which looks after nuclear stockpile of India.

ABOUT INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS

- Area-based Unified Command of the three Services, under a Single Commander - Integrated Theatre Commander.
- Integrated Theatre Commander can independently exercise authority to mobilise all resources from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy — with seamless efficacy.
- Integrated Theatre Commander will not be answerable to individual Services.

BENEFITS OF INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS

- Effective planning and mobilisation of military resources.
- Long-term cost effectiveness with acquisitions of hardware.
- Provide unified approach to fighting the future wars.

ISLAMIC STATE KHORASAN PROVINCE

"Khorasan" refers to a historical region covering parts of modern-day Afghanistan and Pakistan. Initially, it included Pakistan until a separate Pakistan section was declared in May 2019.

ABOUT ISLAMIC STATE KHORASAN

- Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K): Regional affiliate of the Islamic State group. IS-K was set up in January 2015 at the height of IS's power in Iraq and Syria, before its self-declared caliphate was defeated and dismantled by a US-led coalition.

CATEGORY: Most extreme and violent of all the jihadist militant groups in Afghanistan.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

India condemns raising bilateral issues at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. In a veiled criticism of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through parts of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, he said connectivity corridors should respect sovereignty.

ABOUT CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

- DATE OF LAUNCH: 2015
- TYPE: 3,000 km-long China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with highways, railways, and pipelines.
- OBJECTIVE: Link the city of Gwadar in South Western Pakistan to China's North Western region Xinjiang through a vast network of highways and railways.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Flagship project of the multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- Enhance Beijing's influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects.
- Project will be financed by heavily-subsidised loans, that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banks.

CONCERNS OF INDIA

- Passes through PoK.
- Secure and shorten its supply lines through Gwadar with an enhanced presence in the Indian Ocean.
- An extensive Chinese presence will undermine India's influence in the Indian Ocean.

BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

COMPONENTS

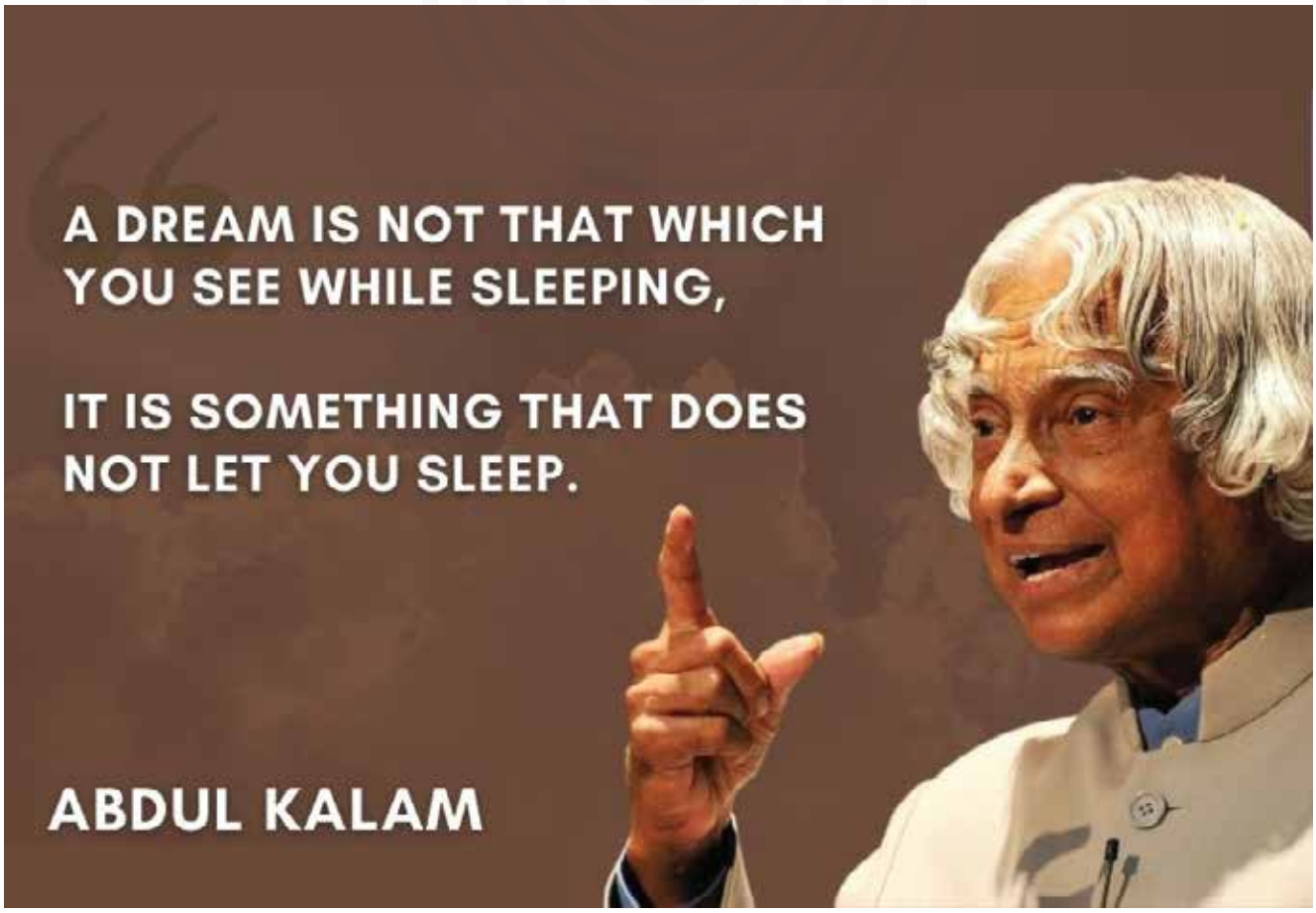
- Land based Silk Road Economic Belt under the One Belt One Road initiative:
  - Northern corridor
  - Central corridor
  - Southern corridor (China Pakistan Economic Corridor)
- Maritime Silk Road under the One Belt One Road initiative:

GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

- Reorient freight traffic from present traditional sea routes to land routes via Railways and Roadways.
- Seamless and better connectivity to Central Asian and Middle East Asia historically allied with US would counter-balance initiatives to strategically contain China.
- Stimulate growth and development in relatively underdeveloped western provinces of China in Chinese hinterlands with improved connectivity with Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and even Africa.
- Institutionalize the China-Pakistan relations, with Chinese interests in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

- Robust naval port infrastructure along the entire Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean littoral States would allow China to legitimise operations in IOR challenging the status of Indian Navy as the sole net security provider in the IOR.
- Limit the Indian influence to South Asian Region economically binding countries in the Bay of Bengal and the northern Indian Ocean much closer to Chinese economy.
- Use it as an instrument of economic coercion to pursue Chinese Interests in Indian Ocean Region.
- China practice staking claims to disputed maritime tracts with paramilitary or civilian naval vessels blur the line between a military-based "String of Pearls" and a trade-based "Maritime Silk Road".



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ECONOMICS

- DAIRY SAHAKAR SCHEME
- NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM (NGFS)
- PROMPT CORRECTIVE ACTION (PCA)
- ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANIES (ARCS)
- FINANCIAL INCLUSION METRICS REPORT
- DEMONETISATION
- FLIPKART SAMARTH PROGRAM
- LOGISTICS EASE ACROSS DIFFERENT STATES 2021 INDEX
- HARBINGER 2021–INNOVATION FOR TRANSFORMATION
- SELA TUNNEL
- RICE BLAST
- SRINAGAR AIRPIORT ACCORDED INTERNATIONAL STATUS
- PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY
- INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (InvITs)
- CAIRN TAX DISPUTE SET TO CONCLUDE
- NEW INITIATIVES OF RBI
- PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
- STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES (SPR) PROGRAMME
- MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES

DAIRY SAHAKAR SCHEME

Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs launched the Dairy Sahakar Scheme on October 31, 2021 for celebrating 75th Foundation Year of Amul. The scheme was launched to accomplish the aim of "from cooperation to prosperity".

DAIRY SAHAKAR SCHEME

- OBJECTIVE: Doubling farmer's income.
- VISION: Atmanirbhar Bharat
- NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Ministry of Cooperation.
- STRATEGY: NCDC will provide financial assistance of Rs 5000 Cr. to qualified cooperatives for milk procurement, bovine development, quality assurance, branding, packing, transportation, storage, and export of milk and milk products.

ABOUT Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) Ltd

- NATURE: Indian Dairy Cooperative Society of 13 District Milk Unions spread across 13,000 villages in the state
- FOUNDER: Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel
- HEADQUARTERS: Anand, Gujarat
- FOUNDING YEAR: 1946
- STRENGTH: 3.6 million milk producers

Kaira Union belonging to Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) Ltd introduced the brand "Amul" to market its product range. Amul played a significant role in India's White Revolution and made it the world's largest producer of milk and milk products.

ABOUT RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION

- NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry for Animal Husbandry
- COST OUTLAY: Rs 2025.
- MANDATE: Development and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding in the breeding tract and genetic upgradation of nondescript bovine population.
- COMPONENTS:
  National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB)
  National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP).

OBJECTIVES:

- Development and conservation of indigenous breeds;
- Breed improvement programme for indigenous breeds so as to improve the genetic makeup and increase the stock;
- Enhancing milk production and productivity of bovine population by increasing disease free high genetic merit female population and check on spread of diseases;
- Upgrading nondescript cattle using elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Thar parkar, Red Sindhi ;
- Distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service;

- Bring all breedable females under organised breeding through AI or natural service using germ plasm of high genetic merits;
- Arrange quality Artificial Insemination (AI) services at farmers' doorstep;
- Create e-market portal for bovine germplasm for connecting breeders and farmers;
- Increase trade of livestock and livestock products by meeting out sanitary and phyto sanitary (SPS) issues;
- Select breeding bulls of high genetic merit at a young age through application of genomics.

NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM (NGFS)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published its 'Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System – NGFS' to contribute towards global response for meeting the climate goals.

ABOUT NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM (NGFS)

- FOUNDING: Established in 2017 at the Paris "One Planet Summit" by 8 founding Central Banks
- CATEGORY: Network of 83 Central Banks and financial supervisors.
- OBJECTIVE: Accelerate the scaling up of green finance.
- SECRETARIAT: Banque de France.
- CHAIRPERSON: Frank Elderson, Dutch central banker
- STRATEGY:
  - > Exchange experiences, share best practices, contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector;
  - > Mobilize mainstream finance to support the transition toward a sustainable economy.

PROMPT CORRECTIVE ACTION (PCA)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) modified its Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework introduced in December 2002 to exclude the profitability parameter from its triggers list.

ABOUT PCA FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE:

- To establish the Supervised Entity to implement remedial measures in a time bound manner, for restoring its financial health.
- Aims to check the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) problems in banking sector of India.
- Helps in alerting regulator, investors and depositors in case bank heading for trouble.

ROLE - SUPERVISED ENTITY: Tool for effective market discipline.

ROLE - RBI: RBI monitor banks with weak financial metrics.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COVERED UNDER THE PCA FRAMEWORK

Commercial banks

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS NOT COVERED THE PCA FRAMEWORK

- Co-operative banks
- Non-Banking Financial Companies

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIS) - ORIGINAL

- Capital
- Asset Quality
- Profitability

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIS) - REVISED

- Capital
- Asset Quality
- Leverage

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS UNDER THE PCA FRAMEWORK

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANIES (ARCS)

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel suggested for overhauling rules to govern Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC).

ABOUT ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (ARC)

- CATEGORY: Special type of Financial Institution (FI) that buys the debtors of the bank at a mutually agreed value and attempts to recover the debts or associated securities by itself.
- OVERSEEING AUTHORITY: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- STATUTE: Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).
- ASSET RECONSTRUCTION: Acquisition of any right or interest of any bank or financial institution in loans, advances granted, debentures, bonds, guarantees or any other credit facility extended by banks for the purpose of its realisation. Such loans, advances, bonds, guarantees and other credit facilities are together known by a term – 'financial assistance'.
- STRATEGY: The ARCs take over a portion of the debts of the bank that qualify to be recognised as Non-Performing Assets. Thus ARCs are engaged in the business of asset reconstruction or securitisation or both. All the rights that were held by the lender (the bank) in respect of the debt would be transferred to the ARC. The required funds to purchase such debts can be raised from Qualified Buyers.

BENEFITS

- Clean balance sheets of banks and Financial Institutions.
- Helps banks concentrate in banking activities.
- Provides opportunities for banks to sell bad assets to ARCs.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RBI PANEL

- Purchase of loans classified as fraud
- An online system for transparency in transactions
- Permission to transact in financial assets that are owned by mutual funds.
- Defining 'substantial part of business' for ensuring change in management
- Permission to participate in the resolution under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) by ARCs.
- Streamlining and standardising sale process of stressed assets undertaken by banks or Financial Institutions (FIs).

FINANCIAL INCLUSION METRICS REPORT

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published its 'Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System – NGFS' to contribute towards global response for meeting the climate goals.

ABOUT FINANCIAL INCLUSION METRICS REPORT

- PUBLISHER: Chief Economic Advisor of SBI Group

METRICS

- Number of bank branches per 100000 adults increased from 13.6 in 2015 to 14.7 in 2020.
- Number of Internet banking transactions per 1,000 adults increased from 183 in 2015 to 13,615 in 2019.
- Number of 'Banking Outlets in Villages – BCs' increased from 34,174 in March 2010 to 12.4 lakh in
- December 2020.

DIRECT BENEFITS

- Policies that promote financial inclusion have a multiplier effect on economic growth, income inequality, and poverty reduction.
- Helps to maintain financial stability.

INDIRECT BENEFITS

- Decline in crime rates in states with larger Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account balances.
- Significant and economically significant decrease in intoxicant consumption, such as alcohol and tobacco products in States with a higher number of PMJDY accounts.

ABOUT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY)

- National Mission for Financial Inclusion.
- DATE OF LAUNCH: August 28, 2014
- OBJECTIVE: Secure Universal financial inclusion.
- PILLARS OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION
  - Deposit services.
    - Zero Balance Accounts: Approximately, 29.48 Cr. Jan Dhan bank accounts were opened by Mid-August, 2017. It included 17.61 crores accounts were in rural/semi-urban areas and 11.87 crores accounts in urban areas.
  - Debit and credit services.
    - Account holders are eligible for an OD facility of Rs.5000 after 6 months from the date of opening the account subject to satisfactory transaction record.
    - RuPay Debit card and RuPay Kisan Card.
  - Transfer and remittance services.
  - Distribution of financial products.
    - Life insurance cover of ₹ 30,000. (PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana)
    - Accidental insurance cover of Rs ₹ 100,000. (PM Suraksha Bima Yojana)

DEMONETISATION

India is observing the fifth anniversary of demonetisation on November 8, 2021. Demonetisation was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016.

Withdrew Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes as a legal tender across the country.

DEMONETISATION

- Act of withdrawing the status of currency as legal tender.
- Current form or forms of money is pulled from circulation and are replaced with new notes or coins.

OBJECTIVES

- Discourage the use of high-denomination notes for illegal transactions.
- Curb the use of black money.
- Encourage digitisation of commercial transactions and
- Formalise the economy.
- Boost government tax revenues.

IMPACTS OF DEMONETISATION

- Currency with public (Total currency in circulation minus cash available with banks) declined from around Rs. 17.97 lakh crore in November 4, 2016 to Rs 7.8 lakh crore in January 2017 following demonetisation
- Liquidity shortage in economy.
- Fall in aggregate demands,
- Economic slowdown with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth declining to 1.5%.

MISCELLANEOUS

Currency in Circulation: Currency available within a country for the purpose of conducting transactions between consumers and businesses.

OUR LEADERS

DR Mohammed Basheer

Honorary - Vice Chancellor-Vedhik Academy, Former Vice Chancellor, Calicut University

Dr. Mohammed Basheer, presently working as Professor, Department of Arabic, Assam University, Silchar, India, since 12th august 2020, is the honorary Vice Chancellor of Vedhik IAS Academy and Member of Governing Board, Vedhik Erudite Foundation. He served as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Calicut, Kerala, India, from 21 november 2015 to 20 november 2019. He worked as a director in College Developmental Council, University of Kerala From November 2019 to May 2020. He worked as a registrar at Kerala University from July 2013 to November 2015. He served as the Haj Coordinator at Consulate General of India, Jeeddah, Saudi Arabia, on deputation by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for a period of three months each in 2008 and 2010. He visited Kuwait University as part of Indo-Kuwait cultural exchange Programme of University Grants Commission, Government of India in May 2005. He is the Ex-Prinicpal of Sullamussalam Science College, Areekode, Malappuram, Kerala. He served as the ex-chairman and member of the Peer Team of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) India.

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FLIPKART SAMARTH PROGRAM

Ministry of Rural Development of Government of India (MoRD) and Flipkart has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).

SALIENT FEATURES

- BENEFICIARIES: Skilled and underserved communities of weavers, craftspeople, and artisans

OBJECTIVES

- Access to national market through the Flipkart marketplace offering time-limited incubation and support in
- areas such as on-boarding, marketing, business insights, cataloguing, account management, and ware housing.
- Targeted expertise and training assistance for beneficiaries.
- Expand commercial and trade prospects for beneficiaries.
- Assist in the creation and maintenance of better livelihood opportunities.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Help accelerate indigenization (Atma Nirbhar Bharat).
- Integrate local companies and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) into the e-commerce fold.

ABOUT DAY-NRLM PROGRAM

CATEGORY: Poverty alleviation project

NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Rural Development

OBJECTIVE: Promoting self-employment and organization of poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and make them capable for self-employment across rural India.

LOGISTICS EASE ACROSS DIFFERENT STATES 2021 INDEX

The Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry published the third edition of Logistics Ease Across Different States 2021 Index.

ABOUT LOGISTIC EASE ACROSS DIFFERENT STATES (LEADS) INDEX

- LAUNCHED: 2018.
- DEVELOPED: Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
- FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION: ANNUAL
- OBJECTIVE: Aims to encourage states for providing policy in order to improve their logistics-related infrastructure.

RANKING PARAMETERS: Ranks states in terms of logistical support to promote goods trade.

Competitiveness of pricing.
Safety of cargo.
Infrastructure and services.
Track and trace.
Timeliness.

FOCUS AREAS:

LEADS 2018 : Export-import trade.
LEADS 2019: International as well as domestic trade.
LEADS 2021: Domestic and EXIM logistics ecosystem across the states.

HARBINGER 2021–INNOVATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to organise its first global hackathon called 'HARBINGER 2021–Innovation for Transformation' focusing on digital payments.

SALIENT FEATURES

- EVENT ORGANISER: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- THEME: 'Smarter Digital Payments'
- STRATEGY: Inviting innovative ideas in payment & settlement system

FOCUS AREAS

- Ideas on easy-to-use, innovative, non-mobile digital payment solutions to convert small-ticket cash trans actions into digital mode to remove physical act of payment.
- Develop alternate authentication mechanism for digital payments.
  Social media analysis monitoring tool to detect digital payment fraud and disruption.

OBJECTIVE: Identify and develop solutions which can be used:

- To make digital payments accessible to the under-served
- To enhance the ease of payments & user experience
- To strengthen the security of digital payments and
- To promote customer protection.

PRIZE MONEY

- Participants of the hackathon will get an opportunity to be mentored by industry experts and exhibit their innovative solutions.
- Selected solutions will be analysed by eminent jury for commercial roll out.
  Winner will get Rs 40 lakh while runner-up will get Rs 20 lakh.

SELA TUNNEL

World's longest bi-lane road tunnel called "Sela Tunnel" is being built on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), under Project Vartak.

SALIENT FEATURES

- SITE: Near the Indo-China border at an altitude of 3,000 metres.
- TYPE: Bi-Lane Tunnel - 1,790 m and 475 m long tunnels and an escape tube of 980 m. constructed on 317km long BCT road.
- The BCT road connects East Kameng, West Kameng, and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh to the rest of India.

SIGNIFICANE

- Provide all weather connectivity to Tawang.
- Ensure better movement of troops and weaponry to different locations along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC).**

RICE BLAST

A fungal infection affecting paddy called Rice blast, is affecting farmers who had grown "Manuvarna rice".

ABOUT MANUVARNA RICE

- Kerala Agricultural College launched Manuvarna rice, a HYV paddy across more than 250 acres in Wayanad.
- Relative humidity of more than 93% and rainfall of around 5 mm per day are the favourable elements through mid tillering stage of the crop for blast illness.

ABOUT BLAST DISEASE / BLIGHT DISEASE

- RICE BLAST FUNGUS: Pyricularia oryzae (Magnaporthe grisea).
- Plant-pathogenic fungus and model organism, causing serious disease in rice. M. grisea comprises of a cryptic species complex containing two biological species which have clear genetic differences.
- Members of M. grisea complex can also infect other cereals like rye, wheat, barley, and pearl millet.
- The spores of the fungus is expected to have been launched from hosts such as Echinochloa crusgalli and Purple nutsedge, which are abundantly current in paddy fields, bunds, as well as on sides of irrigation channel of affected space.

SRINAGAR AIRPIORT ACCOREDED INTERNATIONAL STATUS

Centre declares Srinagar Airport as 'major airport'

INTRODUCTION

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation declared "Srinagar International airport" as a "Major Airport".
- The Centre can designate an Airport, with an annual passenger traffic of at least 35 lakhs as a Major Airport by a notification as per Section 2 (i) of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.

AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY (AERA)

- **TYPE:** Statutory Regulatory Agency working under Government of India
- **STATUTE:** Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act (AERA), 2008
- **ROLE:** Regulates tariff and other expenditure and fees for major airports.
  - > Section 13 of the (AERA), 2008: Determine tariff for aeronautical services provided at major airports
  - > Rule 88 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 which were formulated under Aircraft Act, 1934: Amount of the development fees including user development fee and amount of passenger's service fee.
  - > MISCELLANEOUS: For non-major airports, Airports Authority of India (AAI), working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation determine the tariff.

PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Purvanchal Expressway, the longest expressway in India on November 16, 2021.

SALIENT FEATURES

- LENGTH: 340.8 km.
- WIDTH: 6-lane, expandable to 8-lane
- TYPE: Access-controlled expressway
- STATE: Uttar Pradesh.
- PLACES: Chand Saray village, Lucknow - Haydaria village, Ghazipur on NH-31.
- DEVELOPER: Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).
- UNIQUENESS: 3.2 km long airstrip at Akhalkiri Karwat village near in Sultanpur district for emergency landing of aircrafts.
- PROJECT COST: Rs 22,496 crore
- SIGNIFICANCE: "Carrier of development" to the underdeveloped Purvanchal region.
  > Give a boost to the economic development of eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh, especially the districts of Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur
  > Establishes a direct link between the NCR and eastern Uttar Pradesh till almost the Bihar border, reducing the travel time between Lucknow to Buxar in Bihar from seven hours to nearly four hours.
  > The Yamuna Expressway connects Noida to Agra while the Lucknow-Agra Expressway goes up to the state capital.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (InvITs)

Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan will be the Anchor Investors for the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with each picking up 25% stake. Besides, NHAI would retain a minimum of 15% equity and the rest would be offered to domestic institutional investors. The InvIT will initially have a portfolio of five operating toll roads with an aggregate length of 390 kilometers, with more roads planned to be added later.

ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (InvITs)

Financial institutions that pool investments from various categories of investors and invest them into completed and revenue-generating infrastructure projects

- STATUTES: SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 and the Indian Trust Act, 1882.
- STRUCTURE OF InvITs:
- SPONSOR(S): Promoters of the company holding a minimum 15% of the units issued by the InvIT with a lock-in period of three years from the date of issuance who set up the InvIT and appointing the trustee.
- TRUSTEE (CERTIFIED BY SEBI): Inspect the performance of an InvIT.
- INVESTMENT MANAGER: Supervise the assets and investments of the InvIT.
- PROJECT MANAGER: Responsible for the execution of the project.

BENEFIT THE INVESTOR

- Enable investors to buy a small portion of the units being sold by the fund depending upon their risk appetite.
- Relatively less risky with such trusts comprise largely of completed and operational projects with positive cash flow.
- Favourable tax norms, including exemption on dividend income and no capital gains tax if units are held for more than three years.

CAIRN TAX DISPUTE SET TO CONCLUDE

Cairn Energy has entered into a undertaking with India which would allow for the refund of taxes under a billion-dollar dispute.

STORY SO FAR

- 2014: Income Tax Department demanded Rs 10,247 crore in taxes over an internal business reorganisation held in 2006 under the 2012 retrospective tax law, under the UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty.
- 2015: Cairn Energy Plc commenced international arbitration proceedings against the Government of India.
- 2020: The Permanent Court of Arbitration, Netherlands ruled the act by the Government of India in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment, and against the India-UK Bilateral Investment Treaty, ordering a compensation of $1.2 billion.
- 2021: The Government of India accepted Cairn Energy PLC undertakings issuing a ₹7,900 crore refund of taxes.

RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION

- Allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed.
- Countries use retrospective taxation as a tool to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes.
- Hurts companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently.

PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION:

- CATEGORY: Treaty based organization (1899).
- ESTABLISHED: 1899
- HEADQUARTERS: The Hague, Netherlands.

- Intergovernmental organization dedicated to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States.
- Territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade among states (and similar entities), intergovernmental organizations, or even private parties arising out of international agreements.
- Bureaucratic body without Permanent Judges to assist ad-hoc tribunals to resolve disputes
  All decisions, called “awards” are binding on all the parties in the dispute and have to be carried out without delay.

NEW INITIATIVES OF RBI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched two customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

1. RBI Retail Direct Scheme.

2. Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

ABOUT RBI RETAIL DIRECT SCHEME

The RBI launched the schemes to expand the scope of investment in the country and make access to capital markets easier and more secure for investors.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance access to the government securities market for retail investors.

BENEFITS:

- Provides opportunities for retail investros to directly invest in the Government Securities (G-Secs).
- Help investors to easily open and maintain their Government Securities (G-Secs) account online with the RBI, free of cost.
- Provides a portal avenue to invest in central government securities, treasury bills, state development loans and Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs).

ABOUT RESERVE BANK-INTEGRATED OMBUDSMAN SCHEME

- The RBI integrated the three Ombudsman Schemes into a single comprehensive scheme in line with 'One
- Nation-One Ombudsman' philosophy covering all complaints involving deficiency in service by centralising the receipt and initial processing of complaints to enhance process efficiency.

OBJECTIVE: Further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by the central bank.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-I and II up to September, 2022, and Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas up to March, 2023.

NEED FOR:

- Majority of pending works under PMGSY-I and II are in the North-East and Hill States due to factors such as COVID lockdown, extended rains, winters, forest issues.
- Also, the States have been requesting the Central Government for extension of time to complete these crucial works related to rural economy.

About PMGSY:

- DATE OF Launch: December 25, 2000.
- OBJECTIVE: Provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations.
- ELIGIBILITY: Unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States, Deserts and Tribal Areas as per 2001 census) in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population.

FUNDING:

- GENERAL CATEGORY STATES: Union Government (60 %) : State Government (40 %)
- SPEACIAL CATEGORY STATES (North-Eastern and Himalayan States): Union Government (90 %) : State Government (10 %)

PMGSY – PHASE I:

- DATE OF Launch: December 25, 2000.
- FUNDING: 100 % Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- All weather road connectivity to 1,35,436 habitations through 3.68 lakh km.
- Upgradation of existing rural roads in order to ensure full farm to market connectivity.

PMGSY – PHASE II:

- DATE OF Launch: 2013.
- FUNDING: 100 % Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Upgradation of 50,000 Kms of existing rural road network to improve its overall efficiency.

CHALLENGES:

- Lack of dedicated funds.
- Limited involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Inadequate execution and contracting capacity.
- Less working season and difficult terrain particularly in Hill States.
- Scarcity of the construction materials.
- Security concerns particularly in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas.

ABOUT THE ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT FOR LEFT WING EXTREMISM AFFECTED AREAS:

- DATE OF Launch: 2016.
- OBJECTIVE: Provide all-weather road connectivity in LWE States including the 44 LWE affected districts in 9 States.
- PERMISSIBLE PROJECTS:
  Upgradation of the existing Major District Roads (MDRs) critical from the security point of view.
  Other District Roads (ODRs) and Village Roads (VRs)
  Bridges up to a span of 100 meters, critical from security angle would also be funded on these roads.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES (SPR) PROGRAMME:

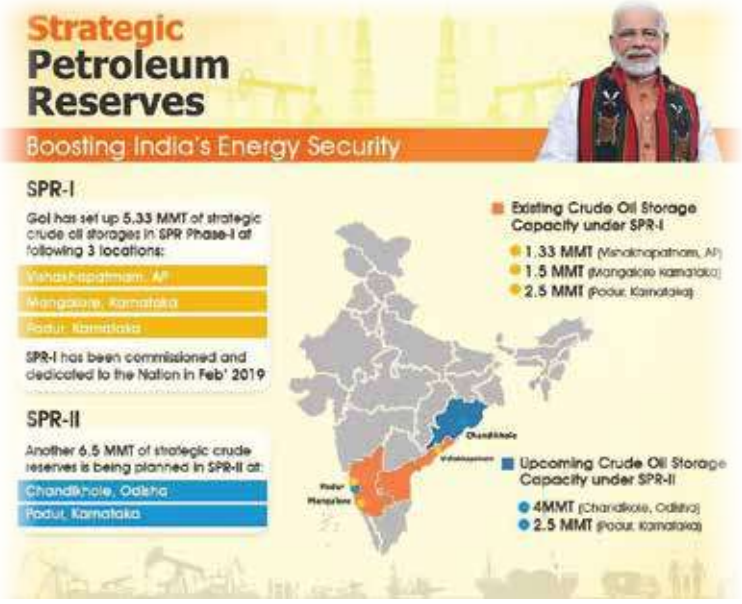
India will release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its emergency stockpile in tandem with the U.S., China, Japan, and other major economies to cool oil prices. India, which stores 5.33 million tonne or about 38 million barrels of crude oil in underground caverns at three locations on the east and west coast, is releasing stocks for such purposes.

ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES (SPR) PROGRAMME:

Huge stockpiles of crude oil to deal with any crude oil-related crisis like the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war or other calamities.

Petroleum reserves in form of crude oil stored in these reserves will be used during an oil shortage event, as and when declared so by the Government of India.

NODAL AGENCY: Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a Special Purpose Vehicle, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.



MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES

Farmers are demanding a law for guaranteed minimum support price (MSP).

OBJECTIVES

- Remunerate farmers with stable and decent prices for their agricultural produce that ensure stable income, standard of living for farmers. The CCEA announce the Administrated Prices for agricultural produce based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Swami Nathan Committee proposed a formula, MSP= Agricultural cost+ 50 %.
- Provide staple food to consumer and raw material to the industries at reasonable price.
- The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) proposes three definitions of production costs in agriculture.
- A2: Actual paid-out expenses incurred by farmers — in cash and kind on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, fuel, irrigation and other inputs from outside.
- A2+FL: A2 cost plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour.
- C2: Rentals or interest loans, owned land and fixed capital assets over and above A2+FL.
- Achieve food self-sufficiency.
- Meet other national policy objectives-nutritional security.

LIMITATIONS OF MSP

- Lack of government machinery for procurement for all crops except wheat and rice, which the Food Corporation of India actively procures under the PDS.
- Farmers of states where the grain is procured completely by the government benefit more while those in states that procure less are often affected.
- MSP-based procurement system is also dependent on middlemen, commission agents and APMC officials.

ABOUT MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES

- Procurement prices announced by Government before the sowing season for 23 crops grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons to encourage the farmers
- The Government in Union Budget for 2018-19 committed crops procurement from farmers, and is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.
- The MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which is a statutory body and submits separate reports recommending prices for kharif and rabi seasons.

ECOLOGY

- COP 26 CLIMATE SUMMIT
- “DON’T CHOOSE EXTINCTION”
- INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN
- GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN
- COP 26 CLIMATE SUMMIT
- "ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID"
- AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI
- EXTINCTION RISKS FOR LEOPARDS IN NORTH INDIA
- MISSION 2070: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR A NET-ZERO INDIA
- FOAMING IN YAMUNA
- CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX 2022
- CLIMATE FINANCING
- STUBBLE BURNING INCIDENTS
- KAISER-I-HIND
- GREEN BONDS
- CLIMATE VULNERABILITY INDEX
- INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESILIENT ISLAND STATES

COP 26 CLIMATE SUMMIT

November 1, 2021: PM Narendra Modi announced 2070 as the India's target to reach "Net Zero Carbon Emissions" at COP26 Climate Summit. India is the seventh-most affected nation by extreme weather events - Global Climate Risk Index 2021. Countries are being asked to implement ambitious emissions reductions targets to secure global Net Zero Carbon Emissions and limit the rise in temperature 1.50 C by mid-century.

NET-ZERO TARGET: Date by which a country will only emit carbon dioxide or other Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) that can be absorbed by forests, soil, crops, and developing technologies such as carbon capture technology.

STRATEGY FOR SECURING GLOBAL NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

- Adopt sustainable and renewable sources of energy: Accelerate phasing-out of coal and increased adoption of electric vehicles
- Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats: Protect and restore ecosystems, build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.
- Mobilise finance: Developed countries must mobilise at least $100bn in climate finance per year by 2020 to secure the required investments in renewable energy sources.
- Global cooperation: Adopt the Paris Rulebook (the detailed rules that make the Paris Agreement operational) and accelerate efforts towards tackling the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society.

TIMELINE COMMITTED BY MAJOR NATIONS FOR NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

- 2050: US, UK and Japan
- 2060: EU
- 2070: Saudi Arabia, China and Russia.

RANKING OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMITTERS:

China(1) > United States of America (2) > India (3) > Russia (4).

SUB-TARGETS OF INDIA FOR 2030

- Increase the share of renewables in power generation mix to 50 %.
- Increase the domestic installed renewable energy capacity to 500 GW.
- Reduce carbon intensity as a proportion of GDP by 45 %.
- Reduce projected total carbon emissions by 1 Billion Tonnes per annum (BTA).

ABOUT CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) 26, 2021

The COP26 is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It is being held in Glasgow, Scotland, under the presidency of United Kingdom. October 31 - November 12. The CoP comes under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC). UNFCCC was established in 1994.

- DATE: October 31, 2021 - November 12, 2021
- PLACE: Glasgow, United Kingdom.
- FOCUS: Drastic mitigation in GHG emissions via replacement with renewable energy.

GOALS OF CoP-26

- Secure global net-zero by mid-century and to keep 1.5 degrees within limit.
- Protect communities and natural habitats.
- Mobilise finance and
- Work together to deliver

"DON'T CHOOSE EXTINCTION"

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released a creative video titled "Don't Choose Extinction" on Climate Change. The viral video shows a dinosaur, to pass a simple message to the world leaders & diplomats: "It's now or never. Don't choose extinction and save human species, before it's too late." In the video, UNDP highlights that, it is time to act and act now for the climate crisis. To drive home the urgency and get attention of world, it is time to do whatever it takes.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE VIDEO

- VIDEO TITLE: 'Don't Choose Extinction'
- CREATOR: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- PLACE: COP - 26, 2021.
- CHARACTER: A dinosaur named Frankie makes a grand entrance, takes the dais, and gets right to the point in the video.
- MESSAGE: Reduce Government-backed fossil fuel subsidies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and rescue the planet. As per UNDP research, world spends around $423 billion annually to subsidize fossil fuels.

ABOUT UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

- FOUNDED: November 22, 1965
- PARENT ORGANISATION: UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- MANDATE: Help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- HEADQUARTERS: New York City
- FUNDING: Entirely by voluntary contributions from UN member states.
- HEAD: Achim Steine (Administrator) - Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

FOCUS AREAS:

- Sustainable development
- Climate and disaster resilience
- Democratic governance and peacebuilding

INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN

The state of Punjab is set to start the Census of Indus River dolphin, one of the world's most threatened cetaceans. The Census focuses on collecting data on spatial and temporal distribution pattern of species and population status. Indeed, Indus River dolphin was declared as the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.

ABOUT INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN:

- SCIENTIFIC NAME: Platanista gangetica minor.
- CATEGORY: Freshwater dolphin
- HABITAT:
  - > Harike Wild-Life Sanctuary (WLS) - Punjab, India
  - > River Beas, a tributary of the Indus River - Punjab, India.
  - > Lower parts of the Indus River - Pakistan
- IUCN STATUS: Endangered.
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972): Schedule I
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I

GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

The Jal Shakti Ministry has released a guide for the safe rescue and release of stranded Ganges river dolphins. The document has been prepared by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department (EFCCD) of the Uttar Pradesh Government. The manual is endorsed by the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group.

ABOUT THE GANGES DOLPHIN:

- SCIENTIFIC NAME: Platanista gangetica.
- CATEGORY: Freshwater dolphin
- HABITAT: Ganga and its tributaries of South Asia, namely in the countries of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- IUCN STATUS: Endangered.
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972): Schedule I
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I

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COP 26 CLIMATE SUMMIT

The Global Methane Pledge, a road map to cut down global methane emissions was jointly launched by the United States and the European Union on November 2, 2021 at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. At present, more than 90 countries have signed this pledge.

ABOUT GLOBAL METHANE PLEDGE

- OBJECTIVE: Deal or a road map to cut down global methane emissions
- LEAD PARTNERS: United States of America (USA) and the European Union (EU)
- GOAL: Reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030 when compared to 2020 levels.

ABOUT METHANE

ABUNDANCE: Second-most abundant Green House Gases (GHGs) present in the atmosphere.

SIGNIFICANCE: Responsible for around half of the 1° Celsius increase in global average temperature since pre-industrial times - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

SOURCES: Human sources account for approximately 60 % of global methane emissions.

- Oil and natural gas networks
- Landfills
- Coal mining
- Agricultural operations
- Wastewater treatment
- Industrial processes

UNITED NATIONAS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

- FOUNDED: June 05, 1972
- CATEGORY: PROGRAMME
- HEADQUARTERS: Nairobi, Kenya
- HEAD: Inger Andersen

MANDATE: Provide leadership, deliver science and develop solutions on a wide range of issues, including climate change, the management of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and green economic development.

FOCUS AREAS:

- Develops international environmental agreements;
- Publishes and promotes environmental science and
- Helps national governments achieve environmental targets.

SECRETARIATS HOSTED BY UNEP:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- Convention on Migratory Species;
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

In 1988, the World Meteorological Organization and UNEP established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). UNEP is also one of several Implementing Agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

"ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID"

PM Narendra Modi called for 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' for improving the viability of solar power. Earth's atmosphere receives enough sunlight in one hour, that can be used to power the electricity need of every human on earth for a year. ISRO will provide a calculator to the world soon, that can measure solar energy potential of any region. However, solar energy is only available during the day and is dependent on weather conditions.

ABOUT ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID (OSOWOG)

- VISION: Setting a 'trans-national global electricity solar power grid to transfer electricity generated from solar power from surplus areas to deficit areas.
  - Phase I: Interconnectivity within the Asian continent.
  - Phase II: Addition of Africa.
  - Phase III: Global interconnection.
- THEME: 'The Sun Never Sets'.
- FINANCIAL PARTNER: World Bank (WB)
- TECHNICAL PARTNER: International Solar Alliance (ISA).

SIGNIFICANCE

- Help mobilise finances, skills and technology for setting up renewable energy projects in participating countries.
- "Economies of Scale" help lessen project costs, higher efficiencies and increased asset utilization.

POTENTIAL AND BENEFITS OF THE INITIATIVE

- Increased share of renewables in the energy share to 40% of power from non-fossil fuels by 2030.
- Lead to reduced project costs, higher efficiencies and increased asset utilization for all the participating entities.
- Require only incremental investment because it will not require a parallel grid infrastructure due to working with existing grids.
- Help all the participating entities in attracting investments in renewable energy sources as well as utilizing skills, technology and finances.
- Economic benefits would positively impact poverty alleviation and support in mitigating water, sanitation, food and other socio-economic challenges.
- Allow national renewable energy management centers in India to grow as regional and global management centers.
- At a global level, almost 2,600 GW of interconnection capacity may be possible up to 2050, delivering estimated power savings of 226 billion euros per year.

AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board recorded Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi as 444 on November 5 at 6 a.m. By 8 am, it worsened to 451. The air quality of Delhi has deteriorated to "severe" category after Diwali.

ABOUT NATIONAL AIR QUALITY INDEX

- DATE: Launched in 2014, with the tagline 'One Number – One Colour -One Description'.
- OBJECTIVE: Issue daily air quality advisories to public on health consequences to trigger behavioural changes among the public to voluntarily initiate pollution mitigation measures.
- MEASUREMENT: Air quality is measured on the Cumulative measure of emissions of 8 gaseous pollutants, including Particulate Matter (PM 2.5, PM 10), sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O3), ammonia (NH3) and lead (Pb).
- NODAL AGENCY: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). AQI was developed by Central Pollution Control board (CPCB) in association with the IIT-Kanpur and an expert group consisting of medical & air-quality professionals
- SCALE:

ABOUT CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)

- DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT: 1974
- NATURE: Statutory organisation, that works under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- STATUTE: Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ROLES AND FUNCTIONS:
  - > Nation-wide programme implementation for the prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution
  - > Act as an advisor to the Central Government on any matter related with the prevention and control of water and air pollution and improvement of the quality of air.
  - > Coordinate activities of the State Board and resolve disputes among them if any.
  - > Provide technical assistance to the State Boards for drafting the guidelines that issued in various states.
  - > Empowering the masses through conducting various awareness programme regarding the prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution.

EXTINCTION RISKS FOR LEOPARDS IN NORTH INDIA

The Union Environment Ministry released a report titled- Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018 on July 29, 2021 — World Tiger Day.

KEY FINDINGS OF REPORT

- Leopards in North India faces an 83% increased risk of extinction due to roadkill. The leopard population in North India is likely to become extinct in the next 33 years at base level estimations.
- The leopard population of North India is the most vulnerable to extinction in the next 50 years with persistent levels of roadkill.

POPULATION STATISTICS

- India's official leopard count increased from 7,910 in 2014 to 12,852 in 2018.
- Madhya Pradesh (3,421)> Karnataka (1,783) > Maharashtra (1,690).

ABOUT LEOPARD

- SCIENTIFIC NAME: Panthera pardus.
- HABITAT: Leopard range stretches from the Indus river in the west, the Himalayas in the north, to the lower course of the Brahmaputra in the east.
- PROTECTION STATUS UNDER WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972: Schedule I.
- PROTECTION STATUS UNDER CITES: Appendix I.
- PROTECTION STATUS UNDER IUCN: Vulnerable.

ADDITIONAL POINT:

Nine subspecies of the leopard have been recognized, and they are distributed across Africa and Asia. In India, the leopard is found in all forest types, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests. It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, the only exception being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans.

MISSION 2070: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR A NET-ZERO INDIA

World Economic Forum (WEP) published its report titled "Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net-Zero India" to provide a roadmap for India's energy transition.

DOMESTIC COMMITMENTS AT COP26 GLOBAL CLIMATE SUMMIT GLASGOW

- Increase the capacity of non-polluting renewable energy to 500 GW by 2030.
- Lower carbon intensity as a per centage of GDP to 45 % by 2030
- Reduce 1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions out of total projected emission by 2030.
- Increase the share of renewables to 50 % in the energy basket by 2030.

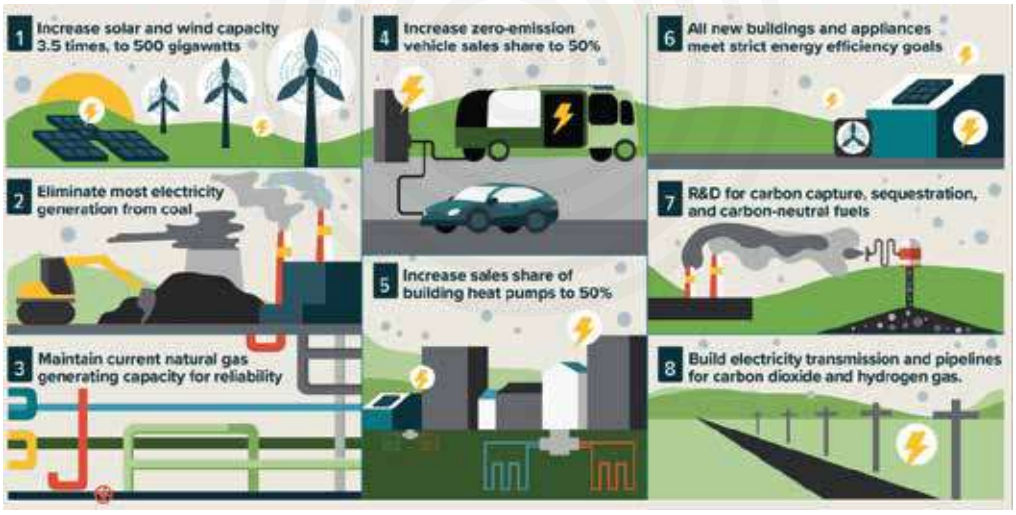
SALIENT FINDINGS OF THE REPORT: India's transition towards a green economy could

- Contribute about $1 trillion in economic impact by 2030.
- Create more than 50 million jobs.
- Economic impact would increase to $15 trillion by 2070.

FIVE PILLARS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS EMISSION IN INDIA

Energy, industry, mobility, agriculture and infrastructure & cities are the five pillars in India, contributing over 90 per cent emissions. India will require to curb this emission, along with four cross-sectoral enablers including-

- Accelerated approach to green technology innovation;
- Integrated approach to carbon, capture, utilisation and storage;
- Overarching framework to catalyse green finance;
- Plan for climate adaptation.



FOAMING IN YAMUNA

Foaming was observed between Wazirabad and Okhla, Yamuna runs for 22-kilometre. It is less than 2 per cent of its length of 1,370 kilometres between Yamunotri and Allahabad. But this stretch accounts for 80 per cent of the total pollution load in the river.

SOURCES OF POLLUTION CAUSING FOAM FORMATION

- Untreated sewage containing soap-detergent particles
- Organic matter from decomposing vegetation
- Industrial effluents
- Filamentous bacteria

CAUSES OF FROTH FORMATION

Phosphates and surfactants in untreated sewage generating from Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Phosphates and Surfactants components comprise of 1 percent of the froth, while 99 per cent is air and water.

ABOUT YAMUNA

- LENGTH: 1,376 kilometres, Second-largest tributary river of the Ganga and the longest tributary in India
- Source: Yamunotri
- Location: Banderpooch peaks, Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, India
- MAJOR TRIBUTARIES: Tons, Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken.
- State: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi
- Cities: Haryana: Yamuna Nagar; Uttar Pradesh: Kairana and Baghpat; Delhi: New Delhi; Uttar Pradesh: Noida, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad, Etawah, Auraiya and Allahabad
- Mouth: Ganges
- Location: Triveni Sangam, Allahabad, India

CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX 2022

India maintained a strong performance like last year and rated her performance as "high" in the GHG emissions, energy use and climate policy categories, and medium in renewable energy in the Climate Change Performance Index, 2022.

PERFORMANCE FORECAST OF INDIA

- Likely to meet its 2030 emissions target (which is compatible with a well-below-2°C scenario),
- Likely to achieve its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of a 40 per cent share for non-fossil fuel installed power capacity by 2030, and on
- Likely to achieve a targeted 33-35 per cent reduction in energy intensity by the same year.

ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX (CCPI)

- Independent monitoring tool that provide information on implementation phase of Paris Agreement.
- Conduct an analysis of climate protection performance of 60 countries and European Union in four categories comprising of 14 indicators since 2005.
- PUBLISHER: German-watch in collaboration with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute.
- **RANKING PARAMETERS:**
  - **> Greenhouse gas emissions (40 per cent of total score),**
  - **> Renewable energy (20 per cent),**
  - **> Energy use (20 per cent) and**
  - **> Climate policy (20 per cent).**

CLIMATE FINANCING

Developing nations - China, India and African countries asked around US $1.3 trillion per year from wealthy countries in climate finance from 2030 onwards.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Group of 24 nations, calling themselves Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), and countries from Africa put forward this demand in a proposal to enhance finance flows.
- These countries are pushing for inclusion of proposal in the final decisions which will be agreed at the climate conference in Glasgow.
- India is part of the LMDC grouping along with countries like China, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

ABOUT GREEN CLIMATE FUND

- ESTABLISHED: 2010 at Cancun Climate Change Summit.
- MANDATE: Mobilise funds worth US $ 100 billion by 2020 and US $ 100 billion from 2020 onwards.
- OBJECTIVE: provide long-term financing for adaptation and mitigation efforts of developing and
- poor countries to assist in their adaptation and mitigation efforts under UNFCC.
- GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE: Board of 24 members
- SECRETARIAT: New Songdo district of Incheon, South Korea.

ABOUT LIKE MINDED-GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LMDC)

- Group of developing countries that share similar interests, organised as a block negotiator in international organizations like United Nations and World Trade Organization.
- Represent about 50% of the world's population.
- Member countries of the Like-Minded Group include: Bangladesh, Algeria, Bhutan, Belarus, Cuba, China, India, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Philippines, Syria, Sudan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

STUBBLE BURNING INCIDENTS

ICRI-Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) recently published its data on stubble burning incidents.

CAUSES:

BENFICIAL EFFECTS

- Cheaper and easier than other methods
- Helps to combat pests and weeds
- Can reduce nitrogen tie-up

HARMFUL EFFECTS

- Loss of nutrients
- Pollution from smoke, including greenhouse gases and others that damage to the ozone layer
- Damage to electrical and electronic equipment from floating threads of conductive waste
- Risk of fires spreading out of control

ALTERNATIVE TO STUBBLE BURNING

Agriculture residues can have other uses, such as in particle board and biofuel

ABOUT INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IARI)

- ESTABLISHMENT: 1911.
- 1919, it was renamed as Imperial Agricultural Research Institute
- LOCATION: Relocated to Delhi in 1936, after a major earthquake in Pusa, Bihar.
- TYPE: National Institute for agricultural research, education and extension.
- IARI is financed and administered by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- The IARI was responsible for research leading to "Green Revolution in India" in 1970s.

KAISER-I-HIND

State Cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, approved "Kaiser-i-Hind" as state butterfly on November 13, 2021.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Large and brightly coloured butterfly.
- Elusive swallowtail butterfly, which carries 'India' in its name.

ABOUT Kaiser-i-Hind

- SCIENTIFIC NAME: Teinopalpus imperialis.
- WINGSPAN: 90-120 mm.
- NATURAL HABITAT: Eastern Himalayas at the elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in a well-wooded terrain. They also flutter in Bhutan, Nepal, Laos, Myanmar, southern China and Vietnam.
- PROTECTION STATUS UNDER WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972: Schedule II.
- PROTECTION STATUS UNDER CITES: APPENDIX 1.
- PROTECTION STATUS UNDER IUCN: RED-LISTED.

GREEN BONDS

The World Bank has issued 164 such bonds since 2008, worth a combined $14.4 billion. In 2020, the total issuance of green bonds was worth almost $270 billion, according to the Climate Bond Initiative. The cumulative issuance since 2015 is over $1 trillion.

ABOUT GREEN BOND

- CATEGORY: Fixed-income asset-linked instrument.
- OBJECTIVE: Raise funds to support specific climate-related or environmental projects, such as ecosystem restoration or reducing pollution.
- BENEFITS FOR INVESTORS: Tax incentives.
- NOTABLE ISSUERS: World Bank.
- GREEN BONDS Vs BLUE BONDS:
  "All blue bonds are green bonds, but not all green bonds are blue bonds"
- BLUE BONDS: Sustainability bonds to finance projects that protect the ocean and related ecosystems.

PROJECTS FINANCED UNDER BLUE BONDS:

- Sustainable fisheries;
- Protection of coral reefs and other fragile ecosystems;
- Reducing pollution and acidification.

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY INDEX

Environmental think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water has carried a first-of-its-kind district-level climate vulnerability assessment, or Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), in which it has analysed 640 districts in India to assess their vulnerability to extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, heatwaves, droughts, etc.

ABOUT CLIMATE VULNERABILITY INDEX

- Council on Energy, Environment and Water.
- District-level climate vulnerability assessment.
- Analysed 640 districts in India to assess their vulnerability to extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, heatwaves, droughts, etc.
- Findings of the climate vulnerability index:

STATES MOST VULNERABLE TO EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS - FLOODS, DROUGHTS AND CYCLONES:

- Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar

DISTRICTS VULNERABLE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS: 463 districts out of 640.

- More than 80 per cent Indians live in districts vulnerable to climate risks are among India's most

DISTRICTS VULNERABLE TO climate-related events: Dhemaji and Nagaon in Assam, Khammam in Telangana, Gajapati in Odisha, Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh, Sangli in Maharashtra, and Chennai in Tamil Nadu 17 of 20 people in India are vulnerable to climate risks, out of which every five Indians live in areas that are extremely vulnerable. North-eastern states are more vulnerable to floods.

ASSESMENT PARAMETERS:

- Availability of critical infrastructure like cyclone and flood shelters,
- Government mechanisms in place including updating of disaster management plans, Mitigation strategies, Standard operating procedures before, during and after an extreme weather event
- Evacuation of people and livestock.
- Mobilisation of food.
- Administration prevents loss of lives and livelihoods.

SIGINFICANCE OF THE INDEX:

- Map critical vulnerabilities and plan strategies to enhance resilience and adapt by climate-proofing communities, economies and infrastructure.
- Focus on the comprehensive risk of hydro-met disasters, which is floods, cyclones and droughts, and their impact.
- The study does not take into consideration other natural disasters such as earthquakes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a high-resolution Climate Risk Atlas (CRA) at the district level to map critical vulnerabilities
- Better identify, assess, and project chronic and acute risks such as extreme climate events, heat and water stress, crop loss, vector-borne diseases and biodiversity collapse.
- Establish a centralised climate-risk commission to coordinate the environmental de-risking mission.
- Undertake climate-sensitivity-led landscape restoration focused on rehabilitating, restoring, and reintegrating natural ecosystems as part of the developmental process.
- Integrate climate risk profiling with infrastructure planning to increase adaptive capacity.

- Provide for climate risk-interlinked adaptation financing by creating innovative CVI-based financing instruments that integrate climate risks for an effective risk transfer mechanism.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESILIENT ISLAND STATES

India, the U.K. and Australia and included the participation of leaders of small island nations such as Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius jointly launched the initiative for developing the infrastructure of small island nations vulnerable to climate change.

IMPLEMENTATION

- The IRIS initiative is a part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) that would Focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Extreme Vulnerablity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to sea-level rise, storm surge and coastal destruction to cliamte change.
- One-third of the entire population of SIDS lives on lands that are less than five metres below the sea level.
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) contribute to only 1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions
- Agricultural production, fisheries, and related sectors are declining as the climate changes, threatening livelihoods and economic growth.
- Extreme weather spawned by climate change is destroying SIDS land, real estate and infrastructure, with economically catastrophic effects.

ABOUT Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is the second initiative of India, after the International Solar Alliance constituted by India with France at the Paris Climate Change Summit, 2015
- Launched by Modi in September 2019 at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US.
- Platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.
- Create a mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities and practices, with regard to infrastructure development in accordance with their risk context and economic needs.

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES:

- Distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.
- Geographical regions in which SIDS are located are the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the AIS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea).
- Recognized as a distinct group of developing countries in June 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development.
- The Barbados Programme of Action was produced in 1994 in order to assist the SIDS in their sustainable development efforts.
- The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked
- Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) represent this group of states.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- LANDSAT 9 MISSION
- FIRST SPACE WALK BY A CHINESE WOMAN
- PROJECT 15B
- DENGUE FEVER
- ZIKA VIRUS
- CoWIN PORTAL
- PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE (PCV) PROGRAMME
- e-AMRIT PORTAL
- S-400 TRIUMF
- TECHNICAL TEXTILES
- MARS 2020
- NASA's DART MISSION
- JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE
- DEEP SEABED MINING

LANDSAT 9 MISSION

NASA and US Geological Survey led Landsat 9 mission collected and sent its first light images of the Earth.

ABOUT LANDSAT 9

- TYPE: Earth Observation Satellite
- PARTNERS: Joint mission of NASA and US Geological Survey (USGS).
- OBJECTIVES
  - > Transmits data with higher radiometric resolution towards the Earth
  - > Differentiate 16,000 shades of a given wavelength colour
  - > Help people in managing vital natural resources and understanding the impacts of climate change.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

- Earlier known as Geological Survey.
- Scientific agency of the United States government.
- Study the landscape of US, its natural resources as well as natural hazards threatening the country.

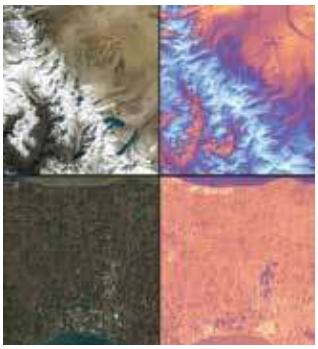


Figure: Landsat 9 carries two instruments designed to work together to capture a broad range of wavelengths: the Operational Land Imager 2 and the Thermal Infrared Sensor 2. Data from both instruments are shown in this image.
Credits: NASA

FIRST SPACE WALK BY A CHINESE WOMAN

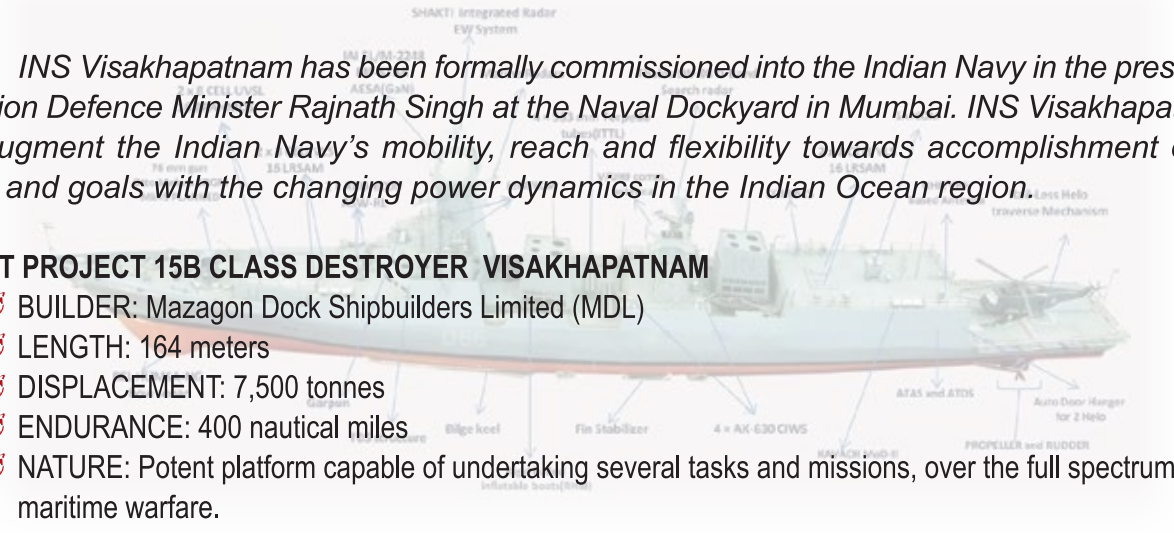
Astronaut Wang Yaping has become the first Chinese woman to walk in space with regard to construction of TIANGONG, China's first long-term space station.

ABOUT TIANGONG

- Meaning "Heavenly Palace", it is the China's first long-term space station being constructed by China in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) between 340 and 450 km above the surface.
- Construction of the long-term space station is the goal of "Third Step" of the China Manned Space Program.
- Weighing approximately between 80t and 100t, Tiangong is about one-fifth the mass of International Space Station.
- Expected to be operational by 2022, Tiangong is expected to operate for around 10 years.

PROJECT 15B

INS Visakhapatnam has been formally commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. INS Visakhapatnam will augment the Indian Navy's mobility, reach and flexibility towards accomplishment of its tasks and goals with the changing power dynamics in the Indian Ocean region.



ABOUT PROJECT 15B CLASS DESTROYER VISAKHAPATNAM

- BUILDER: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- LENGTH: 164 meters
- DISPLACEMENT: 7,500 tonnes
- ENDURANCE: 400 nautical miles
- NATURE: Potent platform capable of undertaking several tasks and missions, over the full spectrum of maritime warfare.

PROJECT 15 B

Project of Indian Navy to build a fleet of 4 Guided-missile Destroyers that feature cutting edge advanced technology

- Design: Directorate of Naval Design, Indian Navy
- CONSTRUCTION: M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

SALIENT FEATURES:

- Improved survivability and sea keeping,
- Enhanced stealth features with proper hull shaping and radar-transparent deck fittings
- Array of state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including multi-functional surveillance radars
- Vertically launched missile system for long-distance engagement of shore, and sea-based and air targets.

DENGUE FEVER

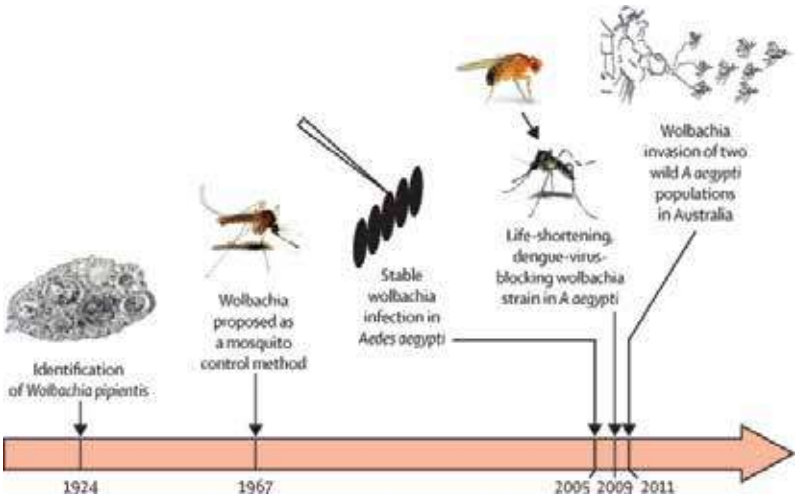
Every year, from July to November, an upsurge in cases of dengue has been observed. The disease has a seasonal pattern, i.e., the peak comes after monsoon and it is not uniformly distributed throughout the year.

ESTIMATES

- Annual incidence of 39 crore dengue virus infections, of which 9.6 crore show symptoms - World Health Organisation (WHO).
- India registered over 1 lakh dengue cases in 2018 and over 1.5 lakh cases in 2019 - National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).

CONTROLLING DENGUE USING BACTERIA:

POPULATION REPLACEMENT STRATEGY: Recently researchers from the World Mosquito Program used mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia bacteria to successfully control dengue in Indonesia. The scientists infected some mosquitoes with Wolbachia and then released them in the city where they bred with local mosquitoes, until nearly all mosquitoes in the area were carrying Wolbachia bacteria. At the end of 27 months, the researchers found that the incidence of dengue was 77% lower in areas wh ere Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes had been released, as compared to areas without such deployments.



ABOUT DENGUE

- CATEGORY : Viral disease
- VECTOR: Female Aedes Egypti (Ae.) mosquito.
- TRA NSMISSION: Aedes Egypti (Ae.) mosquito bites
- SYMPTOMPS : Fever

ZIKA VIRUS

After Kanpur and Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow reported cases of Zika virus on Thursday (November 11). Two people tested positive for mosquito-borne disease

ABOUT ZIKA

- VECTOR: Zika virus infected mosquitoes from the Aedes genus, mainly Aedes aegypti
- TRANSMISSION: Mosquito to Human (M2H) via bites, Human to Human (H2H)
- SYMPTOMS: fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, or headache
- CONGENITAL ZIKA SYNDROME: Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly (smaller than normal head size) and other congenital malformations.
- TREATMENT: No treatment or vaccine. Rest, rehydration and acetaminophen for fever and pain.

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CoWIN PORTAL

The Central Pollution Control Board recorded Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi as 444 on November 5 at 6 a.m. By 8 am, it worsened to 451. The air quality of Delhi has deteriorated to "severe" category after Diwali.

- CoWIN stands for Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network.
- It is a web portal in India for COVID-19 vaccination registration.
- It is owned and operated by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The portal displays booking slots of COVID-19 vaccine in the nearby areas. People can book their slot using through the portal.
- Integrated Portal This portal has also been integrated with the Aarogya Setu and UMANG Apps.
- Which vaccines are registered on the portal? Currently, three vaccines can be registered on the platform namely Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V.

Background

- CoWIN started offering Covid-19 vaccines to the Frontline workers in India on January 16, 2021.
- From March 2021 onwards, vaccination was offered to all residents aged over 60. Eligibility was extended to all residents aged over 45 from April 1, 2021 and to residents aged over 18 from May 1, 2021.

PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE (PCV) PROGRAMME

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) programme was launched in the state of Karnataka, on November 12, 2021.

Key Points

- launched under the universal immunisation programme on the occasion of 'World Pneumonia Day'.
- spreading awareness and reducing pneumonia induced mortality & morbidity among children.

BACTERIAL PNEUMONIA

Pneumococcal is the name of group of diseases which are caused by bacterium Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus).

Streptococcus pneumoniae is the main cause of bacterial pneumonia in children aged under five years.

Young children, elderly, and those with suppressed immune system or those who are malnourished are at the increased risk of getting infected to pneumococcal disease.

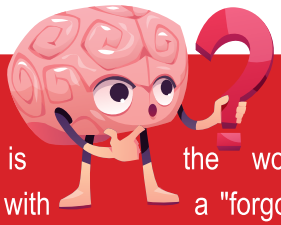
Effectiveness of PCV

- safe and effective measure to prevent pneumococcal disease.
- Reduces the incidence of meningitis, pneumonia, and other serious bacterial infections.
- Two primary doses are advised, one at six weeks and second at 14 weeks. with a booster dose advised at nine months.

World Pneumonia Day

- World Pneumonia Day is observed on November 12, annually. The day was established in 2009 by Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia.

Do you know



Pneumonia is the world's deadliest child killer, with a "forgotten epidemic" claiming one young life every 39 seconds. Approximately 3.7 lakh children die of pneumonia annually in India. This accounts for 50 per cent of the world's pneumonia deaths. Pneumonia accounts for 14% of all deaths of children under 5 years old, killing 740 180 children in 2019

UNIVERSAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME (UIP)

- LAUNCH DATE: 1985, became a part of Child Survival & Safe Motherhood Programme in 1992.
- Programme is currently one of the focus areas under National Rural Health Mission since 2005.
- Comprises of vaccination for 12 diseases namely, tuberculosis, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, Japanese encephalitis, hepatitis B, rubella, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and Pneumococcal diseases.

e-AMRIT PORTAL

India launched an electric vehicle awareness web portal called "e-Amrit ("Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation") Portal" accessable using different devices like PCs, mobile phones, screen readers and tablets at COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK on November 10, 2021.

e-AMRIT Portal

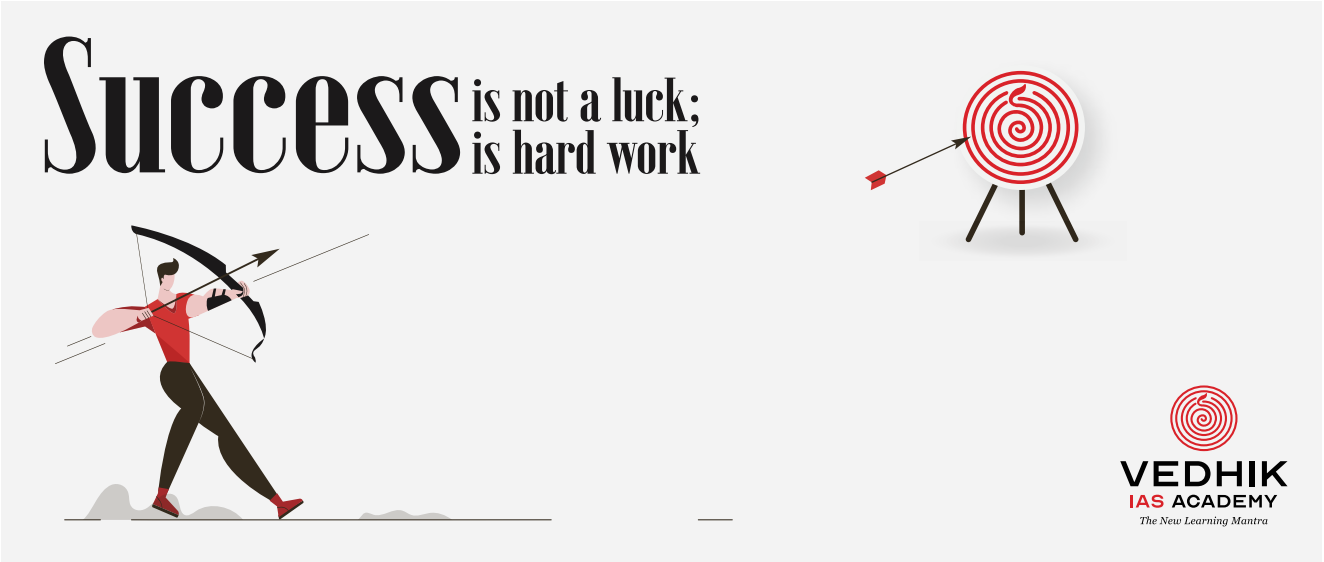
- Joint initiative of NITI Aayog with the UK Government as part of India-UK Joint Roadmap 2030.
- MANDATE: 'One-stop site' containing all the information regarding adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in India.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Assist electric vehicle users or electric vehicle adopters to:
- Make consumers aware of electric vehicle technologies, insurance options, types of electric vehicles and financing options.
- Provide information on major initiatives of Centre and States rnments to establish electric vehicle or associated enterprise.
- Assess benefits of electric vehicles helping potential consumers to determine users' savings with electric vehicles as compared to petrol or diesel vehicles.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Accelerate initiatives of the government to raise awareness on electric vehicles.
- Sensitize people on benefits of adopting electric vehicles.
- Act as an accelerator of change and influence millions of users.



S-400 TRIUMF

Russia has started the delivery of S-400 missile system to India, in a bid to boost India's air-defence capabilities.

ABOUT S-400 TRIUMF

- COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Russia.
- MANUFACTUER: Almaz Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering
- COST: US $ 1 Bn. (approx.)
- TYPE: Advanced air-defence system.
- CATEGORY: Mobile, Surface-To-Air Missile (SAM) system.
- Range: 400kms.
- SIGINIFICANCE: Protect air defence bubble against missiles, rockets, cruise missiles and aircraft.

TECHNICAL TEXTILES

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had, in 2020, approved the setting up of a National Technical Textiles Mission at an total outlay of ₹1,480 Crore.

The Centre is targeting five times' increase in export of technical textiles in three years. The global market for technical textiles is $250 billion and India's share is $19 billion.

STORY SO FAR

- 2019: The Government of India issued 207 HSN Codes for technical textiles
- 2020: India launched the National Technical Textiles Mission.
- 2021: Made 92 technical textile items mandatory for use by government organisations covering agriculture,
- horticulture, highways, railways, water resources, and medical applications.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION

OBJECTIVE:

Position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market.

FOUR PILLARS OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION:

- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION: Fibre level and application-based in geo, agro, medical, sports and mobile textiles and development of bio-degradable technical textiles.
- PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARKET: Take domestic market size to $40 billion to $50 billion by 2024.
- EXPORT PROMOTION: Ensure 10% average growth every year to achieve a target of ₹20,000 crore by 2021-2022 from the ₹14,000 crore now.
- EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

ABOUT TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Textile materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic and decorative characteristics. Technical Textiles products are divided into 12 broad categories based upon their application areas: Agrotech, Buildtech, Clothtech, Geotech, Hometech, Indutech, Mobiltech, Meditech, Protech, Sportstech, Oekotech, Packtech.

MARS 2020

Mars 2020 is a Mars rover mission forming part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program that includes the rover Perseverance and the small robotic, coaxial helicopter Ingenuity. NASA's Perseverance Mars rover has emerged from its first "solar conjunction" blackout and gotten back to work on the Red Planet. In this alignment, known as solar conjunction, our star can corrupt commands sent from Earth to Mars, so NASA and other space agencies don't take the chance.

PAYLOADS

- PERSEVERANCE: Mars rover designed to explore the crater Jezero on Mars.
- INGENUITY: Feasability to demonstrate the helicopter's ability to fly in the extremely thin atmosphere of another planet over a hundred million miles from Earth without direct human control.

SALIENT MISSION OBJECTIVES

- Look for signs of ancient microbial life.
- Collect Martian rock and dust samples for later return to Earth.
- Deliver an experimental helicopter.
- Study the climate and geology of Mars.
- Demonstrate technology for future Mars missions.

REASON FOR THE NEAR-TERM INTEREST IN MARS

- Located in the very near backyard (about 200 million km away).
- Potential site for development of extra-planetary habitat for humans.
- Evidence of flowing water and an atmosphere in the distant past: and perhaps conditions to support life.

MOXIE or Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment:

The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) is a technology demonstration on the NASA Mars 2020 rover Perseverance investigating the production of oxygen on Mars. On April 20, 2021, MOXIE produced oxygen from carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere by using solid oxide electrolysis.

NASA's DART mission

NASA will launch the agency's first planetary defense test mission named the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART). The spacecraft will be launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

ABOUT DART MISSION

- OBJECTIVE: Technology Demonstrator (TD) for a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course.

PAYLOADS:

- NASA Evolutionary Xenon Thruster–Commercial (NEXT-C)
- Didymos Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for Optical Navigation (DRACO). high-resolution images from DRACO will be sent to Earth in real-time and will help study the impact site and surface of Dimorphos.
- LICIACube (Light Italian CubeSat for Imaging of Asteroids): Capture images of any dust cloud formed during the the impact and the impact crater formed as a result of the collision.

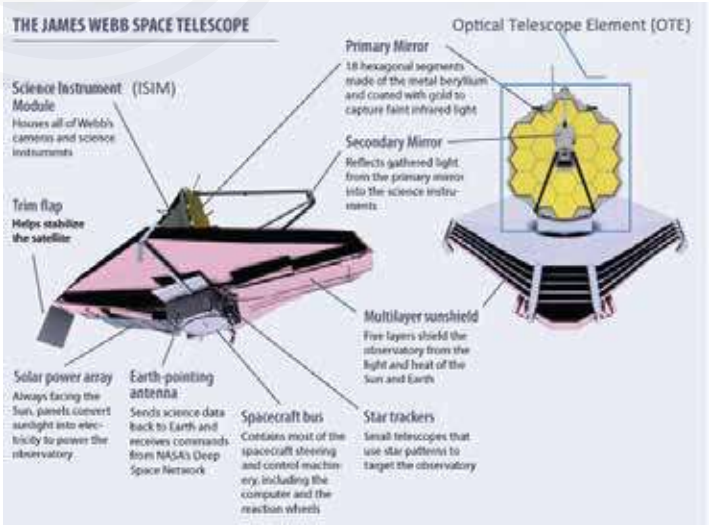
TARGET ASTEROID

- Small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for "two forms"), it is about 160-metre in diameter and the space craft is expected to collide when it is 11 million kilometres away from Earth. Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for "twin") which has a diameter of 780 metres.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

The launch of the James Webb Space Telescope, formerly known as the "Next Generation Space Telescope" (NGST) has been delayed until December 22 after an accident at its launch facility in French Guiana. The space telescope was originally supposed to launch on December 18.

- ABOUT JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE
- PARTNERS
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - US
- European Space Agency (ESA) - European Union
- Canadian Space Agency (CSA) - Canada



SIGNIFICANCE:

Orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope, with longer wavelength coverage and greatly improved sensitivity.

ORBIT:

- Orbits around the Earth at an altitude of ~570 km above at the Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point,5 million km away.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

- Explore deeper into the cosmos – and thus further back in time – than is possible with Hubble.
- Detect the light from the very first population of stars in the Universe to switch on more than 13.5 billion years ago.

DEEP SEABED MINING

cabinet approves Rs 4,077-crore Deep Ocean Mission

DEEP SEABED MINING

- Deep seabed mining (DSM) refers the term applied to processes and technologies designed to collect metal-rich resources from the deep seafloor.
- There are three types of deep seabed mineral resources that are of interest:
  - > Seafloor massive sulphides
  - > Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, and
  - > Polymetallic nodules.

POLYMETALLIC NODULES

They are rock-like accretions that lie unattached on the surface of the ocean floor and can be collected without cutting or drilling. There are trillions of these nodules, roughly the size of potatoes, lying at a water depth of 4,000 to 6,000 metres in the Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ), a six million square kilometre region of the Pacific Ocean's seafloor between Mexico and Hawaii. Since the early 1970s, there has been growing interest in collecting these nodules due the high-grade and multiple metals they contain – metals like nickel, cobalt, manganese, and copper. Polymetallic nodules, also called manganese nodules, are mineral concretions on the sea bottom formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launched India's first manned ocean mission "Samudrayaan" in Chennai. making India the fifthsuch as the US, Russia, France, Japan, and China to have niche technology and vehicles to carry out subsea activities.

ABOUT SAMUDRAYAAN:

- OBJECTIVE: Send three persons in a manned submersible vehicle to a depth of 6000 metres into the sea for deep-ocean exploration and mining of rare minerals.
- NODAL AGENCY: National Institution for Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai
- PROJECT COST: Rs. 4,077 Cr.

MATSYA 6000:

- Indigenously developed manned submersible vehicle.
- Facilitate the MoES in conducting deep ocean exploration of resources such as gas hydrates, polymetallic manganese nodules, hydro-thermal sulfides, and cobalt crusts which are located at an approximate depth between 1000 and 5500 metres.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Open up more growth avenues to explore ocean resources for clean energy, drinking water, and blue economy.
- India is the 1st country among the developing nations to carry out a deep ocean mission.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

MISCELLANEOUS

BABASAHEB PURANDARE

FOOD SECURITY MUSEUM AT THANJAVUR

SATTVIK CERTIFICATE

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA (IFFI)

NOBEL PRIZE 2021

BABASAHEB PURANDARE

Padma Vibhushan Babasaheb Purandare, a celebrated historian, author, and theatre personality died on November 15, 2021 at in Pune.

ABOUT LANDSAT 9

- ABOUT BABASAHEB PURANDARE
- FULL NAME: Balwant Moreshwar Purandare.
- GENRE: Notable for his work on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj writing extensively on Shivaji Maharaj, his administration as well the forts from Shivaji's era.

WORKS

- Thinagya (Sparks)
- Raja Shiva-Chatrapati
- Kesari
- A book on life of Narayanrao Peshwa.
- Janata Raja.

FOOD SECURITY MUSEUM AT THANJAVUR

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister Of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution inaugurated India's first Food Security Museum on November 15, 2021.

SALIENT FACTS

- PATRONS: Co-developed by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Viswesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museums, Bengaluru.
- LOCATION: Thanjavur, First office of FCI was inaugurated there on January 14, 1965.

ABOUT FOOD SECURITY MUSEUM

- Evolution of man from nomadic hunter groups into settled agriculture procedures.
- Ancient global and indigenous grain storage methods, and challenges therein.
- History of Food Corporation of India (FCI), its present operations.
- Agricultural evolution of India, from dependency to self-sufficiency.
- Exhibits comprising of breakthrough technologies like Radio frequency identification, projection mapping, proximity sensors, touch screen kiosk, and touch sensors.

SATTVIK CERTIFICATE

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has planned to promote "Vegetarian Trains" in collaboration with the Sattvik Council of India.

SALIENT FACTS

- Trains will be connected especially with religious places.
- "Sattvik certificate" will be provided by the Sattvik Council of India (SCI).
- 'Vande Bharat train' from New Delhi to Katra operated by IRCTC will be given the "Sattvik Certificate. Apart from Vande Bharat, Sattvik Council of India will certify 18 other trains.

ABOUT SATTVIK CERTIFICATION SCHEME

- Launched along with IRCTC on November 15, 2021.
- Publish a Handbook on vegetarian-friendly diet in collaboration by Sattvik council with IRCTC.
- IRCTC base kitchens, budget hotels, executive lounges, travel & tour packages, food plazas, Rail Neer plants will be 'sattvik' certified in order to ensure "vegetarian-friendly travel".

SATTVIK COUNCIL OF INDIA

- First Vegetarian food safety and regulatory compliance of the world for vegetarian and allied adherents.
- Set up with an ideology to take initiative and create Food Safety Environment for vegetarian's consumers of India.

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA (IFFI)

52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from November 20 to November 28, 2021.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Fifteen films including 'Land of Dreams, directed by Shoja Azari and Charlotte directed by Simon Franco' will vie for the top awards.
- IFFI will be hosted in Goa.
- Golden Peacock Award for Best Film at the IFFI: Ring Wandering
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Director: Vaclav Kadrnka's

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA (IFFI)

- Founded in 1952.
- Held annually with the aim of providing a common platform for cinemas across the world to project excellence of film art.
- Contributes towards understanding & appreciation of film cultures of different nations with respect to their social and cultural ethos. It promotes friendship and cooperation among people world wide.
- Conducted jointly by the state government of Goa and Directorate of Film Festivals, working under Ministry of Information and Broadcastin

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NOBEL PRIZE 2021

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

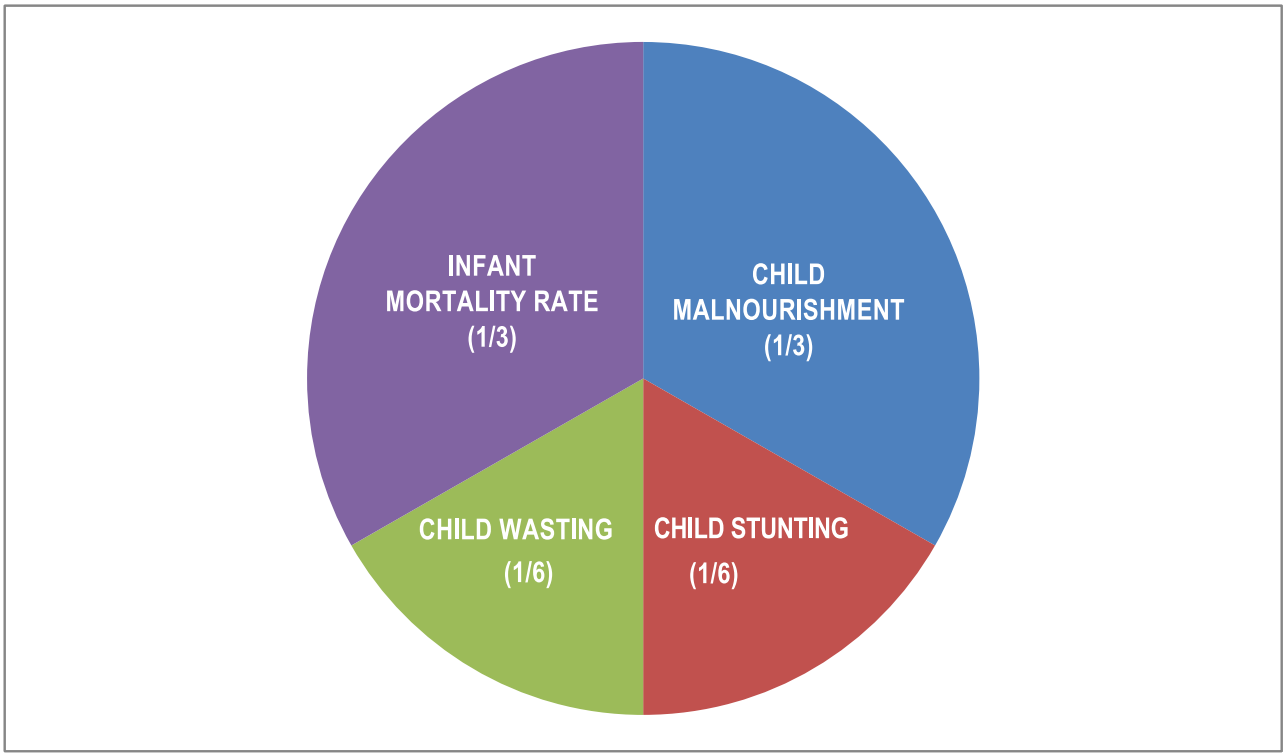
In the latest Global Hunger Index, India is bracketed in the category of countries where hunger levels are "serious".

FACTS ABOUT INDIA

- RANK: 101 out of the 116 countries.
- SCORE: 27.5
- HUNGER LEVEL: Serious.

ABOUT GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

- PUBLISHER: IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute), the Welthungerhilfe, and Concern Worldwide.
- FREQUENCY: Annual publication since 2006
- OBJECTIVE: measuring the progress and failure of individual countries and regions in the fight against hunger prevailing in countries on a 100-point scale.
  Zero represents the best score on the scale, and
  100 represent the worst score.
- METHODOLOGY: Scores are assigned for survey data comparing against the best available survey data over identified indices via Weighted Average Method.



ETHIC

VALUES

JOURNEY FROM ORANGE CART TO PADMA SHRI

'LAST RITES SAMARITAN' SHAREEF CHACHA AWARDED PADMA SHRI

CONSERVATIONIST HIMMAT RAM BHAMBHU WINS PADMA SHRI

YESTERYEAR'S MANJUNATH SHETTY, TODAY'S PADMA SHRI JOGATI MANJAMMA

VALUES

A personal value system is a set of principles or ideals that drive and / or guide your behaviour. Indeed, personal value system helps to prioritize your actions and purpose in life. A person unaware of, or disconnected with their values make choices out of impulse or instant gratification rather than on solid reasoning. In short, personal values define your character. They impact every aspect of your life including:

- Personal and work behaviours
- Personal interactions with family, friends and co-workers
- Personal decision-making processes
- the direction you take in life
- Overall quality of your life
- Personal happiness and well being

This is why it is so important to know what you value, why you value it and what precedence it takes in your life.

Four Categories of a Personal Value System

- Personal Values - Traits we see as worth aspiring to, and that define our character.
- Spiritual Values - Forge us a connection to a higher power and give us a sense of purpose beyond our material existence.
- Family Values - Love and care for those we are close to; our children, our parents, other family members, and our friends.
- Career Values - Best use and expression of our talents and skills for the purposes of contributing to society and for monetary compensation.

Which values do we as social beings find desirable?

There are characteristics we value in others which transcend social, economic and religious boundaries, irrespective of our social and economic background. Some of these characteristics are:

Integrity

Integrity is trustworthiness, honesty and uprightness of character. We value people of integrity because we know what to expect from them. People with integrity is expected to act honourably and that they will do what they think is right. All of us aspire people with integrity as our friends, on our teams and in our organizations.

RESPECT

Respect is honouring the worth and dignity of all people. Those who respect others treat them with fairness and courtesy. They treat others the way they themselves wish to be treated.

LOYALTY

Loyalty is a commitment and faithfulness to a person or cause. Those who are loyal to their family, friends, organizations and country stand behind and support them during good times and bad times. They can be counted on to be there when the going gets difficult and to help out when the chips are down.

RESPONSIBILITY

Those who accept responsibility are reliable, dependable and willing to take accountability for who they are and what they do. They believe they have a moral obligation to help others and to make a contribution to the society they live in.

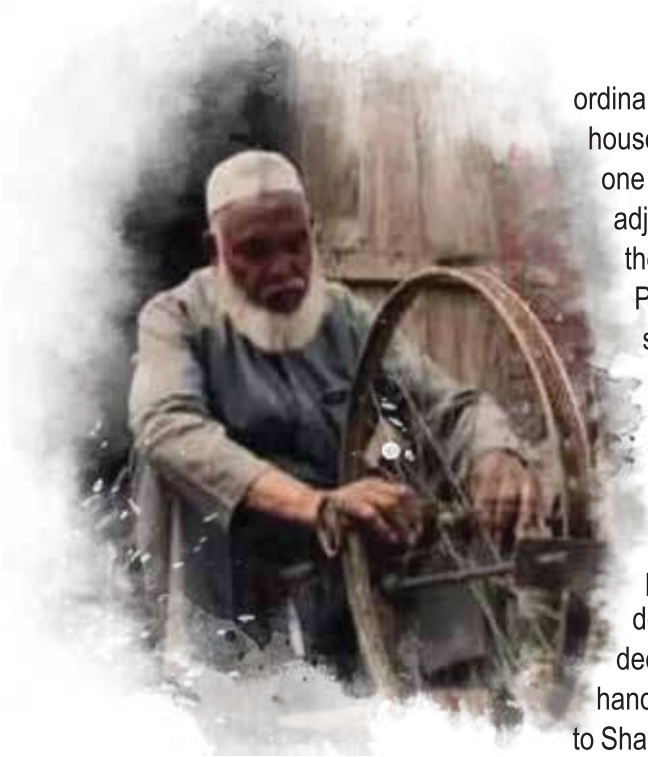
No matter what values we choose live by, it is vital that we look at the big picture, assess what we want our role to be, and map out how we intend to conduct our lives.

JOURNEY FROM ORANGE CART TO PADMA SHRI

The Government Higher Secondary School in Harekala-Newpadpu village in Mangalore spread over 1.33 acres is a labour of love Hajabba gifted from his earnings as an orange-seller. The school currently has 175 underprivileged students from the village. Hajabba, who could never attend school himself, embarked on this noble endeavor after an incident in 1990 left him “embarrassed” and acutely conscious of the importance of education. In 1990, while selling oranges at the bus depot, a foreigner asked for the price of oranges. He couldn’t understand the foreigner. In his own words. “It made me sad that I didn’t study because of abject poverty and lack of access to school. I wanted children of my village to study.”

The ensuing journey has been long, but rewarding. Ever since the day a barefooted Hajabba received the Padma Shri — the fourth highest civilian award in the country — from President Ram Nath Kovind.

'LAST RITES SAMARITAN' SHAREEF CHACHA AWARDED PADMA SHRI



Through most of his life, Mohammed Sharif led an ordinary, hardworking existence, repairing bicycles to run the household. The turning point for him came 28 years ago when one of his sons, 25-year-old Mohammed Rais, went to the adjoining district of Sultanpur but never returned. For weeks, the family searched for him, but in vain. A month later, a Police came and showed a shirt that turned out to be his son’s.

In chacha Sharif's words, "Police told us that they thought there was no one to claim his body and so they threw it into the Gomti River.” This was when Sharif vowed to give a respectful farewell to as many unclaimed bodies as he could. The former bicycle mechanic has performed the last rites of more than 25,000 unclaimed dead bodies across religions in his district over the last three decades. In fact, it has become a practice for the police to hand over bodies unclaimed for 72 hours for cremation or burial to Sharif. Mohammed Sharif, also known as Sharif Chahcha from Uttar Pradesh’s Ayodhya was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2020.

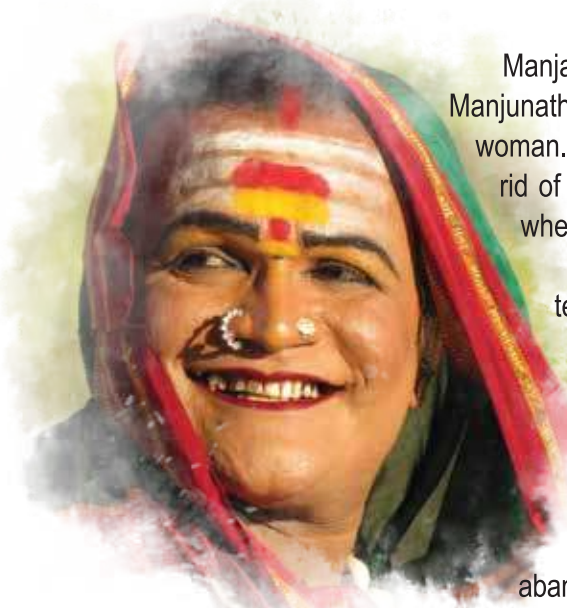
CONSERVATIONIST HIMMAT RAM BHAMBHU WINS PADMA SHRI

In 1974, 18-year-old Himmataram Bhambhu would spend his days keenly observing his grandmother plant a Peepal tree in his ancestral village, Sukhwasi in Rajasthan. Around 14 years later, it had fully grown. When Himmataram saw how this tree was giving shade and oxygen to the residents of the village, he had found his life's purpose.

Himmataram Bhambhu from Rajasthan has not just raised a forest by planting 11,000 trees on 25 bigha land near his village of Nagaur, but has also planted more than five lakh trees in five years. In a state where poaching is rampant, and where the illegal smuggling of peacocks, blackbucks, chinkaras and other animals serves as a livelihood for many, Himmataram has been at the forefront to eliminate the issue in his district.

For his selfless endeavour, he even took a loan in 1999 to purchase 34 bighas of land in his drought-prone village of Harima so he could build a mini forest of 16,000 native trees. Now, some 30 years later, as lakhs of trees and thriving ecosystems across Nagaur district stand tall and firm thanks to his efforts, Himmataram stood in front of India's President Ram Nath Kovind to receive the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civil honour, on 8 November.

YESTERYEAR'S MANJUNATH SHETTY, TODAY'S PADMA SHRI JOGATI MANJAMMA



Manjamma was born to a middle-class family in the Ballari, Karnataka as Manjunath Shetty. It was during her early teens that she began identifying as a woman. Manjamma's brothers used to beat her and family tried hard to get rid of my feminine tendencies. Manjamma's father cursed her to death when she decided to embrace her identity as a woman.

And so, at the age of 15, her parents took her to Huligeyamma's temple in Hospet for jogappa, a ritual in which devotees marry a god or goddess. This ritual involved Manjamma marrying goddess Renuka Yellama and thereby dedicating her services to other community members. After this ceremony, the devotee is not allowed to return home, and so she was left to fend for herself on the road. This incident pushed her to extreme poverty, and she took to begging for alms on the streets to survive. The tipping point came when social abandonment and sexual abuse pushed her to take her own life.

At this point, she met Mattikal Basappa, a folk artist. From him, she learned the Jogati Nritya, and alongside, met Jogati performer Kalavva Jogati. Thanks to her discovery of this art form, Manjamma was pulled back from the brink of giving up completely. From hereon, she mastered the art of Jogati Nritya. After Kallava's demise, Manjamma took over the troupe to popularise the dance form. Later on, she became the first trans president of the Karnataka Janapada Academy, the state's most prestigious body dedicated to performing arts. Transgender folk artist Manjamma Jogati received a Padma Shri for her contribution to the arts.

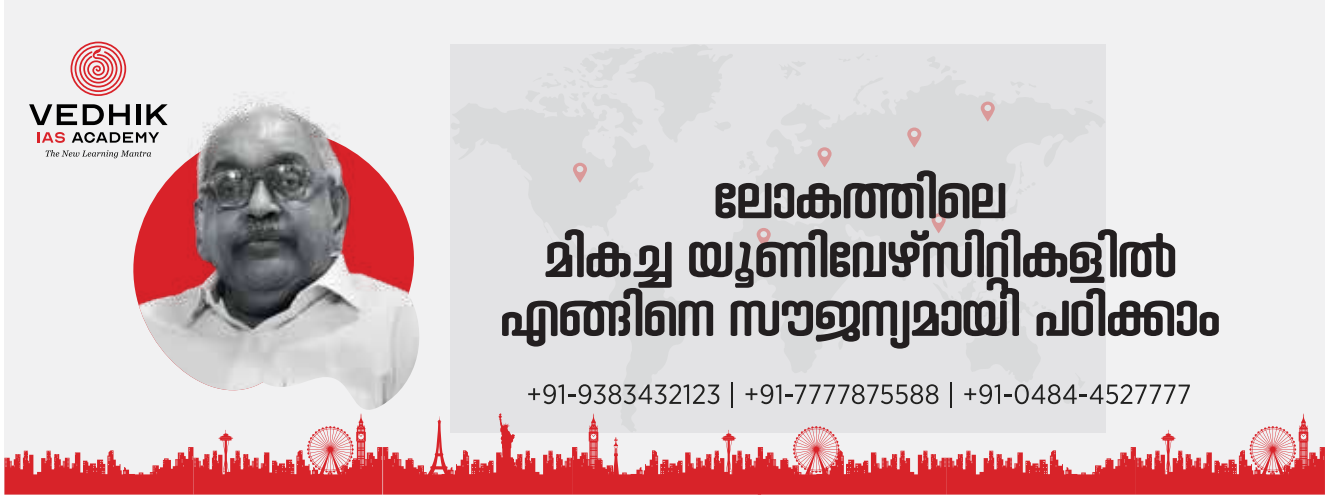
SEED MOTHER AWARDED PADMA SHRI

Born in 1964, Popere is a Mahadeo Koli tribal farmer from Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district. She began working in agricultural labour and cow rearing to support her family since the age of 10. She married Soma Popere, also uneducated at the age of 17.

She learned about agrobiodiversity, wild food resources, and traditional culture by practice and experience from her father. Rahibai Soma Popere's father took her around the farm and taught her about native seeds and how to plant them. Later, like everyone else, she too began using hybrid seeds. It was only after her sons and their kids started falling ill that she realised the ill-effects of hybrid seeds and the use of pesticides and fertilisers. Experiences understood her the relavance of preserving agro-biodiversity and wild food resources is critical to achieving seed sovereignty and nutritional security.

Two decades ago, Popere decided to revert to her childhood knowledge and began preparing indigenous seeds and delivering them to others. She developed a Blackberry nursery and gave them out as gifts to members of the Self-Help Group (SHG). Popere started by distributing the seeds to members of two self-help groups, to relatives and also giving away seeds as return gifts. Soon, she came to be known as a beej mata. Besides, Rahibai travelled extensively across Maharashtra and beyond to conserve indigenous seeds. She subsequently established a nursery of hyacinth bean seedlings, rice, vegetables, and bean landraces, which she distributed to 210 farmers in Akole Block's seven communities. She also established an in-situ germplasm conservation facility, which conserved and multiplied about 43 landraces of 17 different crops (paddy, hyacinth bean, millets, pulses, oilseeds, and so on). She's also started a house-hoarding perennial kitchen garden.

Popere is also known as the "seed mother" for her efforts in favour of native or organic seeds, and her crusade against the use of hybrid seeds, pesticides and fertilisers, which she discovered were the cause of illness among children in her locality was awarded Padma Shri.



TOPICS OF THE MONTH

CHILD LABOUR

- DR. ALEXANDER JACOB IPS

BREXIT

- Mr. SOLOMON JOHN

LIFESTYLE DISEASES

- DR.MUHAMMAD BASHEER

ONLINE EDUCATION

- DR.BABU SEBASTIAN

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & GENDER JUSTICE

- Ms. SHILPA S

DEMONETISATION

- Mr. ADUL SANKAR

OIL SPILLS

- Mr. SHAHUL HAMEED

CHILD LABOUR

WHAT IS CHID LABOUR

Child labour (British English) or Child labor (American English) refers to the abuse of children by any type of work that deprives children of their childhood, disrupts their ability to attend regular education. Child labour often resulted in damaging to children's emotional, physical, social, and moral well-being. Worldwide, such abuse is banned by law, but not all child labour is considered child labour; exceptions include employment by child artists, family responsibilities, and supervised training.

Throughout history, child labour has occurred in different ways. Many children aged 5–14 from poorer families served in Western countries and their colonies during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The majority of these children worked in agriculture, home-based assembly operations, factories, mines, and services such as news boys, for 12-hour night shifts. Child labour rates have decreased as household income has increased, schools have become more accessible, and child labour laws have been passed.

Almost one in every four children in the world's poorest countries is involved in child labour, with Sub-Saharan Africa having the highest rate (29 percent). In 2017, over half of children aged 5 to 14 worked in four African countries (Mali, Benin, Chad, and Guinea-Bissau). Agriculture is the world's largest employer of children. The vast majority of child labour exists in rural areas and in informal urban economies, with children working mainly for their parents rather than in factories. Child labour is largely induced by poverty and a lack of access to education.According to the World Bank, the global incidence of child labour decreased from 25% to 10% between 1960 and 2003. Despite this, the overall number of child labourers remains high, with UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimating that 168 million children aged 5 to 17 worked in 2013.

HISTORY

Children's work was necessary in pre-industrial societies because children needed to provide labour for their own survival as well as the survival of their group. Pre-industrial societies were characterised by low productivity and limited life expectancy; prohibiting children from engaging in meaningful work would be more harmful to their long-term health and that of their family. There was no need for children to attend school in pre-industrial societies. This is particularly true in communities where people are illiterate. The majority of pre-industrial skills and experience could be passed on by direct mentoring or apprenticeship by capable adults.

Child labour was a major part of the Industrial Revolution from the start, and it was also fueled by economic hardship. One-third of poor families in nineteenth-century Britain were without a breadwinner due to death or abandonment, forcing many children to work from an early age. In 1788, two-thirds of the staff in 143 water-powered cotton mills in England and Scotland were children. Charles Dickens began working in a blacking factory when he was 12 years old, with his family imprisoned in debtor's jail.

Child labour started to decline in industrialised societies during the second half of the nineteenth century as a result of legislation and economic influences, as well as the growth of trade unions. Regulation of child labour dates back to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. In 1803 the first act to control child labour in the United Kingdom was passed. Factory Acts were enacted as early as 1802 and 1819 to limit the working hours of workhouse children in factories and cotton mills to 12 hours a day. After much protest, in 1831, a Royal Commission proposed in 1833 that children aged 11–18 work a maximum of 12 hours per day, children aged 9–11 work a maximum of eight hours, and children under the age of nine should not work at all. However, after further protest, another act was passed in 1847, restricting both adults and children to 10-hour work days.

CAUSES

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), poverty is the leading cause of child labour. For poor families, a child's earnings are

normally vital for his or her own survival, as well as the survival of the family. Working children's earnings, even if small, can account for 25 to 40% of a family's income. According to the International Labour Organization, a lack of meaningful alternatives, such as accessible schools and quality education, is another major factor pushing children into hazardous labour. Even when schools are sometimes open, they are either too far away, difficult to access, or unaffordable, or the standard of education is so bad that parents question whether sending their children to school is really worth it.

Certain cultural values have justified and thereby promoted child labour throughout European history, as well as in contemporary child labour in the modern world. Job, according to others, is beneficial to children's character growth and skill development. Many cultures, particularly those where the informal economy and small household businesses flourish, have a cultural tradition of children following in their parents' footsteps; child labour is then a way to learn and practice the trade from a young age. Similarly, in many cultures, girls' education is undervalued or girls are simply not required to need formal education, leading to these girls being forced into child labour, such as providing domestic services.

Some researchers looked into the macroeconomic factors that motivate children to work. They concentrate their research on five Asian countries: India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines. They say that child labour is a serious issue in all five countries, but that it is not a new issue. Over the course of much of human history, macroeconomic influences promoted systematic child labour across the world. They say that both the demand and supply sides are to blame for child labour. Inflexible labour markets, the size of the informal economy, industries' failure to scale up, and a lack of modern manufacturing technology, according to other researchers, are major macroeconomic factors influencing demand and acceptability of child labour.

EFFECTS

The complexity of the jobs and the harsh working environments generate several of the issues, including premature ageing, malnutrition, depression, and drug addiction on children. These children, who come from low-income households, minority groups, or have been kidnapped from their families, have no security. Their bosses go to great lengths to make them work and to retain full power over them. These children live in degrading circumstances, violating all human values and constitutional rights.

Furthermore, a working child will not be eligible to receive a regular education and will be destined to become an illiterate adult with little chance of advancement in his or her professional or social life. Child labour can jeopardise a child's dignity and morals in some cases, particularly when sexual exploitation is involved, such as prostitution and child pornography. Additionally, a child who works is more likely to suffer from malnutrition. These children are often exposed to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

Child exploitation exists on all continents and takes various forms according to the traditions and cultures of the region.

- Girls are sold to supply prostitution networks or serve as domestic workers in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Many children are sold to work in textile factories or to help their families pay off debts.
- In Africa, parents sell their children for a number of purposes, including livestock (generally, the child will be sold for a cow). These children are abused on farms, in mines, or as domestic workers.
- Children are increasingly abused by drug dealers in North America and Latin America as a result of prostitution to fulfil the sick greed of visitors.

CHILD LABOUR LAWS & INITIATIVES

Almost every country in the world has legislation prohibiting or regulating child labour. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has aided in the development of international law, which the majority of countries have signed and ratified. Child labour is defined as any work done by children under the age of 12, non-light labor done by children aged 12–14, and dangerous work done by children aged 15–17, according to the ILO minimum age convention of 1973. Under this Convention, light work is characterised as any activity that does not endanger a child's health or growth, and will not interfere with his or her attendance

at school. A total of 171 countries have ratified this convention. The United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, and 193 countries have since adopted it.

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) launched focused child labour initiatives to push for the prevention and elimination of all types of child labour. The global Music Against Child Labour Initiative was founded in 2013 with the aim of engaging socially excluded children in organised musical activity and education in order to shield them from child labour. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was amended in 2004 in the United States. The amendment requires such children aged 14 to 18 to work in or outside of a company that uses wood-processing machinery. The legislation seeks to protect the Amish community's religious and cultural needs in the United States. The Amish claim that working with children is an important way to teach them. Once they have completed eighth grade, the current legislation requires Amish children to work with their families.

ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR

Concerns about the consumer purchasing goods assembled or otherwise manufactured in developed countries using child labour have been raised frequently. Others, on the other hand, have expressed concern that boycotting goods made with child labour may cause these children to pursue more risky or intensive occupations, such as prostitution or agriculture. According to a UNICEF report, after the US passed the Child Labor Deterrence Act, an estimated 50,000 children in Bangladesh were fired from their garment factory jobs, forcing many to shift to jobs like "stone-crushing," "street hustling," and "prostitution," all of which are "more dangerous and exploitative than garment manufacturing." Boycotts, according to the report, are "simple instruments with long-term effects, which may hurt rather than benefit the children involved."

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) was developed in 1992 with the goal of eradicating child labour. It is the world's largest programme of its kind, operating in 88 countries. IPEC collaborates with international and government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the media, and children and their families to end child labour and provide education and assistance to children. From 2008 to 2013, the ILO ran a programme called "Combating Abusive Child Labour (CACL-II)" through the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The European Union-funded project aided the Pakistani government by offering alternative opportunities for vocational training and education to children who had been rescued from the worst forms of child labour.

Governments, employers, and workers' organisations have met in global conferences on a regular basis to assess progress and remaining obstacles, as well as to agree on measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016: first in Oslo (1997), then in The Hague (2010); the third Global Conference on Child Labour was held in Brasilia in October 2013.

INCIDENTS

UNICEF stated in 1998 that Ivory Coast farmers used enslaved children, many of whom were from neighbouring countries. Enslaved children were used in the processing of cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate, in West Africa. Many agencies and media reported widespread child slavery and child trafficking in the cocoa industry. In 2001, the US State Department reported that 15,000 child slaves worked on Ivory Coast cocoa, cotton, and coffee farms. The cocoa industry has been accused of profiting from child trafficking and slavery.

Bloomberg reported in 2008 that child labour was used in copper and cobalt mines in Congo that supplied Chinese companies. The children are used for digging ore by hand and carrying sacks of ores on their backs, which are then bought by these firms. According to an African NGO survey, 80,000 child labourers are under the age of 15, or roughly 40% of all miners are children.

According to 2003, Human Rights Watch (HRW) report, children as young as five years old were working in the silk industry and worked up to 12 hours a day, six to seven days a week. HRW reported that these children were engaged in bonded child labour in

India, which was common in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

German news investigation claimed non-governmental organisations (NGOs) reported to have discovered up to 10,000 children working in the 1,000 silk factories in 1998. Thousands of bonded child labourers were present in other locations in 1994. After UNICEF and NGOs got involved, the number of child labourers fell sharply after 2005, with the total number estimated to be less than a thousand. According to the study, the released children were able to return to school.

INITIATIVES AGAINST CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The Gurupadswamy Committee was established by the Indian government in 1979 to investigate child labour and develop measures to overcome it. In 1986, the committee's recommendations led to the passage of the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act. In 1987, a National Policy on Child Labour was created with the aim of rehabilitating children who work in dangerous occupations. Since 1988, the Ministry of Labour and Jobs has introduced more than a hundred industry-specific National Child Labour Programmes to rehabilitate child labour.

To address the destructive nature of child labour, the Indian government has enacted plenty of actions, regulations, organisations, and institutions. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, for example, is a piece of legislation that forbids the employment of children in certain occupations (mostly in hazardous environments) and controls their working conditions. The National Policy on Child Labour aims to take a step-by-step approach, focusing first on the rehabilitation of children employed in dangerous jobs and processes; and the Ministry of Labour and Employment is responsible for designing and implementing a number of child labour policies in India.NGOs such as Care India, Child Rights and You, and the Global March Against Child Labour have been developed to tackle child labour through education and resource accessibility. These attempts, however, have been largely ineffective. Good Weave India, RIDE India, Childline, and others, have worked to end child labour in India. In Indian courts, child labour has also been the focus of public interest litigation.

CONCLUSION

We can stop this by refusing to consider child labour in the office, on the farm, in factories, in our homes, and in the goods we purchase. Child labour is a global issue that necessitates a global response. Local governments, teachers, employers, parents, needed to cooperate to bring children out of work and into education. They are all persuaded that no child should work, and that all children should attend school. These child labour-free zones have proved to be effective, and they are now being replicated in other areas and countries. However, true transformation requires more. This is why we call on governments, businesses and consumers worldwide to shoulder their responsibility and work together towards a child labour free world.

Child labour, according to Nobel Peace Laureate and Indian Children's Rights Activist Kailash Satyarthi, can only be eliminated through collaborative action, political engagement, adequate money, and compassion for vulnerable children. By 2025, the government and stakeholders like him, together with their organisations, are working together to eliminate this social evil.

Child labour does not simply mean that children are forced to work. It has many and horrific side effects. It leaves a mark on the mind of the kid. It jeopardises their mental and emotional well-being, as well as their ability to grow and develop normally. It is a stain on humanity's face that must be eliminated as soon as possible. After all, what kind of people do we expect them to become as a result of such treatment? We need to consider it. Children are our society's and country's potential. We can't expect real growth and development unless and until our youth are secure and healthy in every way.

BREXIT

EUROPEAN UNION & BREXIT

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. Its members when combined have an estimated total population of about 447 million. The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardised system of laws that apply in all member states in those matters, and only those matters, where members have agreed to act as one. EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services and capital within the internal market; enact legislation in justice and home affairs; and maintain common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries and regional development. Passport controls have been abolished for travel within the Schengen Area. (The Schengen Area is an area comprising 26 European countries that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders. The area mostly functions as a single jurisdiction for international travel purposes, with a common visa policy. The area is named after the 1985 Schengen Agreement signed in Schengen, Luxembourg.)

A monetary union was established in 1999, coming into full force in 2002, and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. The EU has often been described as a sui generis (is a Latin phrase that means "of its/his/her/their own kind, in a class by itself", therefore "unique".) political entity (without precedent or comparison). The EU and European citizenship were established when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993. The EU traces its origins to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Economic Community (EEC), established, respectively, by the 1951 Treaty of Paris and 1957 Treaty of Rome. The original members of what came to be known as the European Communities were the Inner Six: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. The Communities and their successors have grown in size by the accession of new member states and in power by the addition of policy areas to their remit.

BREXIT & LEAVE EU CAMPAIGN

The term Brexit, coined by former lawyer Peter Wilding, is a blend of two words - "Britain" and "exit". He wrote about "Brexit" in May 2012. As the name suggests, the United Kingdom's divorce with the European Union is known as Brexit. The UK joined the European Economic Community (a regional organisation that aimed to bring about economic integration among its member states) in 1973, which then became part of the European Union when it was created in 1993. However, the UK always had and always maintained a distance from the EU. It has its own currency - the pound sterling and refrained from joining the Schengen agreement, which removes internal border controls within the EU. The political fraternity in Britain always included people who were opposed to the idea of EU, and this opposition intensified after the 2008 financial crisis. Immigration of migrants from poorer EU states and the fear of refugees from Syria, Africa and the Middle East further intensified scepticism among voters and the politicians. In 2012, the then-Prime Minister David Cameron promised to hold a referendum on whether the UK should remain in the EU or leave it. He kept his promise and the UK held the referendum on June 23, 2016. Soon after the result was announced, Cameron resigned.

"Leave.EU" was a political campaign group that supported the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union in the June 2016 referendum. Founded in July 2015 as "The Know", the campaign was relaunched in September of that year with its name changed to "Leave.EU". The campaign was co-founded by Bristol based businessman and UKIP donor Arron Banks, with property entrepreneur Richard Tice and early financial backing from Jim Mellon. It initially set about bringing together a range of different Eurosceptic groups under the umbrella of "The Know". As the campaign was being renamed "Leave.EU", UKIP leader Nigel Farage gave a public endorsement at the party's annual conference in Doncaster. Farage later clarified that he backed both Leave campaigns as they targeted 'different audiences.'

REFERENDUM OF 2016

The United Kingdom European Union membership referendum, commonly referred to as the EU referendum or the Brexit referendum, took place on 23 June 2016 in the United Kingdom (UK) and Gibraltar to ask the electorate whether the country should remain a member of, or leave, the European Union (EU). The result would then be facilitated through the European Union Referendum Act 2015 and also the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The referendum resulted in 51.9% of the votes cast being in favour of leaving the EU. Although the referendum was legally non-binding, the government of the time promised to implement the result. The succeeding government, led by Theresa May, initiated the official withdrawal process on 29 March 2017, meaning that the UK was due to leave the EU on 29 March 2019 (when the two-year period for Brexit negotiations was due to expire). This negotiation period was later extended until 31 October 2019. After May failed to secure the backing of Parliament on her Brexit deal, she resigned as Prime Minister, and was succeeded by Boris Johnson. Johnson then extended the negotiation period again until 31 January. At 11 pm GMT on 31 January 2020, the UK officially withdrew from the EU.

In May 2015, following a Conservative Party manifesto pledge, the legal basis for the EU referendum was established through the European Union Referendum Act 2015. Britain Stronger in Europe became the official group campaigning for the UK to remain in the EU, and was endorsed by the Prime Minister David Cameron and Chancellor George Osborne. "Vote Leave" was the official group campaigning for the UK to leave the EU, and was fronted by Conservative MPs Boris Johnson and Michael Gove, along with Labour MP Gisela Stuart. Other campaign groups, political parties, businesses, trade unions, newspapers and prominent individuals were also involved, with both sides having supporters from across the political spectrum. Parties in favour of 'remain' included Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National Party (SNP), Plaid Cymru and the Green Party; while the UK Independence Party (UKIP) campaigned in favour of leaving the European Union; and the Conservative Party remained neutral. In spite of the official positions of the Conservative Party and Labour, both parties allowed their MPs to publicly campaign for either side of the issue.

Immediately after the result, financial markets reacted negatively worldwide, and Cameron announced that he would resign as Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party, having campaigned unsuccessfully to remain in the European Union. It was the first time that a national referendum result had gone against the preferred option of the UK Government. Cameron was succeeded by Theresa May on 13 July 2016. The Labour Party also faced a leadership challenge as a result of the EU referendum.

PROS

Some proponents of leaving the EU claim that Britain can still have access to the European market without being bound by EU rules. Britain could then negotiate trade agreements on her own. Politicians from UKIP(UK Independence Party) claim they could follow Norway's example, which it not an EU member but does most of its trade with it. Great Britain could free itself from restrictions imposed by Brussels and become economically more successful. Campaigners for Brexit believe that London as a financial centre will retain its independence and global appeal and protect itself from trouble if the euro fails. Then international investors would see London as a safe haven. Euro-sceptics believe that Europe's principle of free movement means too much immigration into the country and insecurity, perhaps even terrorism. Smaller British companies do not trade with the EU and therefore would hardly be affected. GB (Great Britain) has always been a close ally of the US and would continue to cultivate their traditional special relationship. Proponents of a Brexit claim that GB should get its sovereignty back since unelected officials in Brussels make rules that elected politicians like the local MP can do nothing about. Moreover, EU rules all too often hurt British interests.

CONS

Free trade among member states benefits Britain as British companies face no trade barriers when trading with other EU member states. Europe is Britain's main trading partner. Financial advantages outweigh the membership fees Britain has to pay. Most

economists are sceptical about Brexit and believe that Britain would lose her influence and suffer, both economically as well as politically. Emulating the Norwegian or Swiss models would require new negotiating with former EU partners who would not want to encourage more countries to leave. Britain's influence on financial markets might suffer as well as the City of London's reputation as Europe's biggest financial centre. International banks are already thinking of leaving London because the consequences of Brexit would be unpredictable and bankers hate insecurity.

Membership in the EU allows EU-citizens to move freely to GB and work there, and vice versa. – Hundreds of British expats living in Spain and France might not have easy access to health services there anymore. British farmers might lose out on subsidies, jobs in international companies might be moved and millions of British workers could lose their jobs. The US prefer the UK to remain a strong member of Europe economically, politically and militarily. GB would lose influence and be an outsider in Europe, with fewer friends and very little chance of re-joining the EU. In a globalized world isolationism is simply not possible. Global challenges such as climate change affect all countries, and as an EU member, Britain has much more influence than as a middle-ranking country on the fringes. On top of that, there are plenty of international treaties and laws GB is already subject to. In this age of globalisation, economies and societies are becoming so interconnected and interdependent that the idea that GB could be completely autonomous and regain the "splendid isolation" it enjoyed when it still had its Empire, sounds phony.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON INDIA

Moving further with the impact of Brexit on India we have to understand the relations India keep with UK and European Union. India is one of the top investors in the UK. There are about 800 Indian-owned companies in the country employing roughly 110,000 people. (Eg: Jaguar Land Rover is owned by the Tata group). Many of these firms made investments with the wider European market in mind. Together, the UK and Europe account for over-a-quarter of the country's IT exports, worth around $30bn.The UK is the third-largest source of foreign direct investment in India and India's largest G20 investor. In November 2015, Prime Minister Modi has said,"As far as India is concerned, if there is an entry point for us to the EU, that is the UK."

Now let's see what are the negative impact of Brexit on India.

India will have to adjust to changing world order. There may be foreign fund outflow and dollar rise this may depreciate Rupee because of the double effect of foreign fund outflow and dollar rise. This may increase petrol and diesel prices to an extent. The government then may want to reduce additional excise duty imposed on fuel when it was on a downward trajectory. This may increase fiscal deficit unless revenue increased. Prices of gold, electronic goods, among others may also increase. Sensex and Nifty may tumble in the short-run. The falling value of the pound could render several existing contracts loss-making. Foreign funds are likely to move out if the world outside thinks that investment in India is risky. India's Forex (currently a record 363 billion dollars) may diminish, particular if the currency is stored in Euros or Pound (this comes around 20% of total forex).

Brexit will have a negative impact on the $108 billion Indian IT sector in the short term. Many Indian companies are listed on the London Stock Exchange and many have European headquarters in London. Brexit will take away this advantage. Due to fall in the value of Pound sterling, Indian exports to the UK will suffer. Cheaper rupee will make Indian exports, including IT and ITes, competitive. Indian import companies operating in the UK may also report a loss. Also, note that India is exporting more than what it is importing from Britain.

POSITIVE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON INDIA

The following are the positive

There are many who think a weakening British currency might be good news. India being more of an importing country than an exporting nation, the overall effect may turn out positive for India (if the dollar doesn't appreciate much against rupee). With lower pound value, Indian companies may be able to acquire many hi-tech assets. As investors look around the world for safe havens in these turbulent times, India

stands out both in terms of stability and of growth. Brexit might give a boost to trade ties between India and the UK. Britain will now be free to discuss a bilateral trade pact with India. Due to the fall in the value of Pound sterling, those who import from the UK will gain. Indian export companies operating in the UK may also gain.

More Indian tourists can afford to visit Britain in the coming days as the currency value has fallen. More Indian students can afford to study in Britain (for higher education) as the fees may seem cheaper. Britain will need a steady inflow of talented labour, and population. The fall in the prices of commodities like crude, which will help India save a lot on its import bill (every $1 drop in crude prices leads to roughly $1 billion savings in India's oil import bill), reducing its trade and current account deficits (CAD). Brexit would weaken global growth and lead to a meaningful decline in commodity prices. This is only going to enhance both the relative and absolute appeal of India. Lower commodity prices will help the macro fundamentals: be it fiscal deficit, current account deficit or inflation, which will give the government more levers to pump up the investment cycle.

PUBLIC OPINION

The referendum on EU membership took place on 23 June 2016. Opinion polling for the United Kingdom European Union membership referendum was ongoing in the months between the announcement of a referendum and the referendum polling day. Polls on the general principle of the UK's membership of the European Union were carried out for a number of years prior to the referendum. Opinion polls of voters in general tended to show roughly equal proportions in favour of remaining and leaving. Polls of business leaders, scientists, and lawyers showed majorities in favour of remaining. Among non-British citizens in other EU member states, polling suggested that a majority were in favour of the UK remaining in the EU in principle, but that a similarly sized majority believed that if the UK were only able to remain in the EU on renegotiated terms then it should leave.

Younger voters tended to support remaining in the EU (but are generally less likely to vote) whereas older people tended to support leaving. There was no significant difference in attitudes between the genders. According to two out of three pollsters, managerial, professional and administrative workers were most likely to favour staying in the EU, while semi-skilled and unskilled workers, plus those reliant on benefits, were the largest demographic supporting leave. University graduates are generally more likely to vote remain compared to those with no qualifications. White voters were evenly split, and all ethnic minority groups leant towards backing Remain, but registration is lower and turnout can be up to 25% lower in this demographic. Support for remaining in the EU was known to be significantly higher in Scotland than it is in the United Kingdom as a whole.

The way voters are polled is known to affect the outcome. Telephone polls have consistently found more support for remaining in the EU than online polls. YouGov, (YouGov is a British international Internet-based market research and data analytics firm, headquartered in the UK, with operations in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific) which uses online polling, has criticised telephone polls because they "have too high a percentage of graduates", skewing the results. A joint study by political analysis and polling consultancy in March 2016 concluded that telephone polls were likely to better reflect the state of public opinion on the issue. The results of the Referendum, as with the results of the 2015 General Election, show that there is still a problem with the polling methodology. Overall, however, online polls seem to have had a better performance than phone polls. Online surveys, on average, predicted a "leave" win with a 1.2% margin, whereas those with a phone methodology had "remain" win with a 2.6% margin. All in all, 63% of online polls predicted a Leave victory, while 78% of phone polls predicted that Remain would win. Kantar TNS and Opinium,(global market research and market information groups) both pollsters with online methodologies, were the two groups that forecast a Leave victory just ahead of the vote.

BREXIT – A NEW START

Negotiations with the EU officially started in June 2017, aiming to complete the withdrawal agreement by October 2018. However, that didn't

happen. Having failed to get her agreement approved, Theresa May resigned as prime minister in July 2019 and was succeeded by Boris Johnson. Boris Johnson sought to replace parts of the agreement and vowed to leave the EU by the new deadline. An early general election was then held on 12 December. The Conservatives won a large majority in that election, with Johnson declaring that the UK would leave the EU in early 2020.The Withdrawal Agreement was ratified by the UK Parliament on 23 January 2020, and by the European Parliament on 29 January, ensuring the UK leaves the EU on 31 January.UK left the EU at 11 p.m. GMT on 31 January 2020.However, the UK is still negotiating the future trade relationship with the EU. Britain is now going through a transition period where negotiations are open. The transition period ended on 31 December 2020.

A new era has begun for the United Kingdom after it completed its formal separation from the European Union. The UK stopped following EU rules at, as replacement arrangements for travel, trade, immigration and security co-operation came into force. Boris Johnson said the UK had "freedom in our hands" and the ability to do things "differently and better" now the long Brexit process was over.

UK voted for Brexit, because it want to take steps to become a strong and stable economy. So, it will take towards that which is a plus to global economy, and thereby it's a plus to all the linked countries. As we have no say in Brexit deal, whatever may happen, let's take that as an opportunity. If it will be a hard Brexit, India can approach both UK and EU for better trade deals. And if it will be a soft Brexit, India can continue to utilize UK as a gateway to European union, and we can also strengthen ties with Britain for better co-operation. Though there will be some sshort-term losses, everything will be adjusted according to the policies in the long term.

LIFESTYLE DISEASES

LIFESTYLE DISEASES

Lifestyle diseases are diseases that are linked to one's way of life. These diseases are non- communicable diseases. (A non-communicable disease (NCD) is a disease that is not transmissible directly from one person to another.) Lack of physical activity, improper eating, alcohol, substance use disorders, and cigarette use are all factors that can lead to heart disease, stroke, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and lung cancer. The following are some of the diseases that appear to be becoming more common as countries grow more industrialised and people live longer in those areas: -

Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, atherosclerosis, asthma, cancer, chronic liver disease or cirrhosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, colitis, irritable bowel syndrome, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, chronic kidney failure, osteoporosis, PCOD, stroke, depression, obesity and vascular dementia.

The workforce and health-care costs may be affected by lifestyle disease in the near future. Treatment for these non-communicable diseases can be costly. Receiving primary prevention and identifying early symptoms of these noncommunicable diseases might be crucial for the patients' health. If people do not modify their lifestyle choices, these lifestyle diseases are anticipated to rise with time. Some observers distinguish between diseases of longevity and diseases of civilization or luxury. Certain diseases, such as diabetes, dental caries, and asthma, are more common in young people who live in a "western" way of life; nevertheless, their higher occurrence is not tied to age, therefore the phrases cannot be used interchangeably for all disorders.

MAJOR LIFESTYLE DISEASES

Obesity

When a person's body mass index (BMI) exceeds 25, they are considered obese. Obesity is caused by a stressful lifestyle, unclean and unhealthy eating habits, lack of physical activity, and other factors. Obese persons have high blood pressure, heart disease, respiratory problems, and diabetes. Obesity is a fundamental problem in humans that leads to other chronic disorders.

Hypertension

High blood pressure, commonly known as hypertension or HBP, is a long-term lifestyle illness that can lead to serious health problems like heart disease and stroke. Blood pressure is considered high when the reading on the BP machine is 140/90 or greater. Genetic factors, stress, bad eating habits, and obesity are all significant causes of HBP.

Heart disease and Stroke

Cardiovascular disease (CVD), often known as heart disease, is a group of cardiac disorders characterised by blocked blood arteries and clots. With 50 million cardiac patients, India is top in the world. Diabetes, smoking, and high cholesterol all contribute to anomalies and irregularities in blood vessel walls and heart muscles, making it a severe chronic condition. When blood supply to the brain is limited, a stroke occurs. Strokes are caused by high blood pressure that is not properly treated or by inherited factors.

Type II Diabetes and Cancer

Adult-onset diabetes, often known as Type 2 Diabetes (T2D), is a chronic medical condition characterised by poor lifestyle choices and unhealthy eating habits. According to estimates, India has 40.9 million persons with Type 2 diabetes. This is a non-insulin type of diabetes that affects mostly adults and causes frequent thirst, unexpected weight loss, and recurrent urination.

Cancer is a collection of diseases characterised by the uncontrollable growth and spread of abnormal cells throughout the body. Long-term coughing, smoking, stress, anomalies in weight loss, faeces, and other factors diminish one's body's immune. It is possible to avoid cancer risks by following proper immunisation, medication, and dietary guidelines.

CAUSES

In our world, lifestyle-related disorders are on

the rise. Our bad decisions have resulted in these chronic preventable diseases. The elimination of the causes is the obvious and only method to obtain recovery and improved health, thus understanding the causes of lifestyle disorders is crucial. First of all, we have to understand that we make errors by confusing the disease's name with its causes. Contrary to common belief, "cardiovascular illness" does not cause a "heart attack." Cardiovascular illness isn't the cause; it's the term of the disorder that caused to the system's eventual malfunction, breakdown, or "attack."

Causes of Lifestyle Diseases

1. Dehydration - Muscle and tendon dehydration is a leading cause of muscle fatigue, strain, tendonitis, and other musculoskeletal diseases.
2. Malnutrition - Chronic disease is caused by a shortage of living foods in our diet combined with an excess of dead foods.
3. Inflammation — Most lifestyle-related illnesses, such as heart disease and musculoskeletal problems, are caused by inflammation.
4. Fatigue - A lack of sleep has been linked to a variety of major medical conditions, including hypertension, heart disease, stroke, obesity, and mental impairment.
5. Lack of physical fitness - There is a well-established link between a lack of physical fitness and an increased risk of chronic diseases.
6. Poor health habits - Smoking, drinking, drug use/abuse, sweets, fast food, soft drinks, chocolate, artificial sweeteners, are all bad and have a negative impact on our health.
7. Behavioural Factors - Adults can develop lifestyle diseases as a result of behavioural factors that have an impact on them. Unemployment, a dangerous lifestyle, a poor social environment, job circumstances, stress, worries and their home life can all raise their chance of contracting one of these noncommunicable illnesses.

CHARACTERISTICS

Lifestyle diseases are illnesses that are mostly caused by people's daily lifestyle. Habits that keep people from being active and push them towards a poor diet can lead to a variety of health problems, including chronic noncommunicable diseases with life-threatening effects. Noncommunicable illnesses are fuelled by seemingly unconnected factors like unplanned urbanisation, the globalisation of unhealthy lifestyles, and population ageing. Raised blood pressure, rising blood glucose, elevated blood lipids, and obesity may all be symptoms of deep-seated lifestyle patterns.

1. Multiple risk factors: A variety of risk factors contribute to the beginning and progression of NCDs. The many forms of hazards can be grouped into three categories: modifiable behavioural risk factors, non-modifiable risk factors, and metabolic risk factors, which are all frequent in a variety of diseases.
2. Long latency period: NCDs have a longer exposure period, which can range from several years to several decades.
3. Non-contagious origin (noncommunicable): Because NCDs cannot be transmitted from one person to another, it is a genuine possibility that they will develop in a person with non-contagious origins. (Not spread by contact)
4. Long course of sickness: Because NCDs are chronic, the course of sickness is usually lengthy and takes many years before a patient is compelled to seek medical help or treatment.
5. Functional impairment or disability: NCDs frequently result in conditions that make it very difficult for patients to live a normal life. Chronic NCD patients may be unable to engage in regular physical exercise, go to work, or eat normally.

DEATH STATISTICS

Throughout 1995 and 2005, 8,13,000 Australians were admitted to hospitals as a result of alcohol consumption. In Australia, 11.2 million people were overweight or obese in 2014. In 2018, there were 147,678 deaths in Australia, the majority of which were caused by lifestyle diseases. Tobacco usage, alcohol and other substance abuse, violence, and an unhealthy weight have all contributed to Australia's high death rate. Heart disease was the main cause of mortality among Australian males, followed by lung cancer and chronic pulmonary disease Smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and an unhealthy lifestyle were all blamed for these ailments. Coronary heart disease was the leading cause of death for 8,750 women, largely attributable to their lifestyle choices. Dementia and Alzheimer's disease came in second, followed by

cerebrovascular disease. These top three causes of death in Australia may be reduced if people changed their lifestyles.

Pneumonia/influenza, TB, and diarrhea/enteritis were the top three causes of mortality in the United States in 1900. About 60% of all deaths were caused by communicable diseases. Heart disease and cancer stand fourth and eighth, respectively, in 1900. Since the 1940s, heart disease, cancer, and other degenerative diseases have been the leading causes of death in the United States. Degenerative diseases contributed for more than 60% of all deaths by the late 1990s in US.

According to a report published by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 2017, non-communicable diseases accounted for three of the top five individual causes of disease burden in India, with ischemic heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease ranking first and second, respectively, and stroke ranking fifth. In India, the disease burden or DALY (The disability-adjusted life year) rate varied by 9-fold for ischemic heart disease, 4-fold for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 6-fold for stroke, and 4-fold for diabetes in 2016. Non-communicable diseases were responsible for 62 percent of all deaths from main disease groups.

PREVENTION

Here are the 5 Golden Rules that, if followed, can help to avoid and reduce the chance of developing any lifestyle diseases:

1) Eat a low-carbohydrate, high-protein, low-oil diet:
A nutritious diet is essential for good health. It is not only necessary to keep an eye and attention on what we eat, but also on what we don't consume in order to ensure a strong body weight with controlling blood pressure, cholesterol, fat consumption, and other causative variables that can lead to health deterioration.
2) Regular exercise:
A half-hour walks, at least five days a week, is the very minimum an adult should do to keep their immune system active. Exercising on a regular basis for at least 3-5 days each week can make you much happier and healthier. Avoiding lifts and elevators, sitting for lengthy periods of time, taking a brief walk after your last food of the day, or walking short distances rather than driving are all examples of strategies to include physical activity into daily routines.
3) Abstain from Substance Abuse:
Today's youth consider smoking and drinking to be "cool," although these are the worst enemies of a healthy lifestyle. As a person quits smoking and drinking as much, the risk of lifestyle illnesses decreases dramatically over time. Quit smoking for a younger appearance, healthier skin, greater energy, and improved lung capacity and hence breathing.

4) Control weight:
It is critical that each individual keeps their weight under control in order to live a healthy lifestyle. Understanding the impact of your body weight on the optimal functioning of the body through the Body Mass Index (BMI), which helps assess good and unhealthy body fat.

APPROACHES TO TREAT LIFESTYLE DISEASES

Any lifestyle disease can be treated in one of three ways: 1) medications alone, 2) lifestyle modifications alone, 3) with a combination of medicines and lifestyle modifications.

Approach 1 - Medicines only: - This is the most practical option. It's as simple as eating a couple of pills. However, from the point of effectiveness, this is the worst strategy. Taking pills or potions without making lifestyle changes is like adding more fuel to a fire while attempting to manage it. Taking medicines on a daily basis for an extended period of time has adverse effects that are significantly worse than the disease we're trying to treat.

Approach 2 - Lifestyle changes only: - This is the most difficult of the three. Obviously, this will require a great deal of determination, diligence, and motivation on our part. The outcomes could be excellent in terms of efficiency. However, it is dependent on our ability to maintain the adjustments over an extended period of time. Our chances of long-term success are good if we know exactly what changes to make, have a strong enough motivation to keep continuing, and have someone to keep an eye on us. Hundreds of people have been cured with this method, while countless have failed. Let us take lessons from both sides.

Approach 3 – A combination of medicines and lifestyle changes:- Any medicine's aim is to aid in the cure or improvement of a condition. Too little will be ineffective, and too much will be harmful. A proper dose of the right drug will undoubtedly assist. It won't, however, solve all of our problems. The human body, on the other hand, has some mending abilities. It seeks to cure interior injuries and dysfunctions in the same way as it treats exterior injuries. All we have to do is create a healing atmosphere for the body. Similarly, if we can make the majority of the lifestyle modifications that help with the illness, we are giving our body the best chance of recovering.

LIFESTYLE DISEASES IN INDIA

According to the India Fit Report 2020, lifestyle-related disorders such as diabetes, thyroid, and hypertension are on the rise in India, and women are unhealthier than males. According to the survey, 62% of the participants are classified as high risk or borderline on the high-risk assessment spectrum. Young adults in the 19-30 age range have the unhealthiest behaviours and show a high predisposition to be afflicted by lifestyle diseases, with a whopping 71% of women falling into this category.

Both diabetes and thyroid disorders have become more prevalent in India. Diabetes-related cases have grown from 7.1% to 12% this year. Thyroid cancer cases have risen from 6.8% to 10.7% over the same time period. With over 70 million people suffering by diabetes, India is renowned as the "diabetes capital of the world." According to the survey, the primary characteristics that promote lifespan include healthy eating, physical activity, and social engagement—which includes a pleasant family life. The study questioned ninety-year-olds and centenarians to discover their secret to living a long life. Dairy products, particularly milk, curd, and ghee, were among their top food preferences.

The India Fit Report 2020 conducted a city-by-city health analysis of 16 Indian cities, with Chandigarh coming out on top, followed by Jaipur and Indore. Bangalore came in fourth place, while Hyderabad came in seventh. Both Delhi and Mumbai performed poorly, finishing 12th and 15th, respectively. Kolkata was named the 16th “unhealthiest city” in the world. According to the report, “Kolkata has the country's largest ageing population and the highest incidence of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure, and thyroid.”

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT & WHO’S STAND

NCDs (Lifestyle diseases) are threatening the progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for a one-third reduction in premature deaths from NCDs by 2030. Poverty and NCDs are intimately connected. The rapid rise in NCDs is expected to halt poverty reduction efforts in low-income countries, particularly by increasing household health-care costs. Poor and underprivileged people are sick and die quicker than persons in higher social categories, due to their increased risk to dangerous items like nicotine and bad dietary patterns, as well as their limited access to health services.

NCDs are recognised as a major struggle to sustainable development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. World leaders committed to developing ambitious national responses by 2030 to decrease premature death from NCDs by one-third through treatment and prevention as part of the Agenda. This goal stems from the UN General Assembly's High-Level Meetings on NCDs in 2011 and 2014, which reconfirmed WHO's leadership and collaboration role in enhancing and supervising global action against NCDs. The United Nations General Assembly will hold a third High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2018 to review progress and forge consensus on the path forward for the years 2018-2030.

WHO developed a Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020, to assist countries in their national efforts, which includes nine global targets that have the greatest impact on global NCD mortality. These goals address NCD prevention and management.

ONLINE EDUCATION

WHAT IS ONLINE EDUCATION

Online education is known by many names and comes in a number of forms, such as computer-based training, Web-based training, Internet-based training, online training, e-learning (electronic learning), m-learning (mobile learning), computer-aided distance education. However, at its core:
"Online education" is described as "electronic assisted learning" that uses the Internet to facilitate teacher-student interaction and the delivery of class materials.

This basic concept gives rise to an almost limitless number of ways to teach and learn outside of conventional classrooms and college campuses. Students can convert any location with Internet connectivity and electricity into a classroom with online education. Audio, video, email, animations, simulated training environments, and live chats with professors are all possible. It's a vibrant learning experience that offers much more flexibility than a typical classroom.

Online education has been shown to be more successful than pure face-to-face training when used to its full potential. It can be interactive, entertaining, and customised to almost anyone's schedule.The Internet has evolved from a virtually non-existent database of information to the largest and most open database of information ever generated in the last 20 years. It has altered how people interact, shop, socialise, conduct business, and consider information and learning. Online schooling is transforming the face of traditional classrooms and making education more available than ever before. It is much more than just a modern take on distance learning.

In the last decade, online graduations and courses have become common among many nontraditional students, including those who want to continue working full-time or raising families. Online graduation and course programmes, some of which are implemented using digital technology, are frequently delivered via the host university's online learning portal.

HISTORY – HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The field of education has changed dramatically in the twenty-first century. Gone are the days when teaching was restricted to the four walls of a classroom. The internet has ushered in a paradigm change in the way people learn. It has brought learning outside of the ivory towers of universities and into the palms of everyone's hands.

Despite countless examples of computers and tools being used in education throughout history, e-learning in the current context is a relatively recent phenomenon. Since the 1950s, slide projectors and television-based classes have been in use. However, one of the world's earliest examples of online learning dates from 1960 at the University of Illinois in the United States. Despite the fact that the internet had not yet been developed in 1960 students started learning from computer terminals that were interconnected to form a network.

The University of Toronto offered the first fully online course in 1984. The Electronic University Network (EUN) was established in 1986 for use on DOS and Commodore 64 computers. After three year, The University of Phoenix became the first educational institution in the world to open a fully online undergraduate institution, offering both bachelor's and master's degrees. This was the start of a movement whose full potential was unknown to the general public at that time. No one ever imagined that this start could make learning far more available and within reach.

In the early 1990s, the Open University in the United Kingdom was one of the first universities in the world to provide online distance learning. The Indira Gandhi National Open University in India is currently the world's largest university, with approximately 4 million students enrolled, the majority of whom obtain their education through online methods.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT

Online education has progressed well beyond

its original potential. It is no longer confined to a one-way monologue from the teacher to the student. With daily feedback and evaluations, current developments in online learning encourage students to take an active participation in the learning process. This has significantly increased the teaching system's efficiency, getting it up to the mark with class-room-based learning. The following are some of the features of online education:

Online education is inexpensive than conventional teaching methods: Since the cost of teaching is minimal, students' expenses are naturally reduced. This makes schooling much more accessible and affordable. A wide range of courses are available for students these days at the click of a button – from religion to commerce, philosophy to fashion design, programming to art, photography to yoga. E-learning has impacted almost every industry.

Study groups: There are opportunities to connect with like-minded students from all over the world and share knowledge and ideas. Far less infrastructure is needed, which is a tremendous benefit to educational institutions because the additional costs are greatly reduced. Standardized consistency: Since online content can be evaluated and updated at any time, a fair standard of quality can be maintained.

Smartphones have been instrumental in making online learning possible. It is steadily gaining ground in rural areas, offering high-quality education to the masses on par with the best in the world. MOOCs (massive open online courses) are an exciting new sector. The New York Times proclaimed , s2012 to be "the year of the MOOC," and it hasn't stopped since. The cumulative number of students taking MOOCs has now surpassed 100 million. As a result, the following factors can be applied to the recent trends in online learning:

Smartphone technology innovation, High-speed data access, Interactive learning models, An increase in the number of e-learning start-ups, Higher Education Institutions Expand Their Online Learning Programs, AI Provides Personalized Learning Pathways, Technology-powered Tools Become the Future of Assessment.

STRENGTH

For people who would otherwise have limited access to education, the online environment provides unparalleled opportunities, as well as a new model for educators in which diverse, high-quality courses can be created. Here is a list of some of the most significant advantages of online programmes:
The key benefit of interactive online learning is that it helps students to engage in high-quality learning situations when distance and scheduling make offline and traditional learning difficult and impossible. Students can attend classes from any location in the world as long as they have access to a computer and an Internet connection. Furthermore, the online format gives physically disabled students (and teachers) more flexibility in class participation.

The Virtual Classroom is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Another advantage of online learning is the ability to save time. Online conferencing programmes allows professionals balancing job and family, to study at their own comfortable times.The interactive nature of the online format allows for complex interaction between the teacher and students, as well as among the students themselves. The learning process will create continuous synergy as resources and ideas are exchanged.

Learners have a certain amount of anonymity in the online world. Age, dress, physical appearance, disabilities, race, and gender are often absent as discriminating factors. Instead, the emphasis is squarely on the discussion's content and the individual's ability to thoughtfully and intelligently react to and contribute study classes.

Innovative and imaginative approaches to teaching are even more critical in the Virtual Classroom because of its semi-autonomous and self-directed nature. The facilitator and the student collaborate to create a dynamic learning experience in the online world. The awareness of a technological change inspires hope that those who embrace the latest technology will also abandon bad habits when they follow this new teaching paradigm. Teachers must focus on their course goals and teaching styles as they transform their courses to take full advantage of the

online format. Many of the qualities that make a good online facilitator are also great in the traditional classroom.

WEAKNESSES

Students must be able to access the online class for the success of any online programmes. Due to a lack of access, whether for financial or logistical reasons, qualifying students would be unable to participate in the courses. This is a serious problem in rural and lower socioeconomic areas. Some Internet users pay a set monthly fee, while others are paid based on how much time they spend online. If the amount of time learners spend online is restricted by their ability to pay for Internet access, then training and participation in the online programme would be unequal for all students in the class.

In order to work effectively in an online environment, both students and facilitators must have a basic understanding of computers. They will not be effective in online programmes if they do not have these technological resources. In order to keep up with the speed of an online programme, students must be well prepared, self-motivated, and have excellent time management skills. For these reasons, online education is not suitable for younger students (i.e., elementary or secondary school age) or other students who are dependent learners who struggle to undertake the responsibilities demanded by the online methodology.

Even with the recent surge of interest in online programmes, it's important to remember that certain subjects should not be taught online because the interactive format does not allow for the most effective method of instruction. Hands-on subjects like public speaking, surgery, and dental hygiene, as well as athletics, are examples of subjects where physical movement and practice contribute to the accomplishment of learning goals. These subjects are probably best taught in a typical face-to-face classroom environment.

To be effective, any online programme's curriculum must be carefully considered and designed. In the rush to create online education services, several institutions neglect the value of the curriculum and the need for trained practitioners to develop it. Many institutions provide conventional teaching methods through their online programmes, it will definitely collapse the online educational model.

HOW IS ONLINE EDUCATION ASSESSED?

Students who are enrolled in an online course will be checked at regular intervals to determine their understanding of the course materials. This method can be challenging for those who are new to online education. However, there's no need to be concerned! Online institutions are skilled professionals who can ensure that your tests are realistic, comfortable, and tailored to help you get the most out of your education. Following are the different types of assessments you'll face when enrolled in an online programme.

Individual Assignments are likely to be the type of evaluation with which students are most familiar. Students will be given a subject, a deadline, and a word count for each assignment. Within the parameters set by the course teacher, students are expected to submit the work.

Discussions: - An online academic debate needs a different set of skills. Depending on the institution, these exercises will vary, but basically course teacher will usually begin each discussion with a question or subject for debate. Students must then conduct research on the subject and respond to the challenge with evidence of their own experience and understanding. With the effectiveness of online platforms students can learn from the viewpoints of other students as well.

Journal activities, including discussion forums, are usually limited to online courses. A journal entry is a continuous update that allows students to focus on what they have learned over the course of the review period. Since online learning does not take place in a classroom, journal entries are a simple way for teachers to see how students are progressing in the course and if students are learning in the right areas. In contrast to other assignments, journal entries allow students to write in a subjective, personal style.

Exams, although nerve-wracking, are an important way to assess your learning. Students may

be allowed to complete their exams on their own personal computer in a location of their choice by their institutions. Online courses' exams are usually open-book and open-note since they are no means of overseeing a virtual exam or examination. Many institutions will have the option of conducting 'take-home' exams in the form of an essay or final assignment as a viable alternative. Some organisations can use virtual proctoring software or tools to track whether students visit new web pages.

ONLINE EDUCATION IN INDIA

Due to the closure of educational institutions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has pushed for online education to ensure academic continuity. Although most high-end private and public institutions have successfully transitioned to online platforms such as Zoom, Google Classrooms, Microsoft Teams, etc, many others are still finding it a herculean challenge. The difficulties of online education are numerous.

In India, online education has reached the most basic levels of education:- schools and colleges. “The online option is a need in this pandemic situation. It has brought education to us without us going anywhere, and it is more flexible”. Students are probably finding it a refreshing change from their tight schedules and lengthy commutes to class. Many teachers are taking advantage of the situation by experimenting with new teaching and evaluation approaches. However, when online education becomes the only choice for learning, it will be a game changer.

The majority of Indian teachers said, "I don't get constant feedback in the form of student reactions during online sessions, which decreases teaching effectiveness." How many students in a class have paid attention? How many of them were able to grasp the lesson? Is the class going at a good pace? Is it true that certain students are falling behind? These concerns exist in conventional classrooms as well, but they are more difficult to answer in online courses.
“There shouldn't be online classes for young kids,” suggest parents of small children in India. Their attention span is short, and they lose interest after a while.”

Even college students seem to place a higher emphasis on in-person learning over virtual learning. Many people agree that cell phones are very irritating. In addition, hands-on laboratory sessions, dissertation projects, and field trips are often included in science and technology programmes to supplement theoretical studies. Online schooling severely restricts this part of learning. It is popular to use the internet for entertainment, but using it for online lessons is a major challenge. Teachers may lack experience in developing digital content and effectively communicating it online. It's unreasonable to ask them to update and students to change all of a sudden.

CHALLENGES OF ONLINE EDUCATION IN INDIA

Though India has a diverse geographic and cultural landscape, it also has a significant socioeconomic division. At the moment, only a small portion of India's population has access to online education. Power failures, poor or non-existent internet access, and the inability to purchase required devices are all major concerns. “After two months of online classes, about 20 students in a class of 40 students regularly attend class. Approximately 5–8 students have been completely absent till present, with the remaining students are fluctuating.” To address issues with internet access and computer availability, many teachers are sharing videos with students through WhatsApp or YouTube so that they can watch them whenever they want. However, this, too, is associated with difficulties in understanding the lessons and encourages rote learning.

But that's not it. When a family's income is limited, the girls are frequently the first to suffer. According to a recent survey of 733 students in government schools in Bihar, Just 28% of girls had smartphones in their homes, compared to 36% of boys, Male adults almost all owned these devices, which were much less available to girls than boys, and half of these families couldn't afford internet data plans. As a result, a majority of the students in this survey chose television lessons as their primary choice. Girls, on the other hand, were found to spend disproportionately more time on domestic duties than boys, which also coincided with the time when these lessons are telecasting. Such educational disparities could intensify India’s gender wage disparity.

Students with learning disabilities are one of the most relying on face-to-face learning, and thus are unlikely to benefit from online learning. 73 percent of students with disabilities have been concerned about the availability of study materials in accessible formats. Moreover, 79 percent of their teachers were concerned about successfully educating students with learning disabilities, autism, and low vision without the use of physical interaction. The lack of successful education methods for these students may result in their high-rate dropouts from such schools.

ONLINE EDUCATION - THE FUTURE

More universities are now using online platforms for teaching, and students who choose a traditional education must still participate in some form of virtual learning. If universities are already incorporating this into traditional education, online learning will grow and become more popular among students. With the advancement of technology, online education will become the educational model of the future.

The following points suggest and support online education to be the future of education.

Learning online allows students to learn whenever and wherever they want, without having to attend a class at a specific time. It is frequently more useful because students do not have to sacrifice a large portion of their day commuting to attend class. Students can plan their day to maximise the learning that means they can work as well as study and make the most of day's hours. Online learning allows to continue education later in life.

Without the pressure of being surrounded by peers, students can often absorb information more effectively, especially introverts who often prosper in solitude. In a more traditional education, a lecturer will frequently overpower with information and students have to follow the same pace of lecturing and, makes it difficult to understand concepts. Online learning allows to teach students themselves and thus take as much time as they need to understand concepts before moving on. This would not only guarantee that students understand fully what they are learning, but will also ensure that they get the most from their education.

Online learning teaches students to be self-sufficient because students are solely responsible for their learning. It also forces them to improve their time management skills because students must coordinate their own study time. Online education boosts student's dedication, and these self-motivation, time management, dedication will help students to get a good job, since employers are looking for these qualities.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & GENDER JUSTICE

WHAT IS IT STANDS FOR

Women Empowerment is made up of two words women and empowerment. Empowerment means to give power or authority to someone. So, Women Empowerment means power in the hands of women. It signifies that women should be given equal opportunity in every field, irrespective of any discrimination. Our society comprises men and women. In earlier times, men were considered to be the leading members of a family. They were responsible for earning the livelihood and were the decision takers of the family. On the other hand, women were responsible for doing household work and upbringing of the children. So, the roles were mainly based on gender. There was no involvement of women in decision making. If we assess our entire sector, then research says that women's issues are either focused on her reproductive role and her body or on her economic role as a worker. But none of them is focused on empowering the women.

Gender justice is a human right; every woman and girl is entitled to live in dignity and in freedom, without any fear. Gender Justice is indispensable for development, poverty reduction, and is crucial to achieving human progress. Realizing it includes sharing of power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace, and in the wider national and international communities. During the past century, despite tremendous advancements in society, women are still not treated equally and are not afforded same opportunities. They are still at the peripheries (outer limit) of economic, political, social and cultural rights. Almost 70 percent of the world's hungry are women. Women remain vastly under-represented in democratic institutions globally; women represent less than 10 percent of parliaments in a third of the world countries.

METHODS AND NEED TO EMPOWER WOMEN

Women are empowered when they are able to access opportunities in a variety of fields such as in education, profession, lifestyle, etc., without any limitations and restrictions. History says that women were ill-treated. The Sati Pratha in the ancient time to the girl child abortion in the present scenario, women continue facing such violence. Not only this, heinous crimes against women such as rape, acid attack, dowry system, honour killing, domestic violence, etc., are still happening in India as well as in the World.

Women can be empowered in various ways. It can be done through government schemes as well as on an individual basis. At the individual level, we should start respecting women and start giving them opportunities equal to men. We should promote and encourage them for jobs, higher education, business activities, etc. Scholars have identified two forms of empowerment for women - Economic Empowerment and Political Empowerment.

Economic empowerment increases women's chances to access formal government programmes, mobility outside the home, economic independence, and purchasing power. Policy makers are suggested to support job training for women to aid in entrance in the formal markets. Political empowerment supports creating policies that would best support gender equality and chances for women in both the public and private spheres. Methods that have been suggested are to create affirmative action policies that have a quota for the number of women in policy making and parliament positions. Digital skills can facilitate women's engagement with local government and increase their decision-making power in their communities. The Women-gov project in Brazil and India, for instance, has helped women improve their understanding of and communication with local government via ICTs (Information and Communication Technology). Digital skills can also empower women to share their ideas to the world.

MEASUREMENTS & ASSESSMENTS

Women empowerment can be measured through the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), which shows women's participation in a given nation, both politically and economically. GEM is calculated by tracking "the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female profession and technical

workers; and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence". It then ranks countries given this information. Other measures that take into account the importance of female participation and equality include: the Gender Parity Index or the Gender-related Development Index (GDI).

Some critiques of GEM is that it is not concerned with factors regarding society, such as gender, religion, cultural context, legal context, and violations of women's rights. Gender empowerment measure attempts to makes a consistent standardized approach to measure women's empowerment; in doing so, it has been critiqued that the GEM doesn't account for variation in historical factors, female autonomy, gender segregation, and women's right to vote.

The Gender-related Development Index (GDI) is a way in which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) measures the inequality between genders within a country. Some critique of this measurement is that, because GDI calculations rely solely on the achievement distribution between males and females of a population, GDI doesn't measure gender inequality; rather, it measures absolute levels on income, education and health.

HISTORY

Women's empowerment can be defined to promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others. It is closely aligned with female empowerment – a fundamental human right that's also key to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous world. In Western countries, female empowerment is often associated with specific phases of the women's rights movement in history. This movement tends to be split into three waves, the first beginning in the 19th and early 20th century where suffrage (the right to vote in political elections) was a key feature. The second wave of the 1960s included the sexual revolution and the role of women in society. Third wave feminism is often seen as beginning in the 1990s. Feminism, the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. Although largely originating in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to activity on behalf of women's rights and interests. Throughout most of Western history, women were confined to the domestic sphere, while public life was reserved for men. In medieval Europe, women were denied the right to own property, to study, or to participate in public life. At the end of the 19th century in France, they were still compelled to cover their heads in public, and, in parts of Germany, a husband still had the right to sell his wife. Modern Feminist movement started with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. These two leaders called up for a convention in July 1848 in New York to discuss the rights of women and published a declaration of sentiments. Many women and men signed in this declaration of sentiments and this convention official stated as the first movement forwards attaining women's right and feminism. And now women's empowerment and promoting women's rights have emerged as a part of a major global movement and is continuing to break new ground in recent years. Days like International Women's Empowerment Day are also gaining momentum.

BARRIERS

Many of the barriers to women's empowerment and equlity arise from cultural norms. Society norms always get in the way of women empowerment. Research shows that the increasing access to the internet can also result in an increased exploitation of women. Releasing personal information on websites has put some women's personal safety at risk. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), sexual harassment is a clear form of gender discrimination based on sex, a manifestation of unequal power relations between men and women. Recent studies also show that women face more barriers in the workplace than do men. Gender-related barriers involve sexual harassment, unfair hiring practices, career progression, and unequal pay where women are paid less than men are for performing the same job. Globally experts say that the possibility of having a baby can be enough for employers to push women back from their line. Therefore, women are put in a position where they need to make the decision of whether to maintain in the workforce or have children. Many industries struggle to employ women in executive positions. This is partially due to the barrier of sexual harassment and pregnancy that was aforementioned

(before mentioned). Such barriers make it difficult for women to advance in their workplace or receive fair compensation for the work they provide.

ROLE OF EDUCATION

Education is a milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life.

"Countries and Nations which do not respect women have never become great nor will ever be in future" - Swami Vivekananda

Looking back 10 years from now, positions of power for women have increased substantially. As the landscape has changed, we can see a trend of women with education, ambition and passion taking every industry by storm. Women have a very in-distinctive position in our economy and are an indispensable part of the society. Yes, education and knowledge empower women. The only way a society or nation can move forward, and aspire to economic growth and development is not just through education- but especially education among the women citizens. Education is one of the ways to spread the message of women empowerment. However rich and humongous (extremely large) our country is no goals or dreams of our citizens will be achieved without effective education. Education not only educates a person but also helps her realize that she is a vital part to the society. Occupational achievement, self-awareness and satisfaction are among the many things that will be ensured by effective use of education. Guidance and counselling also provided through education, helps women select their jobs and build career paths. Education will help women to empower through the knowledge of science and technology to face the challenges of today's technological age. Education not only educates a woman but enables her to take decisions and accept responsibilities at her home and outer world. Education helps a woman to understand her rights to equal treatment like a man in the society of this nation.

FIGHT FOR GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

After all, women make up nearly half the population of any country, so their exclusion from the top table, only ends up in further inequality. India has achieved a lot of the goals to ensure gender justice and much progress has been made. Yet, a lot still remains to be done. Crimes against women for instance need to be curbed (keep in check). Let us take a look at both the highs and the lows in this fight for gender justice and women empowerment in India.

let us examine the real gains made by women in India: India was one of the first countries in the world to have a woman Head of Government in Indira Gandhi. Four decades on, several powerful female leaders have been A- listers in the world of politics, heading states, cabinet ministries or political parties. In the world of sports, several Indian women have excelled. The likes of P.T. Usha, Mary Kom, P.V. Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Sania Mirza, Sakshi Malik, Jhulan Goswami, Tania Sachdev, Deepa Karmakar, and many more have made the country proud by winning laurels (symbol of victory) abroad. Not only within the national boundaries, but Indian women have taken strides abroad winning several top honors. The list includes the likes of Priyanka Chopra, Kalpana Chawla, Sushmita Sen, Rupa Devi, Bhanu Athaiyya, Arunima Sinha and many more. In business too, many have excelled. Indira Nooyi and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw are the obvious names that come to mind. The banking sector especially has been awash with several of them being led by women.

The Triple Talaq (Instant divorce system) was banned in India, which ended up liberating millions of women from an archaic (very old) law.

In spite of all the gains listed above, there have been several reverses as well, with the status of women stagnating (a prolonged period of little or no growth). Following are a few of those:

India performed very bad in the Gender Gap Index released by WEF (World Economic Forum). In the Global Gender Gap Index 2020, the number of countries increased to 153 in which India's ranking was 112th. At the household level, domestic violence, marital rape, and career sacrifices continue to take place. Some political parties have tried to make amends, but many more efforts required for the real upliftment of

women. This has contributed to many countries' embassies discouraging women travelers from wandering too far for travel in India. Dowry's deaths were occasionally recorded, too.

HOW TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

A fundamental reason we have not yet achieved gender equality in every realm is that women and girls' voices are too often excluded from global and national decision-making. Giving opportunities for women and girls to talk or to express themselves in front of the society and public is the first step to achieve gender equality in our society and nation. Providing access to science and technology will enable women to make and produce good contributions to society. Owing to infrastructure problems and economic factors, the majority of girls in many countries do not have access to the use of basic technologies, such as phones and computers. Many counties are observing Child Marriages even in this 21st century. About 50% of girls are married before the age of 18, and around 30% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 already have one child. We have to discourage child marriage if we want girls to be able to complete schooling. We have to seriously fix girls' sexual abuse, too. One of the reasons parents give for marrying their daughters is insecurity. Changing how girls, families and society envision, what girls can be and can do must be one of the main strategies. We need to offer images and role models to girls that will broaden their dreams. There is a need to stress this fact that women and girls are not paid equal. More research on this point could be useful in promoting the key role and contributions women and girls make to the economy and the need for proper recognition and compensation. A proven way to overcome many systemic barriers to a woman's success has been increased participation by women in local, regional and national legislation as empowered change agents. In just 10 years, the number of women holding seats in houses of national parliament in south Asia rose from 7% to 18%. Supporting women in non-traditional jobs is crucial, it not only make long-lasting change in their lives but also help break social taboos (restrictions of society). Gender inequality allows for violence against women. The UN has found that one in three women will encounter violence in her lifetime worldwide, with the majority of violence committed by a current or former intimate partner against women.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In 20th century, women around the world started to mobilize in ever greater numbers to campaign for gender equality and women's role in labour market evolved beyond caretaking. In 1911 the first International Women's Day is marked in Europe. The All India Women's Conference convened (assembled) for the first time in 1927. In 1945 the United Nations is formed in response to the destructive calls of 2 world wars and Eleanor Roosevelt oversees the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For all the world to hear she and her advocates underlined the place of women's rights within. This set a foundation of women's rights norms and standards at the international level. The establishment of the Commission on the status of Women formed in 1946. The First World Conference on Women called in 1975. In the subsequent (following) decades women started to take historic leadership positions in government became a powerful symbol of social change. (Sirimavo Bandaranaike became world's first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka in 1960, Over a tenth of the population goes on strike to demand equal pay for women in Iceland 1975, Rigoberta Menchu became the 1st indigenous (native) Nobel Peace prize laureate). In 1995 Beijing Declaration (The UN's 4th World Conference on Women - where 189 countries participated) platform for action presented a visionary global agenda for women and girls rights. In 21st century exemplary (very good) leaders arise to resist the barriers against women. With the rise of digital age and social media a single women's voice is now louder than ever (we can take the example of Malala Yousafzai). Grassroots activists trigger social movements online and offline from cities to villages inspiring future generations of women and girl leaders. After relentless campaigning likes #MeToo, these movements generate changes in policy that signal a true shift in international attitudes and practice towards equal rights.

Now it's time for women and men to come together and fight to overcome the remaining obstacles to gender equality. We must fight for an end to gender based violence, access to health care , for equal pay and for equal participation in the political life.

DEMONETISATION

November 8, 2021 marks five years of demonetisation in India. On this day in 2016, in a televised address at 8 pm, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that currency notes of ₹500 and ₹1000 that together constitute 86 per cent of the currency in circulation at the time in terms of value would cease to be legal tender. The idea of demonetising large denomination currency as a tool for flushing out undeclared cash hoards was not novel. It had been attempted twice before, in 1946 and 1978, with poor results. However, unlike the previous events, which had a limited impact, the demonetisation in 2016 caused widespread economic disruption, the costs of which are still being calculated.

The stated objectives behind the demonetization included countering terrorism, monitoring counterfeit currency, and, most importantly, combating corruption and making India a cashless economy. Many analysts feel that the programme was a failure five years later, with little or no progress toward its stated goals of reducing black money, corruption, moving toward a "less cash and more digital economy," and increasing tax compliance.

ELIMINATING BLACK MONEY

The Centre tried various steps to check black money, such as setting up Supreme Court-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT), passing the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act in 2015 and Income Declaration Scheme as part of the Budget in 2016. Demonetisation followed.

EXERCISE GUIDED BY POPULAR MYTH

In India, there is a popular myth that wealth from such ill-gotten gains is accumulated invariably in stacks of currency notes and gold, hoarded in safes, boxes, or ingeniously concealed cupboards. In reality, the folklore of black money and its association with physical cash is misplaced. The wealth is held in a variety of forms like, in undervalued inventory or balances held in tax havens abroad expecting a return on these investments. The RBI in its Annual Report 2017-18, reported, notes worth Rs 15.31 lakh crore had been returned out of the demonetised Rs 15.41 lakh crore by June 30, 2017.

In his November 8 speech, the PM listed how old invalidated currency notes could be converted, spent or deposited. Expectations of windfall gains of some ₹ 2 trillion to ₹ 3 trillion failed to materialise with more than 99.03 per cent of the cancelled notes returning to the banks, except a meagre sum of Rs 10,720 crore of the cancelled currency. The invalidated currency notes came back through two arterial routes - deposits in banks, irrespective of the point of cash transactions, and Over-The-Counter (OTC) conversion again through banks. If black money had existed as stockpiles of illegal cash, all of it was very efficiently laundered.

LESS CASH AND MORE DIGITAL ECONOMY

India has been seeing a major boom in digital payments since 2016. The digital payments in terms of transactions have grown by 76 per cent in the past 12 months estimated to touch USD 700 billion (INR 521 trillion) by volume in transactions with several first-time users. The value of transactions through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) itself crossed $100 billion in October 2021. On the other hand, the card payments have remained more or less stuck at their levels and their size has significantly declined as a share of GDP. The bulk of the real black economy, it was always evident, resided in real estate and gold. That part was never addressed effectively by the government which chose to attack the currency stock alone. A survey by LocalCircles estimates that 70 per cent of the real-estate deals involved a component settled in cash in last 7 years. On an aggregate basis, 16 per cent of the people who bought a house property have paid over half of the amount in cash. Even after five years of demonetisation, cash is still a key component in several transactions, especially those related to property. Moreover, cash continues to overwhelmingly dominate the e-commerce transactions. According to RBI, 90 pc of e-commerce transactions use cash as a mode of payment in Tier IV cities and even in Tier I, the figure is as high as 50 per cent.

The best metric to measure the role of cash in economy is the ratio of currency in circulation (at the end of a fiscal year) and the nominal GDP (in that fiscal year). The cash to GDP ratio or the currency in circulation that stood at 12.1 per cent of India's nominal GDP in 2015-16 plummeted to 8.7 per cent in 2016-17 immediately after demonetisation. Since then, the cash to GDP ratio has climbed steadily reaching 12 per cent in 2019-20 and an all-time high of 14.5 per cent in 2020-21.

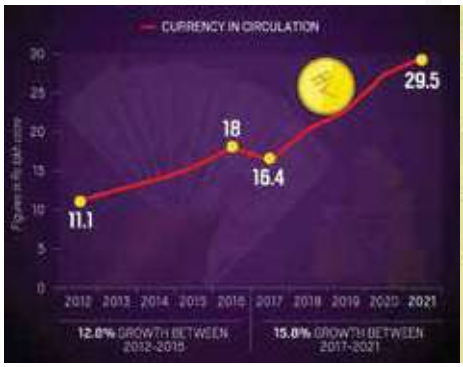
The goal of less cash and more digital economy is based on the false premise of direct and linear relation with currency in circulation as a measure of magnitude of black economy. Indeed, Japan with 18 per cent cash-to-GDP ratio has a small black economy while Nigeria with 1.4 per cent ratio has a large black economy. India's cash-to-GDP ratio dropped from 12 per cent due to demonetisation but has now reached above 14 per cent. With cash still ruling the market, it is clear that the digital payments have come to essentially replace credit and debit card payments.

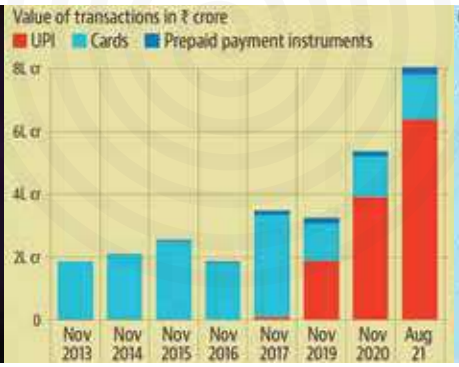
TAX MOBILISATION

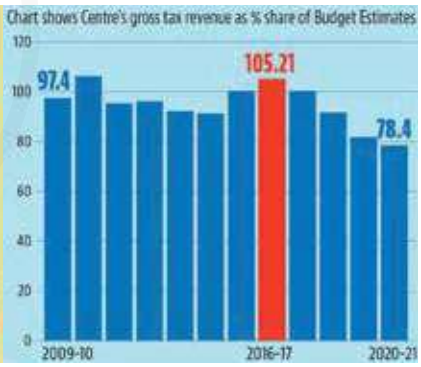
The role of demonetisation on tax mobilisation is a difficult question to answer. The demonetisation was not the only policy change which has affected tax collections in India. The Centre launched the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2017.

The GST revenues, supposed to proportionally grow at least by 10 to 11 per cent every year with nominal GDP should witness a cumulative growth of over 60 per cent in 5 years. The actual GST collections have stagnated in the range of Rs.95,000 crore to Rs. 1,10,000 crore a month for 5 years since implementation of GST in 2017. The stagnation in revenue from GST that claim to track and capture all transactions in the value chain suggests of value addition of many products being executed outside the GST framework.

In September 2019, the government announced a significant reduction in Corporation Tax rates, which led to a sharp fall in direct tax collections. Even as economic







*Currency in circulation is all of the money that has been issued by a country's monetary authority, minus cash that has been removed from the system. Currency in circulation represents part of the overall money supply, with a portion of the overall supply being stored in checking and savings accounts.

*The Reserve Bank of India has reported an unprecedented rise in currency held by public. It has grown a whopping 57 per cent — from Rs. 17.5 trillion on Nov 4 ,2016 to Rs 28 trillion on Oct 8, 2021. In absolute terms, the value of currency in circulation has risen from INR 13.5 trillion in fiscal year 2017, to INR 23.7 trillion in fiscal 2020 that ended in March, 2020. The currency in circulation as of October 8, 2021 stands at INR 28.3 trillion, a growth of 58 pc over the cash that was present in the Indian economy in November 2016.

*India has been seeing a rapid rise in the use of digital payments since the pandemic began. For instance, UPI payments experienced a 109 per cent growth in the last 12 months, with Rs 6.06 lakh crores worth of transactions in July 2021. Other forms of digital payments like credit and debit cards have also seen similar growth. However, despite the government's efforts to digitise the economy, the cash in the economy is still the king, and has shot up to 14.7 per cent of GDP in 2020-21, according to data in Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) annual report.

*In January 2018, for instance, there were 400 million transactions by cards in India, with a total value of about INR 900 billion. At this time, mobile or digital payments, were about the same in number and less than INR 250 billion in value. Within two years, the digital payments have left the card payments far as the number of card transactions in March 2020 stood at around 450 million, with a value of INR 1100 billion. In the same month, the digital payments had jumped to over 1.6 billion in number of transactions with a total value of INR 2200 billion.

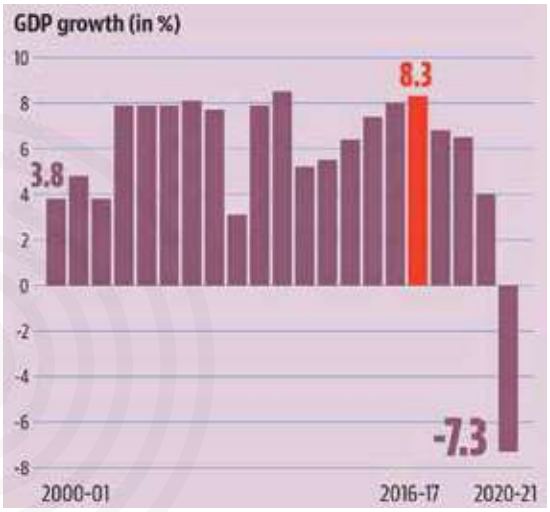
observers were waiting for the long-term effects of corporation tax cuts, the economy was hit by the pandemic, which led to a sharp fall in GDP and hence tax collections across the board. With these caveats in place, a look at the central government's gross tax collection vis-a-vis its budgeted targets — they are the best measure of whether the government's own expectations about tax collection have been fulfilled — does not show much of an improvement after demonetisation.

FORMALISATION OF ECONOMY

If the estimates of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) are to be believed, the Indian economy had undergone a large-scale formalisation immediately after the post-demonetisation. A cursory analysis of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) estimate a sharp fall in the share of informal sector from 52 per cent to 20 per cent of the country's GDP between as in 2017-18 and 2021-22. But "formalisation" can be a double-edged sword. Formalisation of the economy can perpetuate, worsening working conditions in the short-term. The disruption in the informal sector at the cost of putting small informal firms out of business can have adverse impacts on demand in subsequent periods. Besides, formalisation wears off over time if the ecosystem that promotes formality does not change very much.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Cash to the economy is like blood which supplies nutrients to all parts of the body. Cash circulation enables transactions to occur, which help generate incomes. An even bigger question about the long-term gains of demonetisation for the economy comes from the fact that GDP growth rate started declining sharply in the post-demonetisation years. India's GDP growth rate increased consistently from 5.2 per cent in 2011-12 to 8.3 per cent in 2016-17. This trend reserved itself and the economy started losing growth momentum with the GDP growth reaching just 4 per cent in 2019-20. With the pandemic year witnessing the highest ever GDP contraction of 7.3 per cent in 2020-21 and a strong base effect in GDP numbers for 2021-22 and perhaps even 2022-23, the waters are now far too muddied to make any scientific assessment about demonetisation's impact. But, official data showed that the year of demonetisation, 2016-'17, had the best growth rate for the decade. The reason is that unorganised sector data is not available so the GDP data uses the organised sector as a proxy to capture it. That may have been correct before the demonetisation but was problematic when the latter was declining while the former was growing. If alternative data were to be used it would have shown that the economy had gone into recession. The long-term implications which go beyond the period of demonetisation are evident. There has been growing unemployment and increase in inequalities leading to a decline in demand. The result has been an economic slowdown even before the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020.



DEMONETISATION - HIGH PAIN LOW GAIN

Cash totaling Rs 42,200 crore came into PMJDY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana) accounts between November 8, 2016, and December 30, 2016. The Income Tax Department has flagged over 60 per cent of the money deposited in 37 million Jan-Dhan accounts and 68 companies in the days after the note ban could be "suspicious". Between November 2016 and March 2017, the Income Tax Department conducted search and seizure actions on around 900 groups. Assets worth over Rs 900 crore were seized and undisclosed income of over Rs 7,900 crore was admitted. Then, between April 2017 and November 2017, around 360 more groups were scrutinised. Assets worth over Rs 700 crore were seized and disclosures rose to Rs 10100 crore.

During three phases of 'Operation Clean Money', the Income Tax Department identified around

22.69 lakh 'persons' whose tax profile was found to be inconsistent in comparison to the past as Rs.5.27 lakh crore was deposited by them during the demonetisation period.

The number of returns filed between 2017 and 2018 increased from 22.4 million to 34.3 million showing a 53 per cent jump. The Government could earn an additional revenue of Rs 30,000 crore with 75 per cent of such returns are for zero income and 25 per cent pay a minimal Rs 5,000 as tax per month.

THE MISTAKES

The cardinal error of the note ban strike was the linkages with which it was presented to the public. One with black money and the second - cash means corruption. The linking of cash in circulation to the level of corruption and black money was a false premise. Indeed, only 6-8 per cent of black money accumulated by direct and indirect tax evaders is held in the form of cash. Most of it is converted into assets, real estate, gold and/or foreign currency deposits abroad by well-connected and efficient hawala dealers and can be converted back into cash.

To beat the law, there were loan foreclosures, backdated fixed deposits, new salary accounts opened for firms, accounts of deceased persons were operated, rejected applications for account opening, charging 30-40 per cent commission for converting large amounts of cash and misuse of Jan Dhan accounts. The government, in the aftermath, suspended or transferred more than 250 bank employees.

The poor didn't have much to deposit or exchange. But a large number of people with large amounts of illegal cash employed corruption to beat an exercise against corruption. Demonetisation as a move did not flop like usual government policies do. We are watching it around us being defeated by people and corruption.

The failure of the demonetisation was a case of a segment of the public unwittingly colluding with the political management they voted for. A policy fails if the government and the system fail. In case of the demonetisation, the intent of demonetisation was destroyed by the serious design faults and lack of preparedness of government machinery on one side and the deviant in the government system and a large segment of citizenry broad basing corruption on the other. Given the widespread corruption, converting old cash to new notes was rather simple. Some bankers have been caught in the act of assisting their wealthy clients. As a result, new sources of black revenue have emerged. As the impoverished were utilised as cash mules, deposits in Jan Dhan accounts swelled. Businesses demonstrated that they had cash on hand in order to exchange old currency for new notes. Many of these strategems were employed to convert people. The introduction of new Rs 2,000 currency notes made it simpler to keep black money on one's person.

The poor didn't have much to deposit or exchange. But a large number of people with large amounts of illegal cash employed corruption to beat an exercise against corruption. Demonetisation as a move did not flop like usual government policies do.

So both cash and digital payments are rising and this is a lesson for policy makers who imagined all cash was shady and that digital must necessarily dent the cash economy. The vast informal economy always sustained itself on cash. India has over 90 per cent households living on a monthly income of less than Rs 15,000. Such small incomes are largely earned and spent in cash. To forcibly push this part of the economy to digital made little sense.

As pointed out above, neither black money nor black - income generation were impacted by demonetisation. Counterfeiting continued since foreign actors are involved in it. Terrorism is financed by a variety of means, such as hawala, using dollars and drug smuggling. As a result, none of the goals set out were achieved.

Overall, it is evident that demonetisation has caused severe and lasting damage to the economy which is yet to be documented simply because the government has chosen to see it purely from an ideological prism. So facts cannot be allowed to come in the way of the pre-determined conclusion that demonetisation could only benefit the economy

OIL SPILLS

The Mauritius oil disaster, which occurred in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, dealt a tremendous setback to a country that relies heavily on tourism as a source of revenue. A 15-kilometer stretch of coastline has been contaminated by oil. Another incident resembling this occurred in the Gulf of Mexico. As a result of years of oil production, the Gulf of Mexico is covered in a labyrinth of pipes, wells, and other energy infrastructure, much of which is no longer in use.

An oil spill occurs when crude oil or a comparable hydrocarbon is released into the marine environment as a result of human activity. It's one of the most common sources of marine pollution. The effects of oil spills vary depending on where the spill occurs in the maritime environment. Recognizing the impact is crucial in today's world because it affects not just marine life but also humans.

Oil is one of the world's most important energy sources, and it is delivered by ships across oceans and pipelines across land due to its uneven distribution. Several mishaps have occurred in the past while transferring oil to vessels, during transportation, pipeline breaks, and drilling in the earth's crust as a result of this.

REASON FOR THE OIL SPILLS

The causes of oil spills range from minor leaks in oil pipelines to mishaps in offshore oil extraction wells.

Another reason is that the oils must be transported across waterways. For example, the Exxon Valdez spill, which occurred in the 1980s and was a major oil spill off the Alaskan coast owing to a shipwreck. It should be noted that the major cause of the oil spills is actually runoff from the land, especially from the crude oil refining industries.

The engines of vehicles that run on crude oil as a fuel and use petroleum-based lubricants are the primary source of oil runoff into the maritime environment from land. These ejected items collect on the roads and in the ground, eventually ending up in the ocean.

Apart from human error, natural seepage, particularly in the water, can also produce oil spills. Oil reserves locked deep beneath the ocean floor may be released with the shifting of the tectonic plates, resulting in an oil spillage in the oceans. Human action can also hasten the process. For instance, during the time when oil wells are being drilled in the oceans.

Accidental spills occurred in the storage facilities of the oil and oil products. It may be stored in different ways which includes in the underground and aboveground storage tanks and such containers may develop leaks over time.

Another cause of the oil spillage due to the accidents is during the time of handling, especially during transfer operations and various uses by these oil and oil products.

The routine maintenance activities related with the maritime transports, such as periodic maintenance of ships may release oil into navigable waters. This seems to be negligible in the minor quantities. When the large number of ships release oil into navigable waters even a few gallons could build up to a substantial number when all ships are considered.

IMPACTS OF THE OIL SPILLS

Oil spills have a variety of consequences, including threatening public health, jeopardizing drinking water, hurting the quality and quantity of natural resources, and even disrupting the economies of many countries.

Apart from crude oil and its derivatives, non-petroleum oils such as vegetable oils and animal fats are becoming increasingly popular. The oil from the spill contains highly hazardous components that caused physical consequences similar to those of petroleum products. Its hazardous characteristics not only cause adverse physical impacts, but also put public health and the environment at risk.

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT DUE TO OIL SPILLS - EFFECTS OF OIL SPILLS ON MARINE AND COASTAL WILDLIFE

Marine life forms and the life presented to the costal districts which sullied because of the oil spillage might experience present moment just as long haul changes to their physiology and conduct. In immaterial level, oil slicks can make brief actual mischief creatures which incorporates injury, skin aggravation, modifying of the invulnerable framework, conceptive or formative harm, and liver infection.

It should be noted that the large quantities of oil enter into a body can cause the chronic effects like cancer which may become more likely, and direct mortality over the wildlife. Ingestion of oil or dispersants can cause gastrointestinal irritation, ulcers, bleeding etc... This may impair the ability of animals to digest and absorb foods, which ultimately leads to reduced health and fitness.

It can also irritate, burn, or infect the skin of some animals that come into contact with contaminated oil. Embryos from fish and sea turtles may grow more slowly than expected, resulting in reduced hatching rates and developmental problems.

Inhaling toxic materials causes dangerous materials, which can cause respiratory inflammation, irritation, emphysema, or pneumonia.

SOCIAL IMPACTS DUE TO OIL SPILLS

Oil spills pose a significant threat to the environment, as well as the wildlife and marine life that rely on it. Individuals may experience physical, mental, and financial stress as a result of it. Oil spills can undermine the order of things on a larger social level, such as a community, in addition to the individual level.

The fisherman community is one of the key social groups affected by the oil spills. The supply of fish will gradually decrease as a result of the oil spills, affecting people's income and livelihood. As a result, it will disproportionately harm women in these places, perhaps leading to the feminization of poverty.

Another social impact is on communities that rely on tourism as a source of income. The expansion of oil spills, which diminish visitor influx, will have a negative impact on the lives of individuals who rely on tourism as a source of income.

Oil spills can have a negative influence on people's health, particularly in coastal towns. This could lead to an increase in out-of-pocket spending, which would have a negative impact on individuals living along the coast.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS DUE TO OIL SPILLS

The tourism industries will be impacted by the oil spills, which will have a progressive impact on the tourism sector's revenue. Small island countries such as the Maldives and Mauritius, for example, rely significantly on tourism as their primary source of revenue.

The fisheries sector, particularly export and marine-based companies, will be impacted as a result of the steady contraction. Thailand and Norway, for example.

Oil spills can potentially have unintended consequences for heavy industries. Industries that rely on seawater for routine operation, such as thermal power plants, are particularly vulnerable, especially if water intakes are close to the surface.

Oil spills and accompanying clean-up operations may wreak havoc on the maritime industry, which includes shipyards, ports, and harbours.

Small and micro companies in some countries may be severely harmed as a result of oil spills. Communities may, for example, be economically dependent on salt manufacturing through the evaporation of oil-contaminated saltwater.

POLITICAL IMPACTS DUE TO OIL SPILLS

Due to the oil spillage, most of the time the economy is disrupted in countries were the territorial water in which the oil spills happens. This will gradually leads to the political issues between the nations.

It will further destablise the economy of the nations which heavily depends on the maritime as the income which may results in the inequality over the economic and the social aspects.

INTERNATIONAL LAWS ON SEAS REGARDING THE OIL SPILLAGE

Even though the threat posed by oil spills in the ocean, particularly spills from ships, varies from place to place, and awareness of the problem as well as efforts to address it varies from state to state, there is a general consensus among countries that the problem can only be dealt with more precisely if it is dealt with on an international standard and basis.

WHY AN INTERNATIONAL LAWS ON SEAS REGARDING THE OIL SPILLAGE IS REQUIRED?

Oil spills have a wide impact - Pollution of the water by shipborne oil is only a side consequence of international oil production and trade. The ships that transport the oil are owned by a huge number of sovereign states, not just one or a few. Unless a large number of governments are involved, no system can apply to all or most of these ships.

Pollution of the seas is not restricted to areas under the jurisdiction or interest of a single state, or even a few ones. What happens in one state's marine jurisdictional region may eventually spread to neighbouring states' jurisdictional areas.

Apart from that, pollution on the high seas has the potential to spread to other bodies of water in a short period of time. The sea joins the world's continents and countries together so tightly that the issue of pollution cannot be left to individual states' whims and capacities. The problem is so large that no single country can solve it on its own.

Conventions and instruments adopted primarily with the aim of preventing or controlling discharges of oil from ships arising from the routine operation of ships include the following:

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, with its 1962 Amendments.

>Amendments to the 1954/62 Convention adopted in 1969 and 1971.

>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973.

OIL SPILLAGE IN INDIA – MAJOR CASE STUDIES

Ennore oil spillage – 2017

A Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) ship and a chemical tanker crashed two nautical miles off the coast of Ennore in this incident. Heavy Furnace Oil (HFO) in the amount of 196.4 metric tonnes (MT) was spilt and drifted towards the beach. Human error and weariness among the crew were the key causes of the catastrophe, according to an inquiry by the Directorate General of Shipping. Both ships failed to keep a committed solitary visual lookout, according to the assessment. Both ships also ignored the possibility of utilising anchors to avoid colliding. The oil leak had the greatest impact on aquatic life, with more than 100 Olive Ridley Turtles discovered dead during their breeding season.

Oil spill off Mumbai coast – 2011

In 2011, an ONGC pipeline rupture produced a mile-long oil spill off the Mumbai coast. The Mumbai-Uran Trunk (MUT) pipeline was found to be leaking. The pipeline transports crude oil from the offshore oilfield of Mumbai High. The pipeline was shut down and production from the ONGC's Mumbai High field, the country's largest oilfield, and the Bassein oilfield was instantly halted. Greenpeace has asked for stronger supervision of oil infrastructure and transportation, citing concerns about the impact on the surrounding eco-system.

REMEDIATION TECHNIQUES TO CONTROL THE OIL SPILLS

If the oil has a low density, remediation options for cleaning up an oil spill are simple. However, if the oil is denser than the water, it forms a coating on the bottom rather than the surface, making cleaning a huge issue.

The major remediation technique incluses the physical methods, chemical methods, mechanical methods and the biological methods.

The burning of oil is one of the most widely used physical ways for cleaning up oil spills, accounting for 98 percent of all spills. However, most environmentalists oppose this practise since burining will produce temperature variations, which could eventually harm aquatic life.

The most prevalent mechanical means for removing oil spills are booms and skimmers. The booms can operate as a fence to block the oil from spreading or floating away in the event of a spill. They can suck the oil up like a vacuum cleaner, wipe the oil off the surface with oil-attracting chemicals, or physically separate the oil from the water in the case of the skimmers.

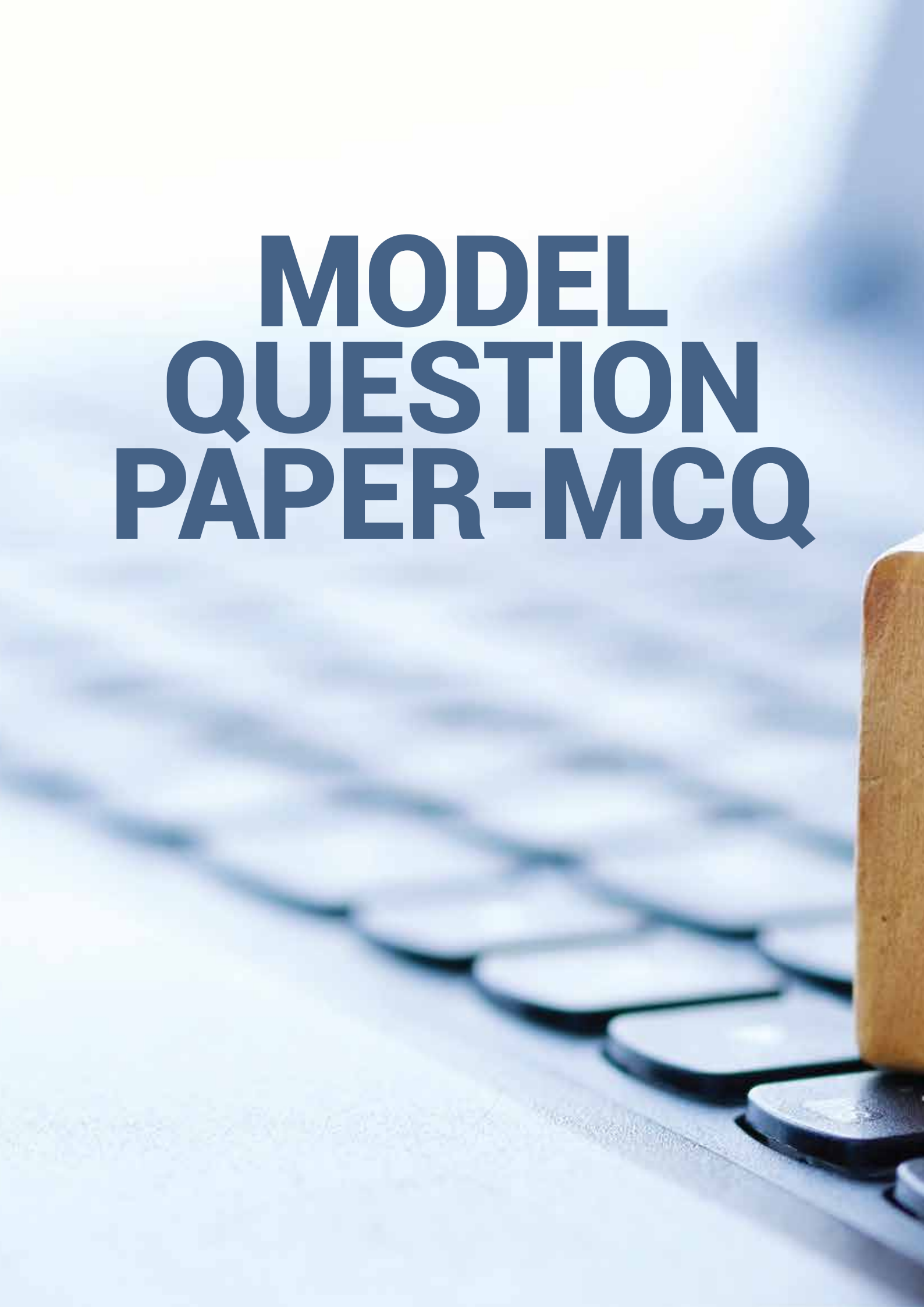
In chemical method, certain chemicals were used to break apart floating oil into small particles or drops so that the oil is no longer in a layer on the water's surface. These chemicals break up a layer of oil into small droplets. These small droplets of oil then disperse or mix with the water.

One of the most widely used biological methods for soil spills is bioremediation, which is also one of the most environmentally beneficial. Certain bacteria were utilised to clean up oil spills using this technique, and these bacteria degrade the oil containing hydrocarbons into water and carbon dioxide, catalysing the reaction further.

It can be concluded that the pollution caused by oil spills is not negligible and should be taken seriously as a serious issue that not only causes enormous amounts of damage to ocean and coastal ecosystems, but also has an impact on the human populations that rely on them for subsistence, employment, and commerce. Because of our reliance on oil as one of our primary energy sources, the world's oil industry operates by importing and exporting large volumes of oil globally, which can result in shipwrecks and pipeline leaks, resulting in oil spills. Certain ways can help to control this to some extent. Because the problems and hazards posed by oil spills are of international relevance, a coordinated response is essential to address post-spill concerns in a global context.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ



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MODEL QUESTIONS PRELIMINARY

Q1. With reference to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), consider the following statements:
1. UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019.
2. UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.
3. UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle.
Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) All the above

Q2. Consider the following countries.
1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. India
4. Malaysia
Which among the above countries belong to G - 20?
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) All the above

Q3. With reference to the "Dairy Sahakar" scheme recently in news, consider the following statements.
1. The scheme was launched by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare.
2. Under Dairy Sahakar, financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for activities such as bovine development and milk procurement only.
Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q4.'Project 15B', recently in news is related to:
a) Raising of Mountain Corps by Indian Army
b) Construction of Stealth Destroyers
c) Development of fifth Generation fighter Aircrafts
d) Rehabilitation of ex-service personnels

Q5. With reference to the Indus river Dolphin, consider the following statements:
1. Indus river Dolphins are considered as the health indicator of the fresh water ecosystem
2. Indus river Dolphins were classified as Critically Endangered (CE) by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
3. Indus river Dolphins were included in the Schedule II of India's Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972
Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q6. Consider the following.
1. Oil and natural gas networks
2. Coal mining
3. Wastewater treatment
Which among the above is/are source(s) of methane (CH_4) emission?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q7. With reference to the initiative - "Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)", consider the following statements:
1. The initiative was launched at Rio Earth Summit, 1992.
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is a founding member of the initiative.
Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q8. With reference to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks, consider the following statements:
1. Implement remedial measures in a time-bound manner, for restoring the financial health of the banking system.
2. Address the issue of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)

in banking sector of India.
3. Helps in alerting regulators, investors and depositors in event of a potential bank-run.
Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q9. Consider the following pollutants:
1. Particulate Matter (PM 2.5, PM 10)
2. Carbon dioxide (CO2)
3. Sulphur dioxide (SO2)
4. Ammonia (NH3)
Which among the above pollutants are used to calculate the National Air Quality Index?
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q10. With reference to Leopards, consider the following statements:
1. The leopard population of India is predominantly found along the Himalayan Mountain Ranges.
2. The protection status of leopards under the IUCN classification is "Endangered".
Which among the above statement(s) is/are NOT true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

Q11. Which among the following organisation publishes the Global Human Capital Index?
a) World Trade Organisation
b) World Economic Forum
c) International Monetary Fund
d) World Bank

Q12. With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:
1. Empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
2. Empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.
3. Included the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist.
Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q13. With reference to World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:
1. The World Food Programme (WFP) founded in 1961 is the world's largest humanitarian organization focusing on hunger & food security.
2. The secretariat of the World Food Programme (WFP) is located in Rome, Italy.
Which among the above statement(s) regarding the World Food Programme (WFP) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

Q14. Which among the following is related to the Alma Ata Declaration?
a) Universal Healthcare
b) Universal Education
c) Universal Socialcare
d) None of the above

Q15. With reference to the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. Provide health insurance of Rs 5 lakhs to 10 crore poor and vulnerable households identified from Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database with cap of on family size and age.
2. The Ayushman Bharat Yojana covers primary, secondary care and tertiary care procedures.
Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

Q16. With reference to 'DEMONETISATION', consider the following:

1. Discourage the use of high-denomination notes for illegal transactions.
2. Liquidity shortage in the economy.
3. Encourage digitisation of commercial transactions and
4. Formalise the economy.
5. Boost government tax revenues.
Which among the above is/are stated objective(s) of the DEMONETISATION?
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q17. With reference to the 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV', consider the following statements:
1. It is an initiative launched by the Government of India (GoI).
2. The initiative was launched to celebrate and commemorate two decades of electoral political activities of PM Narendra Modi.
Which among the above statement(s) regarding the 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV' is/are NOT true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

Q18. Consider the following:
1. Tele-Law on Wheels
2. Legal Services Authority.
3. Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana.
Which among the above scheme(s) has been launched adopting the spirit of Article 39 A of the Indian Constitution?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q19. With reference to the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index, consider the following statements:
1. The Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index was launched in 2021.
2. The Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is the nodal agency publishing the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index.
3. The Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index is published twice every year.
Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index is / are NOT true?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q19. With reference to the domestic commitments at COP26 Global Climate Summit Glasgow, consider the following statements:
1. Increase the capacity of non-polluting renewable energy to 1000 GW by 2030.
2. Lower carbon intensity as a percentage of GDP to 33 % by 2030
3. Reduce 1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions out of total projected emissions by 2030.
4. Increase the share of renewables to 50 % in the energy basket by 2030.
Which among the statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 3 and 4 only
d) All of the above

Q20. With reference to Dengue fever, consider the following statements:
1. The Vector of Dengue Fever is female Culex mosquitoes.
2. Dengue fever cannot spread directly from Human to Human.
Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

Q21. Which among the following organisation is associated with the Global Drug Policy Index?
a) Financial Action Task Force
b) World Economic Forum
c) Harm Reduction Consortium
d) None of these

Q22. With reference to the Conference of Parties (CoP -26), consider the following statements:
1. Secure global net-zero by mid-century and to keep 2 degrees within limit
2. Protect communities and natural habitats
3. Mobilise finance for mitigation of greenhouse gases.
4. Work together to deliver
Which among the above statement(s) is / are goals of the Conference of Parties (CoP -26)?
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q23. With reference to the 'Integrated Theatre Commands', consider the following statements:
1. Area-based Unified Command of the three Services, under a Single Commander - Integrated Theatre Commander.
2. Integrated Theatre Commander can independently exercise authority to mobilise all resources from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy—with seamless efficacy.
3. Integrated Theatre Commander will not be answerable to individual Services.
Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q24. YUKTHDARA, recently in news is associated with
a) Open Massive Online Courseware of Union Ministry of Human Resources and Development
b) Geospatial Planning Portal for facilitating Gram Panchayat level planning of MGNREGA.
c) Resource Management Portal of the Armed Forces of India
d) None of the above

Q25. Which among the following organisation is associated with Climatechange Performance Index?
a) The Energy Research Institute (TERI)
b) German-watch
c) Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
d) Green Peace

Q26. With reference to the Sela Tunnel, consider the following statements:
1. Connects UT of Leh and Ladakh to the rest of India
2. Ensure better movement of troops and weaponry to different locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Sela tunnel is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

Q27. With reference to the 'Cowin (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network) Portal', consider the following statements:
1. Web portal in India for COVID-19 vaccination registration.
2. The portal is owned and operated by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
3. People can book Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik through the portal.
Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q28. With reference to the Indian National Movement, consider the following pairs:
1. Onake Obavva: Andhra Pradesh
2. Rani Lakshmi Bhai of Jhansi: Uttar Pradesh
3. Rani Gaidinliu: Mizoram
Which among the above is/are NOT correctly matched?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q29. With reference to 'BIMSTEC', consider the following:
1. It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
2. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including

Myanmar and Indonesia.
3. Sri Lanka to host 5th BIMSTEC Summit
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q30. With reference to 'Financial Action Task Force (FATF)', consider the following statements:
1. India is not a full member of FATF but it has partial membership status of this organization.
2. All permanent members of the Security Council except China are members of FATF.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q31. Which following space agency is associated with Landsat 9, recently in news?
a) Indian Space Research Organisation
b) European Space Agency
c) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
d) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Q32. 'Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)', recently seen in news relates to:
a) USA
b) European Union
c) SAARC
d) ASEAN

Q33. Consider the following:
1. Bonn Agreement
2. Minsk Agreement
3. Heart of Asia Conference
Which among the above is/are associated with Afghanistan's peace process?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q34. With reference to the Poshan Abhiyaan, consider the following statements:
1. POSHAN Abhiyan is the flagship program of the Government of India to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare.
Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 and 2

Q35. With reference to the Sessions of Parliament in India, consider the following statements:
1. The power to summon and prorogue both Houses of the Parliament of India rests with the government.
2. India does not have a fixed Parliamentary calendar.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q36. With reference to the Dengue, consider the following statements:
1. Dengue is a bacterial disease.
2. Dengue is transmitted from the bite of an infected Aedes Aegypti mosquito
3. Dengue does not transmit from Human to Human.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q37. With reference to the UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN), consider the following pairs:
1. Jaipur- Gastronomy
2. Varanasi-Creative city of Music
3. Hyderabad – Crafts and Folk Arts
Which among the above pair(s) is/are NOT correctly matched?
a)1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q38. National Education Day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of
a) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
b) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
c) Gulzarilal Nanda
d) Zakir Husain

Q39. Consider the following statements with respect to Onake Obavva.
1. She is a women warrior from the Manipur
2. Onake Obavva fought against the English East India Company
Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q40. Exercise 'DESERT EAGLE' is the military exercise between India and
a) Singapore
b) France
c) UAE
d) Saudi Arabia

Q41. With reference to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, consider the following statements.
1. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India is a statutory body.
2. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India is regarded as guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country.
3. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India advice the President to frame guidelines and principles regarding the maintenance of Union Accounts.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) All the above

Q42. Recently, the term 'Teinopalpus imperialis' in news is associated with
a) Bird
b) Butterfly
c) Earth worm
d) Mammal

Q43. With reference to the S-400 Air Defence System seen in news, consider the following statements.
1. The system, intended to act as a shield over a particular area against long-range surface-to-air missile system.
2. The S-400 Air Defence System is supplied to India by Israel.
Which of the above statement(s) is / are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 and 2

Q44. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) sometimes seen in news is related to
a) Iran
b) Iraq
c) UAE
d) Kuwait

Q45. Which among the following statement is NOT true regarding with Article 32 in the Indian constitution?
a) One of the fundamental rights listed in the Constitution
b) Deals with the 'Right to Constitutional Remedies', or affirms the right to move the Supreme Court
c) Included in Part III of the Constitution with other fundamental rights.
d) Cannot be suspended under any circumstances.

Q46. Where is the first Food Security Museum located in India?
a) Nagpur
b) Aizwal
c) Thanjavur
d) Pune

Q47. With reference to the Sattvik Council of India, consider the following statements:
1. It is the "world's first vegetarian" food safety and regulatory compliance for vegetarian and allied adherents.
2. It came up with an ideology to take initiative and create a Food Safety Environment especially for the vegetarian's consumers of India and global markets.
Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q48. With reference to the SMILE Scheme, consider the following statements.
1. The scheme is implemented by the Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. The scheme focus on the pregnant women and lactating mothers (PW&LMs)
Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q49. "Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net Zero India" report released by:
a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
b) United Nations Development Programme
c) United Nations Environment Programme
d) World Economic Forum

Q50. Which among the following institution releases financial inclusion metrics report ?
a) Chief Economic Advisor of SBI Group
b) World Economic Forum
c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
d) Reserve Bank of India

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

VEDHIK IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

OMR ANSWER SHEET

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Candidate Sign

Invigilator Sign

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING THE SHEET

1. This sheet should not be folded or crushed.
2. Use only blue/black ball point pen to fill the circles.
3. Use of pencil is strictly prohibited.
4. Circles should be darkened completely and properly.
5. Cutting and erasing on this sheet is not allowed.
6. Do not use any stray marks on the sheet.
7. Do not use marker or white fluid to hide the mark.

WRONG METHODS ⊗ ◉ ✓ CORRECT METHOD ○ ○ ○ ●

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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOVEMBER 2021

VEDHIK IAS ACADEMY

Head Office: M4 - Houz New Delhi - 16
Registered Office : Mercy Estate 4th Floor,
Ravipuram, Pin - 682 015

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