

# UPSC



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June 2020



SHOPIAN DISTRICT OF J&K - FROM APPLE BOWL TO MILITANCY HOTSPOT

RUSSIAN ARCTIC OIL SPILL IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT, METHODS FOR OIL SPILL CLEANUP AT SEA

CHINA GRANTS BANGLADESH 97% LESS TARIFF PACKAGE

INDIA CHINA BORDER TALKS EXPLAINED - CHINA CLAIMS ALL OF GALWAN VALLEY

INDIA VS PAKISTAN AT UNHRC, INDIA SLAMS PAK FOR RAISING KASHMIR ISSUE AT GLOBAL PLATFORM

XI JINPING'S CHINESE DREAM, PRESIDENT JINPING COMPROMISED PRINCIPLES TO MAKE CHINA NO 1

## 36th ASEAN SUMMIT Press Conference

26 June 2020, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

36TH ASEAN SUMMIT VIETNAM WARNS OF CHINESE AGGRESSION

CHINA'S GRAND PLAN TO GRAB WATER OF TIBETAN RIVERS, WILL IT TRIGGER WATER WARS IN ASIA

INDIA SLAPS ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON STEEL FROM CHINA, VIETNAM & KOREA,

MANIPUR POLITICAL CRISIS 2020, ANTI DEFECTION LAW AND ROLE OF SPEAKER

INDIAN OFFICIALS ABDUCTED & TORTURED BY PAKISTANI AGENCY, IS IT A VIOLATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION?

WHY IS HIGH ALTITUDE WARFARE IS CHALLENGING? HOW SOLDIERS ARE TRAINED FOR IT?



Topper's Talk



Burning Issues



UPSC Prelims Capsule



Current Affairs



UPSC Mains Answer Writing Practice



# AIR 104

CSE 2017

A STUDY IQ Initiative

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## TOPPER'S TALK

## UPSC Topper interview AIR 104 Akshay Labroo - Strategy, books, tips and tricks

A young researcher from Jammu, Akshay labroo, cracked the UPSC-2017 by securing all India ranking 104 in his first attempt.

### Interviewer:

Welcome to study Iq, please tell us something about yourself.

### Akshay :

I am an alumnus of Delhi Public School, Jammu, landed in the Ministry of Commerce as Research Assistant in 2014 soon after completing my graduation from Ramjas College in New Delhi.

My father Ramesh labroo is serving the State Government in the PHE department and my mother Veena labroo is a housewife.

### Interviewer:

What motivated you to become an IAS officer?

### Akshay :

I always wanted a life where I could work for the betterment of people and after exploring choices available, I believed this (UPSC) is the easiest and direct way in which I can do that in the most efficient manner.

Fortunately this journey was not long for me as I cleared the exam in my first attempt itself.

### Interviewer:

What was your strategy for clearing the IAS Exam?

### Akshay :

Stick yourself to the syllabus provided by UPSC. Know your syllabus by heart, knowing it by heart can reduce your time in the reading newspaper.

Go through previous year questions religiously.

Study smartly.

Give regular mocks and then analyze them.

Notes making is also important

- **Modern History :** I referred to the spectrum and it is enough . In prelims questions are asked straightforwardly from it. For topics like buddhism, jainish and pre history of sangam i referred ncert's of Tamil Nadu.

- **Geography :** Map of India and world, thorough yourself with NCERT's.
- **Polity :** Current affairs and laxmikant , polity section from any magazine.
- **Environment and ecology :** I referred to Shankar IAS.
- **Economy :** Micro portion is important including budget and economic survey .
- **Ethics GS 4 :** For ethics I did not have any fixed source but I referred to Vajirao notes.
- **Current Affairs:** Annual Compilations of Coaching Institutes and Your Concepts of static (Polity and economics) should be very strong then only you would be able to understand the current section more precisely.
- **Test Series** play a significant role in particular for Prelims. It helps you in developing the tactics for eliminating wrong options to arrive at the correct answer. Moreover, it also helps you with time management.

## Interviewer:

How did you manage your preparation while working ?

## Akshay :

I used to quantify my time in the morning , evening. In the office I used to do discussion with my office people regarding various current topics.

## Interviewer:

What are your views on whether one should take coaching or not ?

## Akshay :

Whether you want to take coaching or not it is a very subjective question. If your education base is not strong and you can't sit at home and study, then you can definitely take coaching.

## Interviewer:

What was your interview experience like?

## Akshay :

- Listen to them carefully , give balanced answers.
- Be confident.
- Balance of mind.
- Current affairs
- News around the world.
- Be honest.
- The idea is to have a meaningful discussion which brings out your true personality and allows the board to judge if you are fit for public service.
- Humbleness and hard work are the only things required in an interview, be true to what you say.
- Be natural, be what you actually are.



Interviewer:

How did you fill the DAF(Detailed Application Form)?

Akshay :

DAF is nothing but the Bio-data of the candidate and you should fill your DAF with pure honesty.

Interviewer:

While preparing for the exam what kind of mistakes did you make?

Akshay :

Referred to a lot of sources and started discussing answer writing questions online, which was not productive for me.

Interviewer:

Your last words of wisdom for UPSC aspirants?

Akshay :

- Don't be a disappointment when you fail , be dedicated to your goal.
- Be Loyal to yourself. Don't make fool of yourself
- Your dedication and hard work will bring the result.
- Do your preparation with Concise study material and with proper guidance.
- You should have proper factual knowledge.
- Revision is the key.
- Keep your target clear.
- Be honest.
- Have patience.
- Be confident in yourselves.
- Exam is very risky please have plan B with yourself
- Never give up hope. Believe in yourself. Be honest to yourself. Go through previous year papers and get an idea what the exam expects from you. Once you've understood the demand of this exam, then definitely you'll succeed.

## Economy

## How Agriculture Sector Performed in 2019-20?

#UPSC #IAS



by Ankit Agrawal

(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3||Economy || Agriculture || Agricultural Production & Productivity

### Title

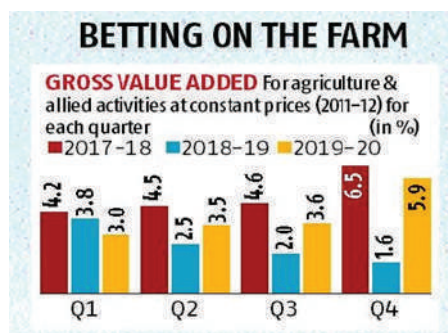
How Agriculture Sector performed in 2019-20? At 5.9% Agriculture is the only bright spot of economy

### Why in news?

Agriculture Remains Bright Spot with the Sector Growing at 5.9 percent. The government released the GDP data for the fourth quarter of 2019-2020. The data showed the growth rate of the economy at 3.1 % in January-March. The GDP growth in **2019-20 was 3.1%**

### Growth at current prices:

- The growth at current prices was expected to be around 13% in same period, which translates into an inflationary impact of around 7.1 per cent.

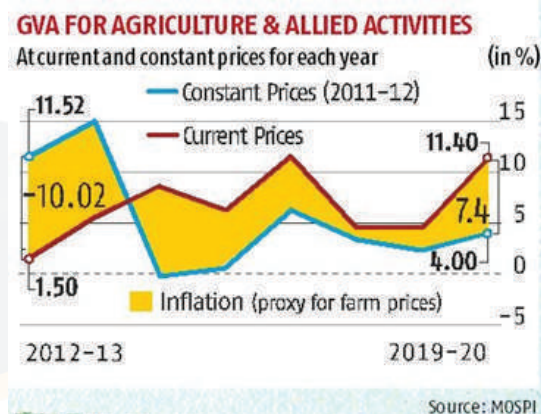


### Why this is important?

- The difference between agriculture GVA in current and constant prices, which according to some experts gives a broad idea of how farmers' incomes are moving.

### Full financial year (2019-20) growth

- For the full financial year (2019-20), agriculture and allied activities GVA was pegged at **4 per cent, which was near the long-term trend for the sector,**
- While growth at current prices during the same period was estimated at **11.4 per cent,** meaning an inflationary impact of **7.4 per cent.**



### Reason for the growth

- In 2019-20 financial year, one big factor that pushed up farm growth was the superlative performance of the southwest monsoon.
- Monsoon rains in 2019, was **110 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA)**, which was the best in last 25 years.
- The last time India received rainfall more than 2019 was in 1994, when the actual rainfall in the country was 110% above average rainfall because of the good rains,
- India total food grains production that includes both kharif and rabi is projected to be at a record 292 million tonnes, Which is **2.36% more than 2018-19.**

### Has it benefitted the farmers?

- Although the prices of agricultural products have increased.
- But all of that might not translate into larger incomes for farmers, because when the produce reached the market, prices of several crops had crashed.
- Also the data relates to pre-Covid lockdown period.
- Hence it does not reflect the real picture of distress which unfolded from April onwards in the sector

### Upcoming scenario of agriculture

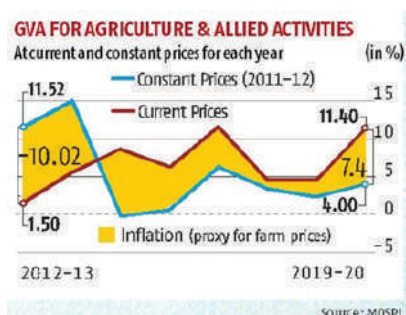
- The next data will be of huge importance as many believe Agriculture might be the only sector that may contribute to the growth in GDP in the Financial year.
- It will depend on several factors like Monsoon, the availability of labourers in states like Haryana and Punjab, and whether the restaurants and hotels open quickly.
- The onus is now on the government is to make a strong plan so that the resurgent Agriculture sector softens the blows to the Indian economy.

### Impact due to lockdown amid Pandemic Covid-19:

- The impact of the Covid lockdown will be felt in the first quarter of 2020-21, data for which will be out after a few months.
- The impact will be even more pronounced as farmers' income has started showing some semblance of improvement in 2019-20 after years of remaining low, particularly in non-crop sector such as milk, meat and also eggs.

### Rainfall effect on agriculture:

- The last time India received rainfall more than 2019 was in 1994, when the actual rainfall in the country was 110 per cent above average rainfall during the June to September southwest monsoon season.
- Because of the good rains, which incidentally picked up pace after the first month, India total food grains production that includes both **kharif and rabi is projected to be at a record 292 million tonnes, which is 2.36 per cent more than 2018-19.**



### Additional info:

- **Gross Value Added (GVA)** - Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of total output and income in the economy. It provides the rupee value for the amount of goods and services produced in an economy after

deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials that have gone into the production of those goods and services.

- It also gives **sector-specific picture** like what is the growth in an area, industry or sector of an economy.
- At the macro level, from national accounting perspective, GVA is the sum of a country's GDP and net of subsidies and taxes in the economy.

### Mains oriented question:

Government initiative for "Atmanirbhar bharat" will be only executed well when all the sectors of economy is strong to perform especially agricultural sector. Government need to bring out new reforms and turn out the agriculture sector as agripreneurs.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)



## India slaps anti-dumping duty on steel from China, Vietnam, Korea

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Industries || Industrial Policy

### Title

India slaps anti-dumping duty on steel from China, Vietnam & Korea,

### Why in news?

India slaps anti-dumping duty on certain steel imports from China, South Korea, Vietnam. India on Tuesday slapped definitive anti-dumping duty on certain steel products imported from China, South Korea and Vietnam after a probe found that these items caused injury to domestic producers

### Anti-dumping duty

#### ➤ What is Dumping?

- If a company exports a product at a price lower than the price is normally charged on its own home market, it is said to be "dumping" the product.

#### ➤ What is anti-dumping duty?

- It imposes a levy by importing countries in order to counter the dumping of products and save the domestic market.

#### ➤ GATT (Article 6) allows countries to take action against dumping.

- In order to impose this duty, the government has to be able to show that dumping is taking place, calculate the extent of dumping and show that the dumping is causing injury.
- The duty is imposed only after a thorough investigation by a quasi-judicial body, such as DGTR, in India.

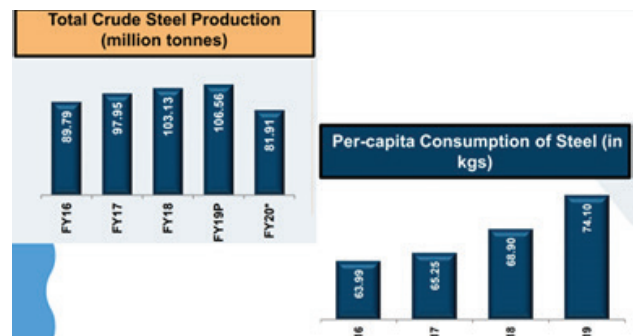
### Current context

- India slapped definitive anti-dumping duty on certain steel products imported from China, South Korea and Vietnam,

- After a probe found that these items caused injury to domestic producers.

### Which type of steel products?

- Flat rolled products of steel coated with alloy of aluminium and zinc was exported from these countries below their normal value, Resulting in dumping and causing injury to domestic producers.
- Provisional anti-dumping duty was already imposed on the product in October 2019. But it expired in April this year



### How much is the duty?

- The rate of duty imposed varies from country to country and from exporter to exporter.
- The duty imposed is in the range of USD 13.07 per tonne to USD 173.1 per tonne.
- For example- Highest rate applicable on exports from China at \$128.9 per tonne.
- The definitive duty imposed last week is applicable for 5 years starting from last October.

### Why was the duty imposed?

- The duty was imposed after the **Commerce Ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), in its probe, concluded that**
- The product was exported to India by China, Vietnam and Korea below its associated normal value, which resulted in dumping and in turn impacting domestic players.

### Impact on domestic industry

- While low cost imports edge out competing local producers from the market,
- They enable those industries using these imports as raw materials to become competitive.
- So far, India has initiated maximum anti-dumping cases against "below-cost" imports from China.

**Mains oriented question**

While low cost imports edge out competing local producers from the market, they enable those industries using these imports as raw materials to become competitive. Explain.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Government to launch Biggest LIC IPO

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Economic Reforms || Disinvestment

## Title

Government to launch biggest LIC IPO - Know all about it

## Why in news?

The central government has started the process to launch the initial public offer (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) within this year. The initial public offer (IPO) is expected to be the biggest in the Indian capital markets given the size and scale of LIC, the country's oldest and largest life insurer.

## What is initial public offering (IPO)?

- It is the process by which a company can go public by sale of its stocks to general public.
- It is when the company decides to be listed on an exchange and hence goes public

## How does it help a company?

- An IPO is a big step for a company.
- It provides the company with **access to raising a lot of money**.
- This gives the company a **greater ability to grow and expand**.
- The company which offers its shares, known as an 'issuer', does so with the help of merchant bankers. (Underwriters)
- After IPO, the company's shares are traded in an open market.

## About LIC IPO

- The government has started the process to **launch the initial public offer (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) within this year**.
- The IPO is expected to be the biggest in the Indian capital markets given the size and scale of LIC, the country's oldest and largest life insurer.

- Those shares can be **further sold by investors through secondary market trading**.  
The finance ministry last week invited bids
- From transaction advisors, including consulting firms, investment bankers, and financial institutions, for assisting the government in the preparatory processes leading to the IPO.

## Criteria for choosing transaction advisor

- The government has sought to **appoint to two pre-IPO transaction advisors**.
- They should have **successfully managed** at least one transaction of IPO of a size of at least Rs 5,000 crore, or a capital market transaction of at least Rs 15,000 crore.

## Background of disinvestment roadmap

- In the Budget 2020-21, the government had announced plans for IPO of LIC and a proposal to sell the government's equity in the stressed **IDBI Bank to private, retail and institutional investors through the stock exchange**.
- The government expects to raise **Rs 90,000 crore through stake sale in LIC and IDBI Bank**, and another Rs 1.2 lakh crore through other **disinvestments**.
- The government had also earlier listed the shares of General Insurance Corporation and New India Assurance through IPOs three years ago.

## Benefits through IPO Launch

- An IPO will certainly bring in transparency into affairs of LIC since it will be required to inform financial numbers on time to the **stock exchanges**.
- LIC's investment in various **equity and bond instruments** will come under greater scrutiny after its lists on the exchanges.

## Government's overall disinvestment roadmap

- In the Budget 2020-21, the finance ministry had announced plans for IPO of LIC.
- The government expects to raise Rs 90,000 crore through stake sale in LIC, and another Rs 1.2 lakh crore through other disinvestments.

## Mains oriented question

The IPO is expected to be the biggest in the Indian capital markets given the size and scale of LIC. Explain.





(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# How India can become Manufacturing Hub?



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Introduction to Economics || Factors of Production

## Title

How India can become Global Manufacturing Hub?  
Why India's share is poor in global trade?

## Why in news?

Indian manufacturing sector has positive elements like **"favourable demographic dividends"** for the next 2-3 decades. The cost of manpower is relatively low as compared to other countries. There are responsible business houses operating with credibility and professionalism. The country has a democratized polity vis-à-vis the rule of law and a strong consumerism intake ability of the domestic market. Thus, has lot of potential.

## How far an average Indian is from an average Chinese or American?

- This shows how far an average Indian is from an average Chinese or American.
- That is why economists repeat that India has to grow rapidly for several decades at a stretch if it wants the average level of lifestyle to reach anywhere close to the developed world.
- For this, we continuously need to increase our manufacturing sector.



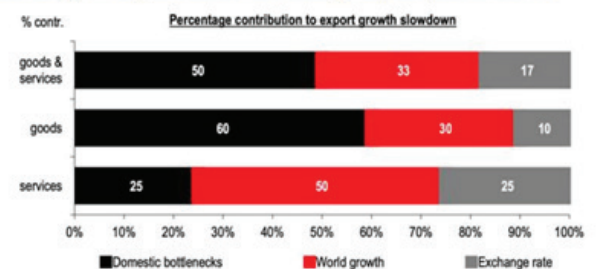
## India's dependence on china

- Contrary to perception, India imports a lot of intermediate goods from China, and stopping that trade will affect our ability to produce finished goods.
- There are sectors that **are import-dependent such as automobile, pharmaceuticals, electronics, telecommunications, etc.**
- Thus move towards boycotting these goods could be counter-productive, impacting the overall competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing sector and undermining our competitiveness to export.
- But, the path to overcoming our dependence on Chinese goods — or for that matter, imports of any other country, Requires Indian policymakers and businesses to put in real hard work and not resort to lazy solutions such as banning trade or raising tariff barriers.

## Reason for India's poor share in global trade?

- The first thing to understand is that India's poor share in global trade, especially on goods, is a reflection of our acute lack of competitiveness.
- This is the harsh truth but far too often, instead of accepting this reality, policymakers have blamed India's stagnant exports performance on weak global demand.

**Chart 7: For all exports combined, domestic bottlenecks explain half of the slowdown, weak world growth explain a third and the stronger rupee explain under 20%**



## What are domestic bottlenecks?

- Poor infrastructure, Lack of reliable electricity, Logistical delays, Regulatory hurdles, Problems in enforcing contracts etc.

## How to reduce the cost of manufacturing?

### Firstly

- We need to be more sector-specific and Focus on factors of production that can make a meaningful difference. For example, India's desire to revive Trade negotiations (bilateral, multilateral and pluri-lateral) to lower tariffs that India's exports face abroad can boost India's exports in textiles and

engineering goods”.

- Towards fine-tuning a sector-specific strategy to boost exports,
- The government can just revisit the advice rendered by its Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian in the latest Economic Survey released this year.
- India must not harbor “misplaced insecurity on the trade front”
- India has gained from trade agreements: a **0.7% increase per year in trade surplus** with partner countries for manufactured products and **2.3% per year for total merchandise**.

### Secondly

- The current environment for international trade presents India an unprecedented opportunity to chart a China-like, labor-intensive, export trajectory.
- Thereby create unparalleled job opportunities for our burgeoning youth.
- According to the Survey, by integrating “Assemble in India for the world” into Make in India, “India can create 4 crore well-paid jobs by 2025 and 8 crore by 2030”.
- The Survey singled out China as a model for India to emulate. “China’s remarkable export performance vis-à-vis India is driven primarily by deliberate specialization at large scale in labor-intensive activities,
- Especially ‘network products’, where production occurs across Global Value Chains (GVCs) operated by multi-national corporations”

### Mains oriented question

How India can become Global Manufacturing Hub?  
Why India's share is poor in global trade?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes



## Why Petrol & Diesel prices are on rise?

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Structure of the Indian Economy || Natural Resources

### Title

China's Century of Humiliation, Historical reasons behind China's aggressive foreign policy

### Why in news?

Petrol and diesel prices have been rising sharply for the past few days in India in the wake of a sharp rebound in international crude oil prices and weak rupee-dollar exchange rate. In the past four days, the price of petrol has increased by approximately Rs 2.14 per litre while diesel rate has increased by Rs 2.23. In coming months, petrol and diesel rates may rise further as oil companies attempt to recover losses another reason behind the hike is a strong recovery in global crude oil prices over the past few days, albeit a recent fall due to oversupply fears.



### Price rise

- In the national capital, **petrol price has risen by Rs 8.50 during the past 17 days to Rs 79.76 per litre**
- While diesel has touched a record high of Rs 79.40, up by Rs 9.90

### A record increase

- This increase in rates since June 7 is the highest for any fortnight since fuel pricing was deregulated in April 2002.
- According to the available pricing data, the maximum that rates have increased in any fortnight was Rs 4-5 per litre

### What is leading to the recent rise in fuel prices?

- Petrol and diesel prices depend on some key factors, the primary factor being the prices of global crude oil.
- Now, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns in various parts of the world, the demand for crude oil had crashed sharply earlier this year, which led to a fall in the global oil prices
- But now the situation has improved considerably in the global market and oil prices are slowly inching back to pre-COVID levels.
- Apart from **global crude oil prices, the rupee-dollar exchange rate the excise duty levied by the central government Value added tax (VAT) by state government**

### Taxes levied on petrol and diesel?

- Taxes make up for nearly two-thirds of the retail selling price.
- As much as **Rs 50.69 per litre, in petrol price in Delhi is due to taxes – Rs 32.98 is the central excise duty and Rs 17.71 is local sales tax or VAT.**
- In diesel, out of the total **tax incidence of Rs 49.43 per litre, Rs 31.83** is by way of central excise and Rs 17.60 is VAT.
- The government on **March 14 hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 3 per litre each.**
- Then again on May 5 by a record Rs 10 per litre in case of petrol and Rs 13 on diesel.

### Current global oil market situation?

- The global market scenario has changed over the past couple of months.
- With the easing of global lockdowns and reopening of major economies in Europe and the US, the oil demand is slowly recovering.
- Separately, the world's key oil producers earlier this month also extended their record production cut deal till July.
- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Russia and allies** — collectively known as **OPEC+ Agreed to extend a production cut of nearly 10 million barrels of oil a day** through the end of July hoping to boost energy prices

### What revenue does it provide to the government?

- Roughly, every rupee hike in excise duty is expected to yield Rs 13,000-14,000 crore annually.
- This hike is expected to garner Rs 1.6 lakh crore additional revenue.

**Mains oriented question**

It may be noted that international crude oil prices and rupee-dollar exchange rates are crucial factors used by PSU oil firms to determine daily prices. The recent rise in global oil prices coupled means India will have to spend more to procure oil. Explain.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

## Why India's Fiscal Deficit is at 4.6% in FY20?

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Public Finance || Fiscal Federalism

### Title

What is Fiscal Deficit? India's Fiscal Deficit widens to 4.6% of GDP in 2019-20, what does it mean?

### Why in news?

The country's fiscal deficit widened to 4.6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product in 2019-20 mainly on account of poor revenue realisation, according to official data. The deficit, which signifies the gap between government revenue and expenditure, is higher than the revised estimate of 3.8 per cent for the fiscal.

### What is the fiscal deficit?

- The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is called a fiscal deficit.
- The government had seen its fiscal position deteriorate even before the Covid-19 crisis hit the economy and government finances.
- The government's fiscal deficit of **2019-20 settled at Rs 9.36 lakh crore, or 122% of its revised target of Rs 7.67 lakh crore.**

**Fiscal Deficit Breaches FY20 Revised Estimate**  
Actuals (In Rs. Crore)



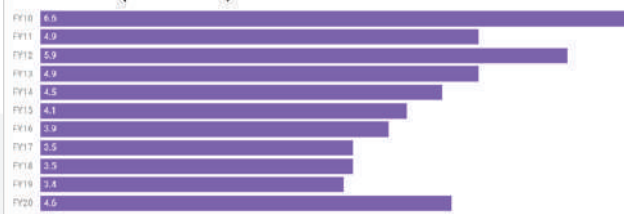
### Fiscal deficit as a % of GDP:

- The government's fiscal position in the year gone by was complicated further by economic growth

which was much lower than projected.

- National Income data released by the government pegged nominal gross domestic product at Rs 203.40 lakh crore.
- As such, the fiscal deficit as a % of GDP settled at **4.6% in FY20.**
- This is the highest in seven years.

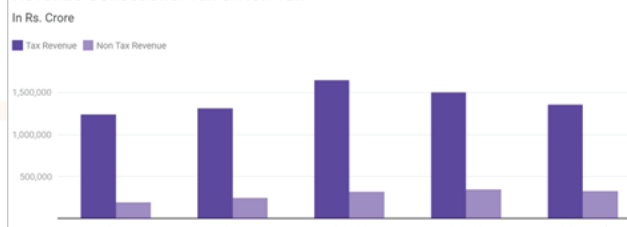
**Fiscal Deficit (As % of GDP)**



### Revenue shortfall:

- The government's revenue for the fiscal ended March **31 was Rs 16.82 lakh crore**, which was just **91%** of the full year's target.
- The government's tax collection was **Rs 13.56 lakh crore or 90%** of the target.
- Overall non-tax revenue was **Rs 3.26 lakh crore, or 94%** of the revised target.

**Revenue Collections: Tax & Non Tax**

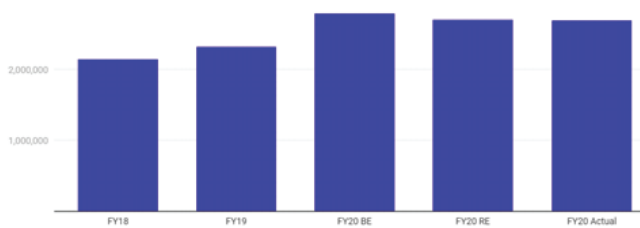


### Expenditure Trends:

- Fears of a shortfall in revenue had prompted the government to tighten spending.
- However, much of that came towards the second half of the year and had limited impact.
- The government had to step up spending once again as the Covid crisis hit the economy.
- For the full year, expenditure stood at **Rs 26.86 lakh crore, 99.5%** of the revised target.
- Capital expenditure stood at **Rs 3.4 lakh crore or 97%** of target.
- Revenue expenditure stood at **133%** of the revised estimate.



## Expenditure Trends



## Notes

## FY21 fiscal deficit?

- For the ongoing fiscal, fiscal deficit as on April-end was **2.79 lakh crore** or **35%** of the budgeted target of **Rs 7.96 lakh crore**.
- India's fiscal deficit for the ongoing fiscal is estimated to double to around 6.7-7.0% of GDP, from the budgeted level of **3.5% of GDP**.

## The increase in the fiscal deficit:

- The increase in the fiscal deficit has been mainly on account of shortfall in revenue collection during 2019-20. The revenue receipts during the year worked out to be only 90% of the revised estimate.
- In absolute terms, total receipts of the government were 17.5 lakh crore against the estimate of -19.31 lakh crore.
- The data showed the government's total expenditure was 26.86 lakh crore, lower than -26.98 lakh crore projected earlier.
- The revenue deficit during the fiscal soared to 3.27% of the GDP as against 2.4% in the revised estimates.

## Mains oriented question:

What is Fiscal Deficit? India's Fiscal Deficit widens to 4.6% of GDP in 2019-20, what does it mean?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

# One India, One Agri Market



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Agriculture || Agricultural Market-  
ing

## Title

One India One Agri Market explained, Union Cabinet clears ordinances to kick in agri reforms

## Why in news?

Cabinet approves ordinance for 'One India, One Agriculture Market'. The ordinance will create an ecosystem where farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.

## What happened recently?

- The three legislative reforms, which have failed to see light of the day despite several attempts in the past, include-Laws on promoting barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade in agriculture produce.
- Empowering farmers to engage with **processors, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers and exporters through advance contracts on pre-agreed prices.**
- An amendment to the Essential Commodities Act which removes cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from list of essential commodities.

## Essential Commodities Act (ECA) OF 1955

- The ECA of 1955 has its roots in the Defence of India Rules of 1943, when India was ravaged by famine
- and was facing the effects of World War II. It was a scarcity-era legislation.

- By the mid-1960s, hit by back-to-back droughts, India had to fall back on PL480 imports of wheat from the US and the country was labeled as a "ship to mouth" economy.
- Today, India is the largest exporter of rice in the world and the second-largest producer of both wheat and rice, after China.
- Our granaries are overflowing.
- But our **legal framework is of the 1950s**, which discourages private sector investment in storage, as the ECA can put stock limits on any trader, processor or exporter at the drop of a hat.
- As a result, the country **lacks storage facilities.**
- When farmers bring their produce to the market after the harvest, there is often a glut, and prices plummet.
- All this hurts the farmer. In the lean season, prices start flaring up for the consumers.
- So, both lose out because of the lack of storage facilities.

## Advance pricing/contract farming:

- The legal environment for contract farming, with the assurance of a price to the farmers at the time of sowing, will help them take cropping decisions based on forward prices.
- Normally, our farmers look back at last year's prices and take sowing decisions accordingly.
- The new system will minimise their market risks.

## Allowing farmers to sell to anyone outside the APMC

- Our farmers suffer more in marketing their produce than during the production process.
- APMC markets have become monopsonistic with high intermediation costs.
- The proposed law will open more choices for the farmers and help them in getting better prices.
- By removing barriers **in inter-state trade and facilitating the movement of agri-goods**, the law could lead to better spatial integration of prices.
- This will help farmers of regions with surplus produce to get better prices and consumers of regions with shortages, lower prices.
- Finally, India will have one common market for agri-produce. For e.g.- **West Bengal** can no longer stop the movement of **potatoes to Odisha** — as it was done some time ago.

**Farmer's land will not be at stake**

- In another landmark decision, the government said that Farmer's land will not be at stake in case of any dispute, and the **SDM or district collector will be responsible to settle the disputes related to farmers.**
- Calling today as a historic day for the farm sector, the agriculture minister said that India got independence in 1947 but the country's farmers are freed today.

**Conclusion:**

Barriers exist in free-flow of agricultural produce between various states owing to the prevalence of various APMC legislations enacted by the state governments. The ordinance basically aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition. The ordinance will certainly pave the way for creating 'One India, One Agriculture Market', according to the Agriculture Ministry.

**Mains oriented question:**

'One India, One Agriculture Market' will promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under the state Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations, and this is a historic step in unlocking the vastly regulated agriculture markets in the country. Explain.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Lockdown led Job Losses Gender Gap in Job Losses

by Ankit Agrawal



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Structure of the Indian Economy  
|| Labour & Unemployment

## Title

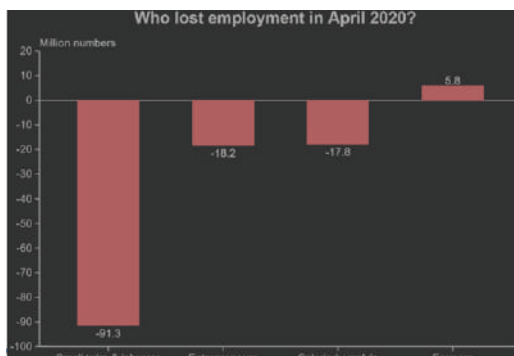
Job Losses in India due to Lockdown, Gender Gap in Job Losses explained,

## Why in news?

India imposed one of the strictest lockdowns in the world to contain the spread of Covid-19. This resulted in a near-complete shutdown of all economic activity in April 2020, with gradual and partial lifting of restrictions throughout the month of May. The obvious effect of this lockdown was a massive increase in unemployment.

## Employment & the job losses:

- According to data from **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**'s **Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS)**,
- The average number of employed persons between March 2019 and March 2020, i.e. in the one year preceding the lockdown, was over **403 million (403,770,566)**.
- In April 2020, this number came down to a little over 282 million (282,203,804), which was a roughly 30 per cent drop.



- In other words, employment in **April 2020 was 70%** of the average in the preceding year.

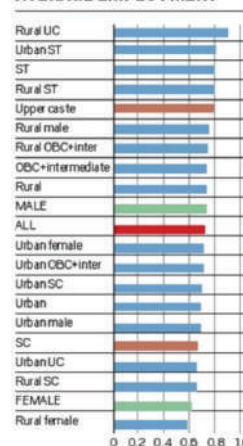
## Gender Gap in job losses:

- Between 2004-5 and 2017-18, while the male-female gaps in educational attainment have narrowed considerably,
- Gaps in labour **force participation have widened**.
- Female labour force participation rate, stubbornly and persistently low in India over decades, has declined precipitously over the last 15 years.
- Will the already widening gender gap in work participation and employment widen further due to the lockdown and recession?
- Are the women who are already in the labour force more vulnerable to job losses compared to men?
- Are the **socioeconomically disadvantaged** caste groups more vulnerable compared to the upper castes?
- More generally, are **the effects of the pandemic induced lockdown neutral** with respect to social identity, or Are the outcomes worse for groups that are already disadvantaged?

## What study reveals?

- Women who were employed in the pre-lockdown phase were 23.5 percentage points less likely to be employed in the post-lockdown phase compared to men who were employed in the pre-lockdown phase.
- Male heads of household were **11.3 percentage points more likely to be employed in post-lockdown phase**, compared to female heads of household who were employed in the pre-lockdown phase.

APRIL 2020 EMPLOYMENT  
/PREVIOUS YEAR'S  
AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT





- The study reveals that there are gender and caste disparities in the early lockdown-induced job losses.
- Women have suffered relatively more than men (rural women more than urban women).
- Rural women's employment has suffered the maximum relative loss.
- The caste differences are smaller than the gender differences,
- But the lockdown affected employment of the SC-ST/OBC groups relatively more adversely compared to the **higher ranked group of castes**.

### Risky, hazardous and stigmatized jobs:

- While **women and Dalits have suffered disproportionately more job losses**, Risky, hazardous and stigmatized jobs are exclusively their preserve.
- All frontline health workers (ASHA, or Accredited Social Health Activists) are women; Manual scavengers are exclusively Dalit.
- Thus, for several women and Dalits, The choice seems to be between unemployment and jobs that put them at risk of disease and infection and make them targets of vicious stigma.

### Future assumptions:

- Globally, it is expected that in the Covid-19 pandemic, women are likely to be more vulnerable to losing their jobs compared to men.
- A research note from **Citibank estimates that there are 220 million women** employed in sectors that are potentially vulnerable to job cuts: of the **44 million workers** in vulnerable sectors globally, 31 million women face potential job cuts, compared to **13 million men**.

### Conclusion:

Lockdown was the most important and effective step taken by the government to stop the spread of Covid-19 virus but what was most affected by the lockdown is the economy of the country which also brought job losses and job scarcity in the country. Daily wages workers are affected the most but every sector is affected somewhat. Where joblessness has raised the meter, also revealed the truth of the society where still women and lower caste are the one mostly affected, it is high time for the nation to stand strong against just practice and no the women and lower

caste people no less in comparison to other, the time there will be no discrimination in the country on the basis of caste and gender will be the time when country will be at the highest peak of the world in development and growth.

### Mains oriented question:

The study reveals that there are gender and caste disparities in the early lockdown-induced job losses. Explain why?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

# RBI stops 7.75% bonds know all about it

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Banking & Financial Sector || RBI

## Title

RBI stops 7.75% bonds, what prompted the stoppage of RBI 7.75% bonds?

## Why in news?

After the cut in deposit rates by the banks and a cut in small savings rate by the government over the last couple of months, the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday said the Government of India has discontinued 7.75 per cent savings (taxable) bonds, 2018 for subscription with effect from the close of banking business

## New step taken:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a notification last week announcing it was stopping the government of India **7.75% (taxable) bonds**, known as the RBI 7.75% bonds.
- "A surge in demand in this relatively high interest rate instrument due to rate cuts in other government savings products may have prompted the stoppage.
- **The 7.75% bonds** were a relatively costly way of government borrowing," said Nithin Sasikumar, co-founder, Investography, a financial planning firm. "As had happened with a previous instance of discontinuation of these bonds, the government may issue fresh bonds at a lower interest rate

## What are 7.75 percent RBI bonds?

- The **7.75 bonds 2018** were issued with effect from January 10, 2018 and were available for subscription to resident citizens/HUF to invest in a taxable bond.
- While one bond was of Rs 1,000 each, the bonds had no maximum limit for investment.
- The bonds had a 7-year lock-in period from the

date of issue, but it permitted premature encasement to individuals who were 60 years and above.

- Interest on these bonds will be taxable under the **Income-tax Act, 1961**.

## What has happened now?

- The government has withdrawn these bonds with effect and therefore it will not be available for investors to invest.
- This means it is only ceasing fresh issuance and not redeeming those already invested.

## How was the demand for this bond?

- Investment advisors say that while it was mostly used by HNIs to invest,
- The demand for RBI bonds went up significantly over the last couple of months as investors turned risk averse.

## Return on this bond?

- As the 7.75% RBI bonds were taxable instruments, the interest income on it would be taxable at the marginal tax rate.

### Tax slabs under new, optional regime

Total income (Rs)	Simplified, optional tax rate
Up to Rs 2.5 lakh	Nil
From 2,50,001 to 5,00,000	5%
Rs 5,00,001 to 7,50,001	10%
Rs 7,50,001 to 10,00,000	15%
Rs 10,00,001 to 12,50,000	20%
Rs 12,50,001 to 15,00,000	25%

- For those having income of over Rs 5 crore and having interest income from these bonds, the return would be 4.44%.
- For those falling in the tax bracket of 30 per cent, the return from these bonds would stand at 5.4%.
- For those falling in the lowest tax bracket of 10 per cent, the post-tax return would be 6.975%.

	Jan - Mar 2020 quarter	Apr - Jun 2020 quarter	Cut (percentage points)
Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme	8.4	7.6	0.8
Public Provident Fund	7.9	7.1	0.8
5 year National Savings Certificate	7.9	6.8	1.1
5 year Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme	8.6	7.4	1.2
5 year Recurring Deposit	7.2	5.8	1.4
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.6 (will mature in 113 months)	6.9 (will mature in 124 months)	
5 year Monthly Income Scheme	7.6	6.6	1
Post Office Time Deposit			
5 year	7.7	6.7	1
3 year	6.9	5.5	1.4
2 year	6.9	5.5	1.4
1 year	6.9	5.5	1.4
Savings Deposit	4	4	0

### Why the cut in rates?

- The interest rates have been on a decline since the global growth rate projections have been brought down following the spread of coronavirus Pandemic.
- The Reserve Bank of India first announced a 75 basis point cut in repo rate on March 27, 2020 to 4.4% and then again announced a cut in repo rate by 40 basis points to 4% on May 22.
- A cut in repo rates not only reduces the rate at which commercial banks borrow from RBI but also leads to a cut in deposit and lending rates for banks.

### How did it fare against other options?

- As the **7.75 per cent RBI bonds** were taxable instruments, the interest income on it would be taxable at the marginal tax rate.
- For those having income of over Rs 5 crore and having interest income from these bonds, the return would be **4.44 per cent**.
- For those falling in the **tax bracket of 30 per cent**, the return from these bonds would stand at 5.4 per cent, while for those falling in the lowest tax bracket of 10 per cent, the post-tax return would be **6.975 per cent**.
- PPF was cut from **7.9 per cent earlier to 7.1 per cent**, while Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana was brought down to **7.6 per cent from 8.4% earlier**.

### Why the cut in rates?

- The interest rates have been on a decline since the global growth rate projections have been brought down following the spread of coronavirus Pandemic.
- The Reserve Bank of India first announced a 75 basis point cut in repo rate to 4.4 per cent and then again announced a cut in repo rate by 40 basis points to 4 per cent

### Conclusion:

A cut in repo rates not only reduces the rate at which commercial banks borrow from RBI but also leads to a cut in deposit and lending rates for banks. The RBI's move to cut the repo rate has been to push credit growth and demand in the economy in a bid to augur growth in the economy.

### Mains oriented question:

The interest rates have been on a decline since the global growth rate projections have been brought down following the spread of coronavirus Pandemic. Explain in the context with recent steps taken by RBI stops 7.75% bonds.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Is it possible to boycott Chinese products?

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || External Sector || Foreign Trade

## Title

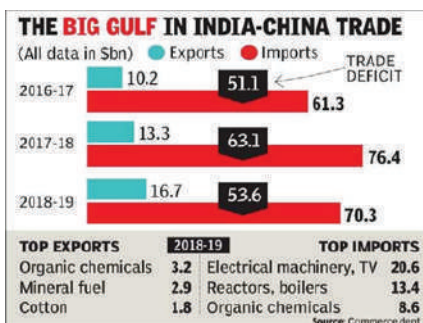
Boycott Chinese Products - Is it really possible for India to completely reject Chinese goods?

## Why in news?

Prime Minister Modi in his address to Nation started 'vocal for local' campaign. He urged the citizens of India to buy and promote local goods and brands. Prime Minister further stated that the global brands were once local but when people started supporting them they became global.

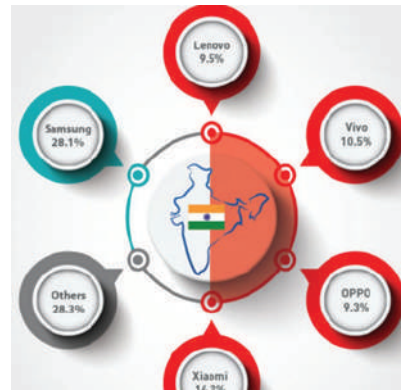
## India as importer:

- India is one of the largest importer of Chinese goods and services.
- India's trade deficit with China is among the largest among two major trading partners.
- India imports from China nearly seven times more than it exports to that region.



- The number of items we import from China is huge: Consumer durables such as electrical devices, mobile phones, plastic objects, cars, solar cells,
- Important medicinal drugs, including tuberculosis and leprosy medications, antibiotics, and many others.
- Chinese smartphone brands currently power over \$8 billion of India's smartphone market by 51%.

- China exported well over 60% of electronic products and components in 2018-19.



## A bit of china in every product:

- In almost every product that we consume there is a little bit of China.
- Ironically, China itself manufactures the laptops and smartphones we use to forward the message to boycott Chinese products.
- The process of modern-day manufacturing is complex and interconnected.

## Interconnected world:

- Every nation can't be segregated and its goods boycotted.
- Take the smartphones: it uses China's labour and land, will have investment and resources from the US or a
- European country, will have innovation from Japan or Korea, and could end up using apps made in India.
- Thus even if we wanted to, Keeping China out of our daily lives is practically impossible.

## Boycott movements by other countries:

- Such consumer boycott movements are hardly new or unique.
- It's been tried out and has failed in the world many times before.
- In the early 1930s, **China itself attempted to boycott all Japanese products in protest against Japanese colonization.**
- In 2003, U.S. consumer forums tried to boycott French goods to protest France's refusal to send troops to Iraq post 9/11.
- **Jamaicans boycotted Trinidad and Tobago goods,** Ghanaians boycotted European goods and so forth. The list continues.



### So what is the alternative?

- The only feasible way to **boycott Chinese products** is to **implement** an import-substitution method and produce alternatives of all products.
- But this is far from ideal at least in the short run.
- If we wished to create alternatives of all the products that we are currently importing from China,
- This will entail a **substantial reallocation** of our resources from efficient to inefficient uses.
- The range of products available to the consumer as a choice would immediately decrease, the quality of the products would worsen and the price levels would be higher.

### Way ahead:

- Therefore the bottom line is that Indian companies need to work harder before they can compete with the Chinese.
- The government also needs to step in by **providing improved services and lowering** the cost at which Indian companies are issued loans.
- India can boycott Chinese products only when the gap between India and China is narrowed.
- If such a boycott is done now, Indian interests may be hurt even more.
- Thus a phase wise approach must be adopted.

### Citizen centric movement:

- After the US government put sanctions on Chinese goods,
- The Xi Jinping administration replied by enforcing sanctions of their own on crops imported from the US, killing the country's soybean market.
- Thus forcing **President Trump into a USD 28 billion** bailout for farmers.

### Mains oriented question:

“Vocal for local” and “Atmanirbhar bharat” the most focused word said by PM addressing the nation during lockdown. The trade deficit between India and China is the largest among the major trading partners and it is a known fact that Chinese products are much cheaper than their Indian counterparts. How far the ‘local for vocal’ campaign will be successful and impact Indian economy for now and future. Can India boycott Chinese product.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Impact of RBI's extension of Loan Moratorium

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Banking & Financial Sector || RBI

## Title

What is Loan Moratorium? Impact of RBI's extension of Loan Moratorium,

## Why in news?

On May 22, the RBI permitted banks and NBFCs to allow a further 3-month moratorium, i.e from June 1 to August 31, 2020, on the payment of instalments in respect of term loans outstanding as on March 31, 2020. Extension in moratorium on term loan instalments has provided a major relief to borrowers and companies facing cash flow problems, resulting from reduction in income or no income due to job losses.

## What is Loan Moratorium?

- Moratorium period refers to the period of time during which you do not have to pay an EMI on the loan taken.
- This period is also known as EMI holiday. Usually, such breaks are offered to help individuals facing temporary financial difficulties to plan their finances better.

## How does moratorium help?

- Extension in moratorium on term loan instalments has provided a major relief to borrowers and companies facing cash flow problems, resulting from reduction in income or no income due to job losses.
- This helps them get some extra time for repayment even as their loan accounts continue to remain standard and their credit score is not adversely affected.
- For leveraged companies facing the cash crunch, the **moratorium provides survival time**.
- The expectation among the regulators and the

banking fraternity is that once the lockdown eases fully in due course, economic activity will come back on track, enabling restoration of income levels of people affected by the sudden stall.

## Who can apply for moratorium of loan?

- Individuals and companies who have availed term loans —such as home loans, car loans, corporate loans and credit card loans —can avail or seek extension of moratorium facility.

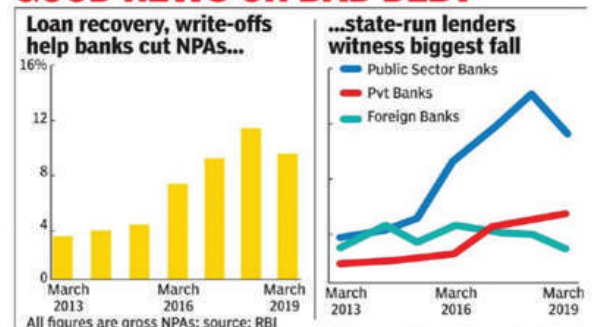
## How many people have taken the moratorium?

- According to data provided by different banks, nearly 30% of their outstanding loans have come under moratorium so far.
- For some banks, this **percentage is almost 70%**. For large lenders like State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank, the percentage of loans **under moratorium is under 30%**.
- For Bandhan Bank, it is as **high as 71%** since it lends primarily to micro units.
- Banks expect more people to opt for moratorium facility as sectors such as aviation, tourism, hospitality, transportation and start-ups have seen not just salary cuts but also layoffs.

## What is the impact on customers?

- Banks are likely to take a hit down the line since this is expected to significantly add to their **non-performing assets (NPAs) from the second half of 2020-21**.
- Banks are unlikely to face problems for the next three months as regulatory relaxations, will provide them a breather till September in recognising NPAs.

## GOOD NEWS ON BAD DEBT



- Post September, NPAs are expected to shoot up from the current level of around Rs 10 lakh crore, when these loans come up for repayments.

- In a report last Thursday, **Fitch Ratings** said **Indian banks are looking at significant asset-quality challenges** for at least the next two years

### Mains oriented question:

Extension in moratorium on term loan instalments has provided a major relief to borrowers and companies facing cash flow problems, resulting from reduction in income or no income due to job losses. Why did the bank take such a decision how it can impact the banking system?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

STUDY IQ

# Privatisation of Indian Space Sector



by Anirudh

(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Economic Reforms || Liberalization & Privatization

## Title

Privatisation of Indian Space Sector, Why ISRO needs urgent & radical reforms?

## Why in news?

Privatisation of Indian Space Sector, ISRO needs urgent & radical reforms.

## About ISRO:

- Indian Space Research Organisation, a proud organisation had started its journey in the year 1962, the same year when America put a man on the moon, we must take pride in the fact that we have come thus far.
- ISRO has a world record of **launching 104 satellites in one go** India can launch satellite at a very cheap rate
- ISRO has its own **space observatory (Astrosat)**
- ISRO has its own **navigational system (NavIC)**
- ISRO discovered **three species of rare bacteria highly** resistant to ultra-violet radiation in the upper stratosphere

## ISRO vs. NASA:

- The budget of **ISRO stands at 1.9 billion dollars against 19 billion dollars of NASA**
- ISRO has a mere **2% share** in the world space industry
- Private players like Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, Elon Musk's SpaceX and start ups from China want a share of the global commercial market, estimated to be worth around \$350 billion

- So it is the need of the hour for the Indian space sector to give chance to the private sector to make

## India need to be as Aatma Nirbhar Bharat:

- In a recent press conference, India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced that the Private sector will be a co-traveller in India's Space journey.
- The announcement was made as a part of **Policy reforms to fast-track Investment** effort towards Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India).

## Space Sector: Boosting Private Participation in Space Activities

- **Finance Minister said the following statement about the step taken-**
- There shall be level playing field provided to private companies in satellites, launches and space-based services.
- **Predictable policy and regulatory environment** to private players will be provided.
- Private sector will be allowed to use **ISRO facilities** and other relevant assets to improve their capacities.
- Future projects for planetary exploration, outer space travel etc. shall also be open for private sector.
- There will be liberal **geo-spatial data policy** for providing remote sensing data to tech-entrepreneurs.

## Avenues for Private Companies in space Sector:

- Launching Facilities
- Satellite designing and fabrication
- Operation of satellites
- Providing satellite communication service
- Other Avenues such as Space Tourism, Cleaning Space Junk

## Launching facilities:

- Today, **ISRO is fully dependent** on two launch vehicles in **the PSLV and GSLV series.**
- While ISRO has innovated and performed inter planetary, deep space exploration missions with these (lesser-power) rockets, India is nowhere near self-reliance in terms of launch capabilities
- In the last 27 years, India has not developed an engine that is more powerful than the Vikas Engine



- India still pays for the French Rocket Ariane V to launch its own satellites that weigh over 4-tons.

### Private Sector in world in launching facilities:

- The **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** (their smallest) can lift twice as much payload as India's most powerful rocket the **GSLV Mark III**.
- **SpaceX most powerful rocket Falcon Heavy** can lift six times as much payload as the Mark III.
- So, if private sector will participate in **existing launching facilities**, then ISRO will have more time to do research and development to increase its capacity

### Satellites Designing and Fabrication:

- ISRO has been **designing and fabricating a wide range** of them that are being used for communication, imaging, weather monitoring, remote-sensing, strategic purposes etc.
- However, this is also a field that can be thrown open to the private sector in a bigger way. Till now very few private companies are there in assembly of satellites
- Private sector along with ISRO can cater the demand of the domestic as well as foreign clients and help in increasing the capabilities of India space sector For example: Boeing

### Operation of Satellites:

- Dr.Mylswamy Annadurai, Retd. Director, U.R. Rao Satellite Centre "Operating satellites require excellent communications, ground stations and other infrastructure. Development of grounds stations, terminals and software are also a big avenue for the private sector to explore. The competition arising from ideas, innovation and talent of the private sector is required to shake the inertia of ISRO"

### Providing Satellite Communication Service::

- These services include leasing transponders for TV broadcasting, broadband services and many other ways of generating income.
- Private Sector can also participate in other programs such as **Village Resource Centre**
- Private players can use the data from the satellite, process it and analyze the data for further use

### Issues with the Privatisation of Space Sector:

- Right now, ISRO thinks they will use the suppliers only as manufacturing or services partners.
  - So all IP is **controlled by ISRO and suppliers just replace ISRO technicians and production facilities**.
- This means most suppliers have no real IP of their own, and just depend on cost plus contracts from ISRO for business.

### Another Issues:

- If something goes wrong in a launch (in which a private player has a major role), who would take responsibility?
- There are liabilities involved and who would pay?
- There are so many commitments involved and our country would be answerable for any damage that may arise.
- Another issue is managing the **vital frequency spectrum**

### Other Countries Model:

- Considering the Indian scenario, replicating the US model of total privatization would be irrelevant.
- In the starting **US government also provided launching facility** for private player
- So like Europe, India can have government funding, along with industry support for the private sector

### Steps to boost Private Investment

- Announcement of entry of private players in space sector is just the starting point
- However to actual turns the word into reality, a lot of steps needs to be done
- Detailed Policy for the private players addressing all the issues related to damage, compensation, spectrum and so on
- Body for the regulation of Space Industry
- Incentives such as tax holiday for new start-ups in the space sector

### Conclusion:

ISRO has done a tremendous job till now and Every Indian is proud of ISRO and its work. Though ISRO has worked with some companies such as Alpha Design, Bellatrix Aerospace but all in outsourcing model. It is

the right moment to move further Private Sector in Space Industry has immense potential if we clear some hurdles "Time has come to unlock the potential"

**Mains oriented question:**

It is the right moment to move further Private Sector in Space Industry has immense potential if we clear some hurdles "Time has come to unlock the potential".



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

STUDY IQ

## Why Moody's downgraded India's rating?

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Structure of the Indian Economy || Other Indices & Reports

### Title

Moody's downgrades India's sovereign rating to Baa3, Know reasons behind it

### Why in news?

In a major setback, Moody's today downgraded India's sovereign credit rating by one notch to 'Baa3', while maintaining its negative outlook, citing risks from sustained low growth, among other reasons. 'Baa3' is the lowest investment-grade rating on Moody's credit rating scale

### About Moody's:

- Moody's Investors Service provides international financial research on bonds issued by Commercial and government entities.
- Moody's, along with Standard & Poor's and Fitch Group, is considered one of the Big Three credit rating agencies

Type	Subsidiary
Industry	Bond credit ratings
Predecessor	Moody's Analyses Publishing Company
Founded	1909; 111 years ago
Headquarters	7 World Trade Center New York City, United States
Number of employees	11,896 <sup>[1]</sup> (2017)
Parent	Moody's Corporation
Website	<a href="http://www.moodys.com/researchandratings/">www.moodys.com/researchandratings/</a>

### The outlook: Negative

- The negative outlook reflects dominant, mutually reinforcing, downside risks from deeper stresses in the economy and financial system that could lead

to a more severe and prolonged erosion in fiscal strength than Moody's currently projects.

### 1st time in 22 years:

- The downgrade by Moody's comes nearly 22 years after it lowered India's rating on June 19, 1998 in the aftermath of the country's nuclear tests.
- Moody's has been historically the **most optimistic about India**.
- Now it is in line with the other two main rating agencies in the world — Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Fitch.

Period	S&P	Fitch	Moody's	Real GDP growth (% y-o-y)*	Gen. Govt. Debt (% of GDP)**	Gen. Fiscal deficit (% of GDP)**
Apr 06	BB+ positive			8.9	74.7	5.5
Aug 06		BBB- stable		8.9	74.7	5.5
Jan 07	BBB- stable			9.0	71.4	4.1
Feb 07	BBB- negative			5.5	72.2	8.5
Mar 10	BBB- stable			6.7	70.6	9.5
Apr 12	BBB- negative			6.2	67.4	7.8
Jun 12		BBB- negative		6.2	67.4	7.8
Jun 13		BBB- stable		5.7	67.1	6.7
Sep 14	BBB- stable			6.4	66.6	6.7
Apr 15			Baa3 positive	7.6	66.6	6.9
Nov 17			Baa2 stable	6.2	66.9	5.9
Nov 18			Baa2 negative	5.5	66.3	6.3

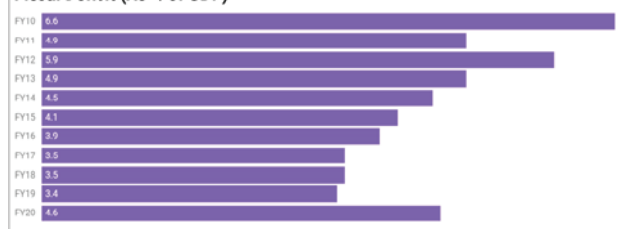
### Reason for the downgrade?

- Weak implementation of economic reforms since 2017.
- Relatively low economic growth over a sustained period.
- A significant deterioration in the fiscal position of governments (central and state).
- And the rising stress in India's financial sector.



- In particular, Moody's has highlighted persistent structural challenges to fast economic growth such as- "weak infrastructure, rigidities in labor, land and product markets, and rising financial sector risks".

### Fiscal Deficit (As % of GDP)



### Is the downgrade because of covid-19 impact?

- No. Moody's was categorical that while this downgrade is taking place "in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic, it was not driven by the impact of the pandemic".
- According to Moody's "the **pandemic amplifies vulnerabilities in India's credit profile** that were present and building prior to the shock, and which motivated the assignment of a negative outlook last year".

### Implications of this downgrade?

- A rating downgrade means that bonds issued by the Indian governments are now "riskier" than before.
- It becomes costlier for the Indian government as well as all Indian companies to raise funds because now the world sees such debt as a riskier proposition.

### Impact on GDP:

- Moody's expects India's GDP to contract **by 4.0% in fiscal 2020 due to the shock from the coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown measures**,
- The rating agency said while the latest rating action is taken in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, it was not driven by the impact of the pandemic.
- "Rather, the pandemic amplifies vulnerabilities in India's credit profile that were present and building prior to the shock, and which motivated the assignment of a negative outlook last year," it said.
- Moody's also revised its FY21 GDP estimate for India to 4% contraction against 0% growth projected earlier, citing shock from the coronavirus pandemic related lockdown measures.
- Followed **by 8.7% growth in fiscal 2021 and closer to 6.0% thereafter**.

### Mains oriented question:

'Baa3' is the lowest investment-grade rating on Moody's credit rating scale. The rating agency said while the latest rating action is taken in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, it was not driven by the impact of the pandemic. Write the answer in context with the rating given by Moody's rating to India.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes



## RIL Jio's 6 deals in 6 weeks Impact on India's Digital Sector

by Anirudh

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3||Economy || Infrastructure|| Communication

### Title

RIL Jio's 6 deals in 6 weeks, Is Indian Digital Sector heading towards monopoly

### Why in news?

While the globe is reeling under the impact of the pandemic and is staring at a long drawn out recession, Jio has been garnering investments with metro-nomic regularity.

### About the recent event:

- Reliance Jio has been one of the most talked-companies since it started its business.
- Even as India's economy faces its worst slowdown in 30 years, and industries are under pressure because of the coronavirus crisis, Jio has attracted a slew of global investors and got them to cut billion-dollar cheques

### Background of recent event?

- To understand Jio's ambition, it is important to know its journey.
- Reliance Jio was launched in September 2016 with a free and unlimited offers.
- Many people thought that Jio will be out of the market when it will announce paid plan

### Journey to the India's largest telecom company:

- After more than 3 quarters of free 4G data, Reliance Jio launched first paid plan in 2017.

- By that time Jio had accumulated 72 million users (out of 108 million users), who paid for Jio prime membership for Rs 99
- Simultaneously Jio declared that Jio would offer the world's cheapest mobile data, with 1GB costing just Rs 11.
- At present, 1GB data costs Rs 18 (\$0.26) on an average.
- And, Jio is the country's largest telco with 388 million subscribers.

### What study reveals?

- Essentially, Jio wanted to own the pipe (data) and everything (products and services) that flows through it.
- They spent four years building an **ecosystem** under Jio.
- Some apps they created in-house, some they acquired. It was all interconnected and part of a larger plan.



- More than 20 applications on Play Store
- One glance through the app stores will reveal that there are more than 20 apps and services currently live under Jio
- **RIL investment began to give fruits:** In 2020, due to lockdown, billions of dollars RIL spent in building the Jio ecosystem and '**locking**' millions of consumers would begin to bear fruit.

### Reliance attracted GLOBAL INVESTORS:

- In the last few weeks, Jio Platforms, which includes RIL's internet services, has attracted \$10.5 billion in investments from **top-tier global Venture Capitalists**, valuing the entity at over \$65 billion.
- Industry insiders told that Reliance is likely to ink "**one or two more deals**" as it looks to divest 20 percent in Jio to make it debt-free by the end of 2020. It could also be looking at an overseas IPO in

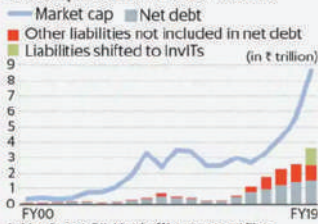
the next 12 to 24 months

### Why is reliance seeking investment?

- The intent here is clearly three-fold:
  - Debt reduction and overall profitability
  - Equity dilution at high valuations
  - Sentiment uptick with global names
- Reliance industries to be debt free by the year end

#### THE BOOM IN DEBT

**Chart 1:** While RIL's liabilities have risen in the past five years, increased debt also amplified shareholder returns.



### Why are GLOBAL INVESTORS interested in Jio?

- Investors, on the other hand, get a strong foothold in one of the largest consumer markets in the world through a **truly diversified ecosystem**.
- They know that Jio is not a digital opportunity alone.
- It is a hybrid or phygital opportunity, **where RIL will marry its prowess in online and offline domains**.
- All their services are now getting tied more closely under Jio.

### Henry Kravis, Co-founder and Co-CEO of KKR

- "Few companies have the potential to transform a country's digital ecosystem in the way that Jio Platforms is doing in India, and potentially worldwide.
- We are investing behind Jio Platforms' impressive momentum, world-class innovation, and strong leadership team, and we view this landmark investment as a strong indicator of KKR's commitment to supporting leading technology companies in India and the Asia-Pacific."
- General Atlantic CEO Bill Ford says, "We have a long track record working alongside founders to scale disruptive businesses like Jio, which is at the forefront of the digital revolution in India. We share

Mukesh's conviction that digital connectivity has the potential to significantly accelerate the economy and drive growth across the country.

### Positive Implication: Benefiting Millions of Small Businesses:

- At its core, Reliance's idea is to create an ecosystem, by **enabling customers to access the local Kirana stores using WhatsApp, combining both offline and online retail**.
- This deal will support the Reliance group's ambitions for JioMart, an internet venture that aims to grant millions of small sellers across India access to a mass market of customers online.
- The ability to connect millions of local businesses with end consumers, and provide them with a seamless online transaction experience could radically alter the country's retail landscape.

### Help in banking and Financial Sector:

- This deal may help in deepening financial inclusion as 400 million users of WhatsApp, may leverage Facebook's Whatsapp pay UPI platform.
- Also, because of Facebook's Libra cryptocurrency service, this deal could be a step further for experimenting crypto based payments and block chain technology on a large scale in India

### Help in developing "Super apps" or "Mega apps":

- In the long run Facebook and Reliance could go on to create more ambitious Chinese-style mega apps, bringing together payments, retail and social media, in the mold of Alibaba and Tencent.

### Negative Implication: Net Neutrality Concerns

- The deal raises questions on net neutrality with the possibility of preferential treatment being granted to Reliance Jio.
- In 2015, Facebook's Free Basics platform was shut down by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) due to net neutrality concerns.
- The deal may also open up the entire WhatsApp consumer base to Reliance, which could allow Jio to have an advantage over other telecom players, by promoting differential access to its services.

### Data Privacy Issues:

- According to experts, data is the new oil. The deal has raised concerns of data privacy as the enormous amounts of data (WhatsApp, now has over 400 million users and Jio has about 390 million telecom subscribers in India) will be collected by these entities.
- The data privacy issues have been highlighted in the past in the **Cambridge Analytica** case
- Further, these concerns are more prominent especially when India still does not have a personal data protection law.

### Disruption in Market Competition:

- Indian startups have shown their concerns about the **difficulty, or inability, to compete with big tech companies.**
- Eventually the competition will turn out to be monopolistic
- Through this deal, JioMart could become a **one-stop-shop for e-commerce, social media consumption, instant messaging, and also digital payments.**

### Mains oriented question:

How Indian Telecom Sector has evolved with the time has set an example for others developing sectors: how to bring reform for proper working, service and establishment to get better matter and attracting crowd on the network? Comment.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Payments Infrastructure Development Fund

by Ankit Agrawal



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Economy || Banking & Financial Sector || RBI

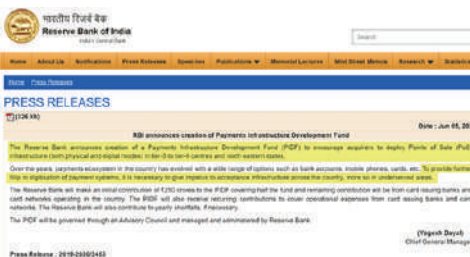
## Title

Payments Infrastructure Development Fund explained, Why RBI has launched PIDF?

## Why in news?

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the creation of a Rs 500-crore Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) to encourage the adoption of 'Points of Sale' machines by businesses in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and in Northeastern states.

## RBI announcement:



- The RBI has created a Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)
- To encourage acquirers to deploy Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure —
- Both physical and digital modes —
- In tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.

Annex 5  
Details of tier-wise classification of centres based on population

(i) Classification of centres (tier-wise)	Population (as per 2011 Census)
Tier 1 -	1,00,000 and above
Tier 2 -	50,000 to 99,999
Tier 3 -	20,000 to 49,999
Tier 4 -	10,000 to 19,999
Tier 5 -	5,000 to 9,999
Tier 6 -	Less than 5000
(ii) Population-group wise classification of centres	
Rural Centre	Population upto 9,999
Semi-urban centre	from 10,000 to 99,999
Urban centre	from 1,00,000 to 9,99,999
Metropolitan centre	10,00,000 and above

## About the fund:

- RBI will make an **initial contribution of 250 crores** to the PIDF covering half the fund.
- Remaining contributions will be from **card issuing banks and card networks** operating in the country.
- The PIDF will also **receive recurring contributions to cover operational expenses** from card issuing banks and card networks.
- The Reserve Bank will also **contribute to yearly shortfalls**, if necessary.
- As of March 2020, according to data from the RBI, There were close to **14 million active PoS devices deployed across the country**.

## Management of the fund

- The PIDF will be governed through an **advisory council** and managed and administered by the Reserve Bank.
- RBI will keep on monitoring the fund

## Evolution of this idea:

- The idea of a PIDF or an **Acceptance Development Fund** was first proposed in March 2016.
- The RBI published a concept paper aimed at expanding the card acceptance infrastructure in the country.
- The paper said, "**The main objective of the ADF program is to subsidise** the cost of acceptance infrastructure such that it enables banks to speed up their merchant acquiring activities and increase penetration in both existing market segments as well as new markets."
- In October 2019, the **RBI finally announced that it would create an Acceptance Development Fund** to increase the penetration of digital payments in specific areas of the country.

## Significance of the fund:

- It would help to cover some of the costs associated with the payments business on a standalone basis, is a loss-making one for banks.
- This move will make the **economy more favourable** and will significantly increase the merchant base accepting digital payments.



- ▶ The PoS machines will allow **businesses to accept e-payments**, hence mitigating the need to deal in cash.
- ▶ The fund is also in line with the measures proposed by the vision document on payment and settlement systems in India 2019-2021.

#### Additional info:

- ▶ **Northeast states** in India is the easternmost region of India representing both a geographic and political administrative division of the country. It comprises eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- ▶ **The point of sale** or point of purchase is the time and place where a retail transaction is completed. At the point of sale, the merchant calculates the amount owed by the customer, indicates that amount, may prepare an invoice for the customer, and indicates the options for the customer to make payment.

#### Mains oriented question:

In comparison to other parts of India Northeast states are still very less developed in all areas, various economic activities have started there including infrastructure projects which will boost the economy of the state and connectivity of the state as well. What are the recent steps taken by the RBI for the development of states of Northeast?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

## Vietnam - EU Trade Deal

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3|| Economy || External Sector|| Foreign Trade

### Title

Vietnam ratifies major trade deal with EU, Has India missed a big opportunity?

### Why in news?

Vietnam ratified a free trade agreement with the European Union on Monday that will cut or eliminate 99% of tariffs on goods traded between the Southeast Asian country and the bloc, and provide Vietnam with a much-needed post coronavirus pandemic boost.



### What happened recently?

- Lawmakers in Vietnam's National Assembly overwhelmingly voted to pass the deal.
- In a rare move and display of transparency, the vote was broadcast live on Vietnamese television.
- It is set to boost the country's economy as it looks to maneuver through the coronavirus crisis.
- The deal, known as the **EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA)**, has been in the works since 2012 but was held up for several years due to a

series of legal hurdles.

- Officials signed off on the deal in Hanoi last June and it was ratified by the European Parliament in February this year.
- The implementation of the deal can't come at a better time for Vietnam when it's on the path of economic recovery after several months of closure due to COVID-19.

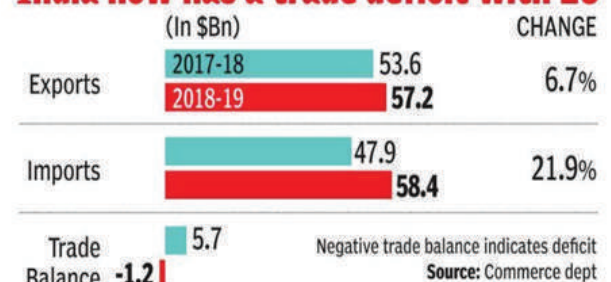
### What's in the deal?

- The EU will lift **85%** of its tariffs on Vietnamese goods and gradually cut the rest of its tariffs over the next seven years.
- Vietnam will lift **49%** of its import duties on EU exports, phasing out the rest over the next 10 years. It will also increase export turnover to the EU by around **20% this year and 44% by 2030**.
- Hanoi also agreed to eliminate all forms of forced labor, to abolish child labor, and to allow workers the right to collective bargaining.



- In May, the World Bank said that the trade agreement could help lift hundreds of thousands of people out of poverty in Vietnam.
- Also boost the country's **GDP by 2.4% by 2030**.
- Singapore is the only other Southeast Asian country to sign a free trade agreement with the EU.

### India now has a trade deficit with EU



**BTIA- Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).**

- Ties between India and EU have hit turbulence in the last few years when New Delhi refused to resume negotiations with Brussels to conclude the free trade agreement, officially known as the **Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)**.
- The talks for BTIA were launched in 2007.
- The Modi government has been insistent on starting fresh talks with the EU.
- Brussels, on the other hand, wanted India to conclude the talks on the **Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) within the BTIA**.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, cancelled all investment treaties with EU member countries as New Delhi came out with a new model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) text.
- But the European Commission had refused to negotiate with India on the new model text.

**Mains oriented question:**

Vietnam ratified a free trade agreement with the European Union, will it impact India in any way? Write in context with India relation with Vietnam.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Banking to be a 'strategic sector'

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3|| Economy || Banking & Financial Sector || Banking Reforms

## Title

Banking to be a Strategic Sector hints CEA Subramanian, Strategic Sector vs. Non-Strategic Sector

## Why in news?

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) economic package, announced in May that the government will classify sectors into strategic and non-strategic. All state-run enterprises in **non-strategic sectors will be privatised**, while the number of state-run entities in strategic sectors will be limited to up to four. All other entities in strategic sectors will be privatised, merged or brought under a holding company.

## What happened recently?

- Mr Subramanian was addressing the media on projections on Indian economy by **ratings agencies Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's (S&P)** via video conferencing. Mr Subramanian also said that the work to identify strategic and non-strategic sectors is still under progress.



- His comments come after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month said that there will be a maximum of four public sector companies in strategic sectors under a new policy that will be formulated by the government for PSEs.

## Strategic VS Non-strategic:

- Earlier, the strategic sectors were defined on the basis of industrial policy.
  - Industrial Policy Resolution, 1948
  - Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956 (IPR 1956)
  - Industrial Policy Statement, 1977
  - Industrial Policy Statement, 1980
  - New Industrial Policy, 1991
- Government classified **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** as 'strategic' and 'non-strategic' on the basis of industrial policy that keeps on changing from time-to-time.
- According to this, the Strategic sector PSUs were:-
  - Arms & Ammunition of defence equipment
  - Defense aircraft & warships
  - Atomic energy
  - Applications of radiation to agriculture, medicine
  - Railways
- All other PSUs other than the strategic sectors fall under Non-strategic Sector including Insurance, mining, Power Distribution Companies, Discoms etc.

## Growth Uncertainty:

- India's actual growth will depend on the timing of economic recovery. It's uncertain if recovery will happen in second half of this year or next year
- The Finance Ministry's working on a large range of growth estimates for this year
- If recovery doesn't happen this year, the economy will basically have a decline in output, and suppose in second half there's a recovery, that may be limited
- India's growth was estimated at **1.5-2%**, according to government's internal calculations

## What government future plan?

- The government will soon frame a new Public Sector Enterprises Policy.
- The new PSE Policy will categorise the sectors as Strategic and Non-Strategic ones.



- ▶ The total number of PSUs in strategic sectors will be at least one and a maximum of four.
- ▶ The rest of the PSUs in non-strategic sectors will be either privatised or merged.

#### NextGen PSBs

Anchor bank	Amalgamating bank(s)	Business size* (₹ lakh crore)	PSB rank by size
Punjab National Bank	Oriental Bank of Commerce United Bank of India	17.94	2nd largest
Canara Bank	Syndicate Bank	15.20	4th largest
Union Bank of India	Andhra Bank Corporation Bank	14.59	5th largest
Indian Bank	Allahabad Bank	8.08	7th largest
SBI	Amalgamated earlier	52.65	The largest
Bank of Baroda	Amalgamated earlier	16.13	3rd largest

\*March 2019 financials

Source: Finance Minister's presentation

#### To strengthen national presence

Bank	Business size* (₹ lakh crore)
Bank of India	9.03
Central Bank of India	4.68

#### To strengthen regional focus

Indian Overseas Bank	3.75
UCO Bank	3.17
Bank of Maharashtra	2.34
Punjab and Sind Bank	1.71



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

### Benefits of the step taken:

- ▶ Operational efficiency gains will reduce their cost of lending
- ▶ Building NextGen Banks
- ▶ Enhanced capacity
- ▶ Strong national presence
- ▶ Global reach

### Biggest concern-jobs:

- ▶ No bank employee will be hurt in **consolidation of PSU** banks, assured government
- ▶ Finance Minister said that there will be no job lost if bank merges and no job has been lost when banks are merge together in past

### How many PSUS in India?

- ▶ There were around 300 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in India as on March 31, 2019.

Sector	Number of PSUs
Power	9 (Including 2 acquired by NTPC)
Petroleum	13 (including 3 under ONGC)
Railways	11
Coal	11 (Including 8 subsidiaries of Coal India Limited)
Telecom	5
Civil Aviation	3
Mines	3

### Mains oriented question:

Is it a good idea to privatise a profit making company? Give suitable reasons for your answer.

Notes

## India becomes **Net Exporter** of Mobile Phones

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3|| Economy || Introduction to Economics || Sectors of Economy

### Title

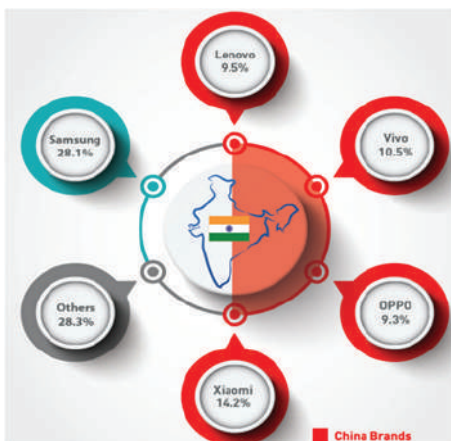
India becomes NET EXPORTER of mobile phones - Can India beat China in Mobile phones sector?

### Why in news?

Among others, the mobile phone industry in India is dominated by Chinese manufacturers. The huge demand for budget phones has made India an arable market for the same.

### What happened recently?

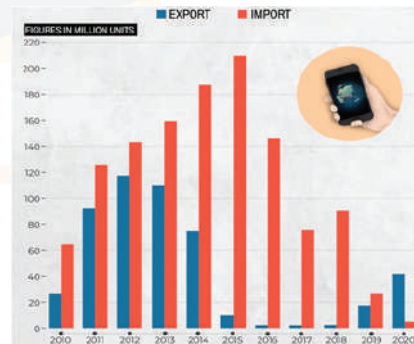
- Recent border tensions in Ladakh between Indian and Chinese troops have once again led to calls for boycotting China-made products in India.
- The mobile phone industry in India is dominated by Chinese manufacturers.
- The huge demand for budget phones has made India an arable market for the same.



- But can we reduce dependency on Chinese goods and be self-sufficient in meeting the domestic demand as well as exporting 100 per cent "Made in India" phones?

### Mobile phone industry in India:

- Among others, the mobile phone industry in India is dominated by Chinese manufacturers. The huge demand for budget phones has made India an arable market for the same.
- So far, India's mobile phone imports were always higher than its exports.
- In the financial year 2019-20, India exported **41.5 million phones** and imported **5.6 million phones** a net export of 36 million units.



- High export of mobile phones doesn't mean they are being produced entirely here.
- According to the **India Cellular and Electronics Association**, mobile phone manufacturing units in the country have grown from just two in 2014 to **268 in 2018**.
- Further data shows that,
- More than being made in India, cell phones are mostly assembled in India

### The assembling hub:

- In 2017, the government launched a phased manufacturing programme under which it incentivises local sourcing of parts.
- Under this, importing products such as chargers, microphones, cameras (for phones), etc. would invite custom duties, but not for the parts required to manufacture them.
- Consequently, importing a full mobile phone would be costlier than importing its parts and assembling them in India.
- Although it has indeed increased local value addition in mobile phone manufacturing in India from

6% in 2016 to 17% in 2018.

- Over 300 components and sub-components are required to manufacture one mobile

### What about Made In India?

- With the same policy, a 100% "Made in India" phone would be "virtually impossible" in such a scenario.
- It would take years of policy reforms for anything beyond **50% of value addition**.
- It took China roughly two decades to clock a value addition of over **60 per cent**.
- Going forward, policy reforms will be helpful, but they will take time.
- We cannot continue hiking custom duties.
- Recent steps of performance-linked incentives and reducing corporate tax rates will invite bigger companies to invest and manufacture in India.
- Once the big players come in, local small manufacturers will also get a boost.

**India's handset industry can reach \$100 billion in exports by 2025: ICEA-EY**

### Recent policy reforms:

- Incentivising import of mobile phone parts has had another effect.
- last year that local value addition might have increased to **17 per cent in 2018 and saved us \$2.5 billion of forex**, but this has also increased imports of mobile components to **\$13.5 billion** since India does not manufacture many high-value parts.
- "Over 300 components and sub-components are required to manufacture one mobile phone. Sourcing them in one location is extremely difficult because we do not depend on China for every part.
- The True Value Addition in India is currently at **12 per cent and the government's** phased manufacturing programme has been helpful. We have made improvements in low-hanging components such as chargers, surface-mount technology, packaging, camera modules, etc."
- The Credit Suisse research said India produced 300 million units of mobile phones in FY19, which is 20 per cent of the global production. However, most of these were low-end phones.
- The report also says that India produced 40 per cent of global low-end phones

### Conclusion:

If targets set by the Indian government are met, by FY24, additional handset manufacturing of nearly 10% each of the global market by value and volume could move to India. If the value-add targets are met as well, India's trade deficit would improve by US\$24 bn (0.7% of then GDP). However, these plans may see some delays the coronavirus could push out timelines, as would perception of policy uncertainty (including at the state level) among global manufacturers. Whether China would be able to reap benefits from these policies would also depend on the times ahead. The government has already put scrutiny over investments from China that has irked Chinese investors.

### Mains oriented question:

It have been noticed that in between the India-China border tussle and Boycott China notion in India has made impact in manufacturing sector of India, the mobile phone industry in India is dominated by Chinese manufacturers. The huge demand for budget phones has made India an arable market for the same. Comment.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)



## India's Forex Reserves cross \$500 billion mark

इसका महत्व क्या है?

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS

(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3|| Economy || Banking & Financial Sector||Forex Market

### Title

Forex Reserve of India crosses \$500 billion mark, Why it is significant?

### Why in news?

The country's foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$500 billion mark for the first time as the central bank absorbed inflows at a time when there was not enough demand for foreign currencies from the oil marketing companies amid a lockdown and collapse in oil prices.

Item	As on June 6, 2020		Week		Variation over		Year	
	₹ Cr.	US\$ Mn.	₹ Cr.	US\$ Mn.	₹ Cr.	US\$ Mn.	₹ Cr.	US\$ Mn.
1 Total Reserves	3192013	501703	50421	8223	189858	23866	655663	78140
1.1 Foreign Currency Assets	2504298	403630	52113	8422	170483	21418	701328	87630
1.2 Gold	244539	32352	-2399	-329	14006	1774	84273	6264
1.3 SDRs	10900	1442	74	19	100	10	460	-7
1.4 Reserve Position in the IMF	32282	4279	832	120	5260	694	9102	520

\* Difference, if any, is due to rounding off

### Forex reserves rising despite the slowdown in the economy:

- The major reason for the rise in forex reserves is the rise in investment in foreign portfolio investors in Indian stocks and **foreign direct investments (FDIs)**.
- Foreign investors had acquired stakes in several Indian companies in the last two months. While the FDI inflow stood at **\$4 billion in March**, it amounted to **\$2.1 billion in April**. FPI's have bought stocks worth over \$2.75 billion in the first week of June. Reliance Industries subsidiary, Jio Platforms, has witnessed a series of foreign investments totaling **Rs 97,000 crore**.

- On the other hand, the **fall in crude oil prices** has brought down the oil import bill, saving precious foreign exchange.
- Similarly, foreign travels have fallen steeply leading to decline in dollar outflows.
- Since the cut in corporate tax rates on September 20,
- The forex reserves have grown by **\$73 billion**.

### Rising forex reserves help in the slowing economy:

- The rising forex reserves give a lot of comfort to the government and the Reserve Bank of India in managing
- India's external and **internal financial issues** at a time when the economic growth is set to contract in 2020-21.
- The foreign exchange reserves to **GDP ratio is around 15%**.
- It's a big cushion in the event of any crisis on the economic front and enough to cover the import bill of the country for a year.
- Reserves will provide a level of confidence to markets that a country can meet its external obligations
- The rising reserves have also helped the rupee to strengthen against the dollar.



### What RBI do with the forex reserves?

- The Reserve Bank functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves, and operates within the overall policy framework agreed upon with the government.
- The RBI allocates the dollars for specific purposes.
- For example, under the **Liberalised Remittances Scheme**, individuals are allowed to remit up to **\$250,000 every year**.
- The RBI uses its **forex kitty** for the orderly movement of the rupee.
- It sells the dollar when the rupee weakens and buys the dollar when the rupee strengthens.



### Where are India's forex reserves kept?

- As much as 64% of the foreign currency reserves are held in securities like Treasury bills of foreign countries, mainly the US.
- **28% is deposited in foreign central banks and 7.4%** is also deposited in commercial banks abroad, according to the RBI data.
- India also **held 653.01 tonnes of gold as of March 2020, with 360.71 tonnes** being held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements.
- While the remaining gold is held domestically.

### Cost Involved In Maintaining Forex Reserves:

- The return on India's forex reserves kept in foreign central banks and commercial banks is negligible, around 1% or even less.
- Several analysts argue for giving greater weightage to return on forex assets than on liquidity.

Rank (a) ↓	Country or region ↓	Foreign exchange reserves (millions of US\$) ↓	Figures as of ↓
1	China <sup>(b)</sup>	3,101,692	May 2020 <sup>(1)</sup>
2	Japan	1,378,239	May 2020 <sup>(2)</sup>
3	Switzerland	848,398 <sup>(c)</sup>	May 2020 <sup>(3)(4)</sup>
4	Russia	565,200	05 June 2020 <sup>(5)</sup>
5	India	501,703	05 June 2020 <sup>(6)(7)</sup>
6	Taiwan <sup>(8)</sup>	484,520	May 2020 <sup>(7)</sup>
7	Saudi Arabia	448,150 <sup>(9)</sup>	April 2020 <sup>(8)</sup>
8	Hong Kong	442,300	May 2020 <sup>(9)</sup>
9	South Korea	407,300	May 2020 <sup>(10)</sup>
10	Brazil	345,706	May 2020 <sup>(11)</sup>

### Mains oriented question:

How Forex reserves rising despite the slowdown in the economy, how it will help Indian economy to revive?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

## Governance & Social Justice

### Manipur's Khudol initiative for LGBTQ Community

by Dr Mahipal Rathore



#### Relevance

GS 2 || Governance & Social Justice || Vulnerable Sections || Sexual Minorities

#### Title

Khudol initiative for LGBTQI Community explained, UN lauds Khudol

#### Why in news?

Khudol is a crowdfunded initiative of Ya\_All, an Imphal-based NGO that had created India's first transgender football team. The initiative entails ensuring food, health and hygiene of the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents.

#### United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth:

- The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth serves as a global advocate for addressing the needs and rights of young people, as well as for bringing the United Nations closer to them



#### Who are LGBTQ community?

- The LGBT community (or LGBTQ community or GLBT community), also referred to as the gay com-

munity, is a loosely defined grouping of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, LGBT organizations, and subcultures, united by a common culture and social movements.

- These communities generally celebrate pride, diversity, individuality, and sexuality.
- LGBT activists and sociologists see LGBT community-building as a counterbalance to heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, sexualism, and conformist pressures that exist in the larger society.
- The term pride or sometimes gay pride is used to express the LGBT community's identity and collective strength; pride parades provide both a prime example of the use and a demonstration of the general meaning of the term.
- The LGBT community is diverse in political affiliation. Not all people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender consider themselves part of the LGBT community.

#### Khudol" initiative:

- "Khudol" initiative was launched by an Imphal-based NGO "Ya\_All".
- Food, health and hygiene requirements of the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents are being ensured through the initiative.
- It is a **crowd funded initiative which has mobilised** a network of 100 volunteers, to fulfil basic needs of around 2,000 families and individuals.
- Khudol has been able to provide around 2000 families and individuals with over 1000 health kits, 1500 condoms, and 6500 sanitary pads.

#### Other Activities of Ya\_all

- The NGO has also been responsible for creating India's first transgender football team.
- The NGO gained an appreciation for organizing mental health workshops as well as for **founding Meitram** which is a first **co-working and networking** space that is owned and run by the queer individuals in India.

#### Manipur and LGBTQ during COVID19

- Manipur has been one of the few states that have been accommodating the transgender community amid the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown and ensured that they have not been put into quarantine centres for men.

- The model of inclusive safe space was created by **Ya\_all that teamed up with Imphal West District Administration** to provide separate rooms and toilets for the transgender persons apart from a ramp for the differently-abled at a quarantine centre in Imphal.

### Dedicated Quarantine centres:

- On May 21, the State's Social Welfare Department opened up two dedicated quarantine centres especially for transgender persons.
- The centres have been ready to receive the transgender people who have been stranded outside Manipur.
- "It was considered prudent to open separate quarantine centres for the transgenders to ensure their emotional security during the current pandemic. Authorities took the decision after they came to know members of the community were facing inconveniences in sharing facilities with male or female inmates.

### Lockdown and Transgender Community in India:

- Source of livelihood disrupted
- Rent, food (most have no ration cards)
- Access to medicines has been impaired –
  - Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) for HIV/AIDS and
  - Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) required for
  - gender transitioning

### Additional info:

- The Supreme Court (SC) decriminalised homosexuality by striking off parts of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which were held violative of Fundamental Rights of LGBTQ Community.
- SC made it clear that Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law and this applies to all classes of citizens thereby restoring 'inclusiveness' of LGBTQ Community.
- Section 377 of the **Indian Penal Code 1860**, a relic of British India, states that "whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal shall be punished."
- This included private consensual sex between adults of same sex.
- After the recent SC judgement, provisions of **Section 377** remain applicable in cases of non-consensual carnal intercourse with adults, all acts of carnal intercourse with minors, and acts of bestiality.

### Mains oriented question:

"It was considered prudent to open separate quarantine centres for the transgenders to ensure their emotional security during the current pandemic" the statement itself says that the emotional security safeguard is still needed to LGBTQ community and they need separate space but why the society is still can't be equal and safe to the community in any environment, why they are helped in a way that they are different from other, thus society still lack acceptance for the community? Comment.

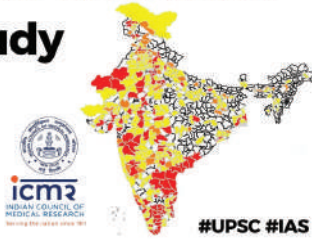


(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

## India to witness Covid-19 peak in mid-November ICMR study

by Anirudh



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2 || Governance & Social Justice || Human Development || Health

### Title

India to witness COVID-19 peak in mid-November: ICMR

### Why in news?

The peak stage of COVID-19 in India has been delayed by the eight-week lockdown and has strengthened public health measures, and it may now arrive around mid-November.

### Details

- The peak stage of COVID-19 pandemic in India has been delayed by the eight-week lockdown along with strengthened public health measures and it may now arrive around mid-November during which there could be a paucity of isolation and ICU beds, and ventilators, according to an ICMR study.
- Lockdown helped bring down the number of infections by 69 to 97% thereby allowing time for the healthcare system to shore up resources and infrastructure.
- In the scenario of intensified public health measures with 60% effectiveness after lockdown, the demand can be met until the first week of November.
- After that, isolation beds could be inadequate for 5.4 months, ICU beds for 4.6 and ventilators for 3.9 months, projections by the health researchers showed. However, this shortfall is estimated to be 83% less than what it could have been without the lockdown and public health measures.
- With the additional capacity which has been built up for testing, treating and isolating patients during the lockdown period, the number of cases at the peak would come down by 70%.

- In terms of COVID-19 mortality, approximately 60% of deaths were prevented and one-third of this mortality prevention is attributed to the reduction in unmet need for critical care as a result of the intervention.
- The overall economic health system cost of this pandemic is estimated to be 6.2% of India's GDP. The ventilators available for COVID beds are 21,494, adding that order of 60,848 more ventilators has been placed.

### UP Govt starts Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana, Impact of COVID 19 on Child Labour

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath has launched 'Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana' to educate child labourers in the state.
- This scheme was launched, on the occasion of the International Child Labour Prohibition Day.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations body that regulates the world of work, launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to bring attention and join efforts to fight against child labour.

### What does the scheme entail?

- The UP government will give monthly financial assistance who are working as child labour in the state
  - Rs 1,000 to boys
  - Rs 1,200 to girls
- If these children pass classes 8, 9 and 10, they will be given an additional amount of Rs 6,000 for clearing each standard.

### Goal

- Children would be given financial assistance to stop them from working as child labourers and instead focus on studies.
- Weave the kids off labour activity and into education.

### Who will benefit?

- A total of 2,000 children from 57 districts (most affected by Child labour) of the state will benefit from the first phase of the scheme.
- The families of these children will also get the benefits of all the schemes of the central and state government.



### Implementation

- Labour Department
- Identification of eligible students will be done by Labour dept, schools and Panchayats.
- Preference will be given to those with a parent with an incurable disease.
- E-tracking facility of beneficiaries.

### Old Scheme

- Cash transfer of **Rs 8000 and scholarship of Rs.100 every month** was being given earlier to the child labourers who joined schools.
- Name of the scheme and amount has been changed.

### COVID19 and Child Labour

- According to ILO, millions of more children risk being pushed into child labour as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Child labour decreased by 94 million since 2000, but that gain is now at risk.
- COVID 19 could lead to the first rise in child labour after 20 years of progress.
- Most vulnerable -those working in the informal economy and migrant workers.
- As the pandemic wreaks havoc on family incomes, without support, many could resort to child labour.
- Children already in child labour may be working longer hours or under worsening conditions.
- More may be forced into the worst forms of labour (hazardous), which causes significant harm to their health and safety.
- Gender inequalities may grow more acute, with girls particularly vulnerable to exploitation in agriculture and domestic work.

### Schools and Child Labour

- Evidence is gradually mounting that child labour is rising as schools close during the pandemic.
- **Temporary school closures are currently affecting more than 1 billion learners in over 130 countries.**
- Even when classes restart, some parents may no longer be able to afford to send their children to school.
- As poverty rises, schools close and the availability of social services decreases, more children are pushed into the workforce.

- As we re-imagine the world post-COVID, we need to make sure that children and their families have the tools they need to weather similar storms in the future.
  - Quality education
  - Social protection services
  - Better economic opportunities

### Migrant Deaths in India during Lockdown, NHRC sends notice to Government

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notices in connection with the reported deaths of some migrant workers on Shramik Special Trains and the shortage of food and water for passengers on those trains to the Union Home Ministry, **the Railway Board and the Bihar and Gujarat governments.**

### Key Points

- From 1 May 2020, the government began Shramik Special trains to **ferry migrant workers back to their home states after being stranded in various parts of the country due to the lockdown caused by Covid-19.**
  - Many of these poor migrants were day-to-day wage workers who lost their jobs and livelihoods when businesses and institutions closed.
  - **They began going back to their villages in the absence of money and employment and deprived of any food, savings, or shelter in large cities.**
- The NHRC took suo motu (on its own) note of media reports about the trains not only starting late but also taking several more days to reach their destinations.
  - **Due to the longer length and lack of provisions for drinking water and food, many migrant labourers lost their lives during their journeys.**
- The Commission observed that if true, the content of the media reports amounts to gross human rights violations.
- **The state has failed to secure poor labourers' lives on board the trains.**
- The NHRC has given notices to the **Bihar and Gujarat Governments Chief Secretaries**, the Railway Board Chairperson and the Union Home Secretary requesting their reports within four weeks.

### Direct Tax Collections drop first time in Two Decades, Impact of slowdown and lockdown on Economy

- ▶ India's direct tax collections fell for the first time in two decades as a broader slowdown and now a pandemic stalled businesses in Asia's third-largest economy.
- ▶ "It is a fact that the net direct tax collection for FY 2019-20 was less than the net direct tax collection for the FY 2018-19.
- ▶ But this fall in the collection of direct taxes is on expected lines and is temporary due to the historic tax reforms undertaken and much higher refunds issued during the FY 2019-20,"
- ▶ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

### Reasons for the decline

- ▶ Reduction in the corporate tax rate for all existing domestic companies.
- ▶ The incentive for new manufacturing domestic companies.
- ▶ Reduction in MAT rate
- ▶ Exemption from income-tax to individuals earning income up to Rs.5 lakh.

### Impact on economy

- ▶ Lower tax collection not only tests the government's ability to contain the fiscal deficit, but it also increases the need to borrow more.

### Dharavi turns the corner with a steep decline in COVID-19 cases

- ▶ The Union Health Ministry on Sunday said the Maharashtra government and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) have been able to effectively bring down the COVID-19 spread.



### The silver lining for Mumbai

- ▶ Mumbai's Dharavi, known as Asia's largest slum, recorded its first coronavirus case on 1 April, sparking fears of a large hotspot in the city. Fast forward

two months, the virus curve in Dharavi, part of Mumbai's G North administrative ward, appears to be flattening.

### Dharavi's case timeline

- ▶ As of 12 June, Dharavi recorded 2,013 coronavirus cases, but its daily growth rate was 1.57 per cent as against the city's 3 per cent and the 5 per cent in other wards such as P North, R South and S wards (all of these comprise Mumbai's north-western regions).
- ▶ There were no deaths recorded between 30 May and 8 June but six deaths have been reported in the last four days, taking the toll to 77.

### Reducing cases and deaths

- ▶ Dharavi is home to about 8.5 lakh people, all living in very close, cramped quarters within a 2.5 square kilometre area.
- ▶ The doubling rate for the slum touched 44 days, much higher than the city's average of about 22 days.

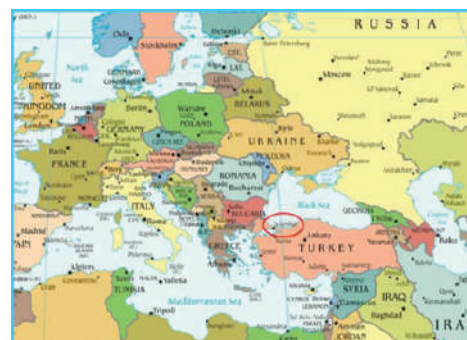
### Turkey wins worldwide praise for the fight against COVID -19

#### Introduction

- ▶ In March and April, it was feared that the death toll would soar turning Turkey into another Italy, which was then the hardest-hit country. Within three months, Turkey has managed to control the outbreak of the pandemic.

### High Testing Rates and Low death Rate

- ▶ Turkey has ended up with roughly the same testing rate as France and a death rate ten times lower than Britain's. Turkey has a low death rate of 2.7 percent, compared to the number of positive cases. When we look at other developed countries, the death rate in the US is 5.3 per cent, Spain is 10.5 percent, Italy is 13.2 percent, Germany is 3.5 percent, the UK is 13.5 percent, France is 17.3 percent.



### Early Preparedness

- "We follow foreign news," Dr Aslansays, "and when we first heard about the virus we were really scared. But Turkey has rallied faster than we thought -much faster than Europe and the United States.

### Turkey LockDown Strategy

- Turkey has defied lockdown orthodoxy. Rather than place the whole economy in a coma, the authorities ordered the young(less than 20) and the elderly(more than 65 years)to stay at home and asked everyone else, aside from those in consumer-facing businesses, to show up for work.
- The biggest cities were placed under a blanket curfew on weekends and holidays, no trips to the coffee shop, no shopping in crowded markets, no communal prayers at the mosque.

### Turkey Strategy Seems To Have Worked Advantages

- The most vulnerable escaped the worst of the pandemic, while those infected, mostly working-age adults, generally recovered. **It is important to note that Turkey population is mostly young and it is an advantage and one of the reasons for the low death.**

### Better Infrastructure Over the past couple of decades

- **Mr Erdogan** and his governments have poured tens of billions of dollars into health care, most recently by building a network of hospitals the size of international airports. The latest of these opened on May 21st, boasting nearly 2,700 beds, about a sixth of them in intensive-care units. But the extra capacity has helped. The wave of COVID-19 infections never came close to overwhelming the health system and medical supplies never ran out.
- Collective efforts by Government and Opposition Erdogan and his impressive health minister, FahrettinKoca, played a major role in the success story.
- Along with them opposition mayors, especially in Istanbul and Ankara, who have raised funds and organised the distribution of masks.

### Way forward

While the country is being seen as a success story, there's still plenty of caution because the story isn't over yet.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

### Notes

## PNB Fraud Case ED brings back jewels worth Rs 1350 crore

by Ankit Agrawal



#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2|| Governance & Social Justice || Other Aspects of Governance || Corruption

### Title

PNB Fraud Case - ED brings back jewels worth Rs 1350 crore,

### Why in news?

In a major development in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has brought back from Hong Kong polished diamonds, pearls and other jewellery worth approximately Rs 1,350 crore.

### PNB Scam:

- The Punjab National Bank Fraud Case relates to fraudulent letter of undertaking worth 11,356.84 crore (US\$ 1.4 billion) issued by the Punjab National Bank at its Brady House branch in Fort, Mumbai; making Punjab National Bank liable for the amount.
- The fraud was allegedly organized by jeweller and designer Nirav Modi.
- Nirav, his wife Ami Modi, brother Nishal Modi and uncle Mehul Choksi, all partners of the firms, M/s Diamond R US, M/s Solar Exports and M/s Stellar Diamonds; along with PNB officials and employees, and directors of Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi's firms have all been named in a chargesheet by the CBI.
- Nirav Modi and his family absconded in early 2018, days before the news of the scam broke in India.
- Nirav Modi is currently in the **United Kingdom and is seeking political asylum** in Britain though the **Indian government has officially asked for his extradition.**

- The Enforcement Directorate has begun attaching assets of the accused and is seeking to immediate confiscation under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance.

### Recent development in the PNB:

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) brought back over 2,300 kg of polished diamonds and pearls
- Worth Rs 1,350 crore of firms belonging to Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi from Hong Kong.
- The 2,340 kg valuables include polished diamonds, pearls and silver jewellery.
- Both the businessmen are being probed by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)
- In connection with an over **\$2 billion alleged bank fraud at a PNB branch in Mumbai.**
- Nirav Modi is in London jail while his uncle Mehul Choksi is hiding in Antigua.
- The ED completed "all legal formalities" with authorities in Hong Kong to bring back these valuables, the agency said.

### Why Hong Kong?

- These valuables, officials said, were moved to Hong Kong from Dubai in early 2018 so that they could be saved from being seized or attached by the ED or any other investigating agency.
- The ED got intelligence inputs on this movement in July that year and since then the sleuths were on its trail.
- These valuables were kept in the godown of a **logistics company in Hong Kong**, the central probe agency said.
- This is the second such action on this case as ED had earlier brought back 33 consignments of valuables from Dubai and Hong Kong.
- They were valued at Rs 137 crore then, the ED said.

### How this happened?

#### FEO Act, 2018:

- The FEO Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on March 12, 2018, and passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha **on July 19 and July 25 respectively.**
- To provide for measures to deter fugitive economic offenders from evading the process of law in India by staying outside the **jurisdiction of Indian courts.**



### Why there was need of such a law?

- To prevent Economic offences relate to fraud, counterfeiting, money-laundering, tax evasion, etc. are already available for prosecuting these offences like
- The Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the **Benami Properties Transactions Act, 1988, and The Companies Act, 2013.**
- In 2017, Finance Ministry released a draft Bill to address cases of high-value economic offenders fleeing the country to avoid prosecution.
- It observed that **existing civil and criminal laws** did not contain specific provisions to deal with such offenders,
- Also the procedures under these laws were time-consuming, led to **roadblocks in investigation and impacted the financial health of banks.**
- Thus a new legal framework was needed to prosecute them.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

### Who is a fugitive economic offender?

- Any individual against whom a warrant for arrest in relation to a scheduled offence has been issued by any court in India, who
  - Has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution; or
  - Being abroad, refuses to return to **India to face criminal prosecution.**
- On June 8, a special PMLA court in Mumbai had allowed confiscation of the attached assets of Nirav Modi, the key accused in this case, under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

### Mains oriented question:

The disintegrating moral fibre of Indian businessmen, bankers and other white-collar professionals, nepotism in internal committees of banks, unnecessary political interventions lead to increased frauds. Comment.

## International Relations

### China's Mouthpiece Warns India over New Cold War By Prashant Dhawan



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

#### Relevance

GS 2|| International Relations || India & its Neighbor || China

#### Title

China's Mouthpiece Warns India over New Cold War

#### Why in news?

Ahead of talks between military commanders of India and China to resolve the standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece on Saturday warned India "not to be fooled" by the United States, which was only concerned in serving its own strategic interest to maintain pressure on China, and did not care about "other countries geopolitical interests".

#### Chinese mouthpiece warns India:

- As US-China tensions escalate over a wide range of issues covering almost every realm, some are predicting that the world's two largest economies are about to enter a new Cold War.
- At this juncture India needs to be careful about being involved in the US-China rivalry
- "Such irrational voices are nothing but misleading, which should not represent the mainstream voices and sway the Indian government's stance.
- Fundamentally speaking, India has little to gain from engaging in a US-China conflict over any topic, with more to lose than gain, which is why the Modi government needs to face the new geopolitical development objectively and rationally," Beijing said.

#### India China faceoff:

- India and China have been locked in a dispute over the heavy military build-up by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) where they have brought in more than 5,000 troops along with the Eastern Ladakh sector.
- The Chinese Army's intent to carry out deeper incursions was checked by the Indian security forces by quick deployment.
- The Chinese have also brought in heavy vehicles with artillery guns and infantry combat vehicles in their rear positions close to the Indian Territory.

#### What global times said?

- Threatening New Delhi of snapping economic ties, Beijing further said, "If in a new Cold War, India leans toward the US or becomes a US pawn attacking China, the economic and trade ties between the two Asian neighbors will suffer a devastating blow.
- And it would be too much for the Indian economy to take such a hit at the current stage."

#### How china can hurt India economically?

- India's trade deficit with China was 391.7 billion yuan (\$56.8 billion) in 2019, an official from China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) said. total bilateral trade was 639.5 billion yuan (about \$93 billion) in 2019, up 1.6 percent year-on-year. China's exports to India stood at 515.6 billion yuan (about \$75 billion), up 2.1 percent, and India's exports to China totalled 123.9 billion yuan (\$18 billion), down 0.2 percent year-on-year
- So even if China stops trade with India, the Indian economy will just end up saving 56 billion U.S dollars
- However the problems can arrive if China stops export of API, manufacturing components or electronic hardware immediately

#### Coronavirus: Pharma to get Rs 10,000 crore boost; 3 'Bulk Drug Parks' to be built

The government has announced it will promote common infrastructure facilities in three 'Bulk Drug Parks' with the financial investment of Rs 3,000 crore in the next five years

#### Why china feeling jittery?

- UK has proposed a D-10 group to keep China out of 5G

- ▶ Trump has announced expansion of G-7 group where India will be a member

### U.S India Security:

- ▶ India plays a vital role in the U.S. vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. Working alongside interagency partners, the Political-Military Affairs (PM) Bureau advances the defense trade relationship and broader security partnership between the United States and India.
- ▶ In 2016, the United States designated India as a Major Defense Partner. Commensurate with this designation, India last year was granted Strategic Trade Authorization tier 1 status, which allows India to receive license-free access to a wide range of military and dual-use technologies that are regulated by the Department of Commerce.
- ▶ US has shown all its support to India in the India-China, but also warned India that the threat is bigger than usual and do not undermine the power of Chinese army statement made by the US said.

### Conclusion:

India and China shares border with each other with many cultural similarities which make both the country very close to each other, India and China has always shared a balanced relationship with economic activities shared by both the side, India is one of the most important investment market for China where as India import a good amount of goods from the China, import export business makes the cordial relation ever more stronger recent border tension has raised many issues between both the countries affecting the import business and peace on the border, both the countries with come forward and solve the dispute as soon as possible for development of each other and peace on the both the side of the border

### Mains oriented question:

It is often seen the India has border issues with its neighborhood countries specially China and Pakistan who is more irresponsible for undone of border management task even after so many years of independence. Comment.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

### Notes

# G7 expansion



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || International Organizations || Miscellaneous

## Title

President Trump proposed expansion of G7, Is it an attempt to united allies against China?

## Why in news?

The USA President has also proposed the expansion of the G7 to be called 'G11'.

## G11

- G11 will be the expansion of the G7 grouping.
  - **G7 or Group of Seven is an intergovernmental economic organization.**
  - It consists of **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**
- G11 will include G7 countries, **India, Australia, South Korea, and Russia.**
- It is being widely perceived as an **"anti-Chinese" platform.**

## Why was G11 initiated?

- **Outdated**
  - Mr. Trump cancelled the G7 summit, originally scheduled for June at Camp David, on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - He has declared this 45-year-old organisation "outdated" because he didn't feel it "properly represents the world".
  - This is a valid assertion, given the realignments of global economic power over the past half-century.
- **Re-inclusion of Russia**
  - Russia 's plan to re-admit is likely to elicit strong reactions from other G7 member states.
  - Russia is looked upon as China's ally.

- **Re-inclusion of Russia**
  - In many years, the G7 was known as the 'G8,' until Russia left the original seven in 1997.
  - After Russia was expelled as a member in 2014 following the latter's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea zone, the Group returned to being called G7.
- **Attempt to Unite Allies Against China**
  - While being the world's largest population and second-biggest economy, **China is not a member of the G7.** Still, per head of population, China has relatively low wealth rates. Like other members of the G7, it is therefore not regarded as a developed economy.
  - G7 extension was thought to be a strategy to unite all conventional allies to counter China's assertive diplomacy.
  - The plan comes amid **unresolved US-China problems that include Taiwan's Hong Kong autonomy, the roots of Covid-19, tensions in the South China Sea, and trade issues.**
- **Global realignments** - The United Kingdom's position after Brexit will weaken its already declining global heft.
- **Italy has slipped behind India in terms of gross domestic product (GDP).**
- But the exclusion of China, the world's second-largest economy, has raised questions about Trump's intentions.

## Benefit for India

- A forum such as the G11 which provides an opportunity to exchange views on issues that are important to India can be of considerable importance.
- In particular, it may provide an opportunity to address the effect of Covid-19 on the global economy with some of the world's most influential leaders.
- The contours of a coordinated response may help to be identified.

## How will China see India's acceptance?

- The question of India's acceptance of any such invitation may be perceived as provoking China at a time when it is making aggressive inroads into the Indian Territory.



- This move, in turn, is seen as partial retaliation for the Indian government's closer embrace of a US establishment, which has been increasingly hostile to China.
- On the contrary, it is precise because of these developments that India should be receptive to the G11 invitation.

### What does India need to do?

- India will have the advantage of conveying the message that no other nation should control foreign policy for India.
- Being seen to be humiliated in Sikkim and Ladakh by China's military muscle-flexing leaves India vulnerable to China's pressure to rule out deeper ties with Japan or Australia.
- Japan and Australia are both part of the 13-year-old Quadrilateral Security Dialog along with the US.
- **However, India is interested in groupings that exclude China, such as the Association for Regional Cooperation (IORA) on the Indian Ocean Rim.**
- But it should not be seen as a precedent-setting step to consider future membership of the G11.

Notes

# Nepal - India Border Tension

1 Indian Killed, 2 Injured

By Prashant  
Dhawan



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbours  
|| Nepal

## Title

Nepal India Border Tensions 1 Indian Killed 2 Injured  
by Nepal Border Police

## Why in news?

One person was killed and two were injured in firing allegedly by the Nepal police on the **Indo-Nepal border in Bihar's Sitamarhi district**.



## India Nepal border incident

- The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Director General (DG) Kumar Rajesh Chandra commented
  - "The incident took place between locals and the armed police force of Nepal... one person was killed, while two were injured in the firing by the Nepal police,"
- Nepal's Additional Inspector General of Police of the Armed Police Force Narayan Babu Thapa said
  - "a group of about 30 Indians got into an altercation with Nepalese security personnel in Narayanpur area, some 75 metres inside Nepalese territory."

## Details

- The deceased has been identified as Vikesh Yadav while the injured, with bullet wounds in their legs, have been identified as Umesh Ram and Uday Thakur.
- The Indian establishment, however, chose to play down the incident, calling it a local issue. "This is a completely local issue with no country-to-country or force-to-force ramifications.
- The issue arose on the spot and the local police from either side are engaged with each other to sort the matter out. Our DIG is also in touch with DIG of Nepal APF and there is no tension on the border.

## Broader implications

- **India Nepal relations have been on a constant downward spiral since the Chinese ambassador to Nepal helped saved the Oli Government.**
- Since Chinese antiprevention in Nepal politics, Nepal has openly said Hong Kong belongs to China and has even supported the recent law China introduced in HK.
- Nepali PM constantly kept saying that most Coronavirus cases are coming from India and even went on to say that the Indian virus is more dangerous than the Chinese virus.
- **Constant verbal attacks on Indian Chief Ministers and the Indian army chief from Nepal.**
- Although we cannot say for certain that the recent border incident where an Indian was killed is an action of the bad relations brewing between India and Nepal. It could very well be a local issue

## Point to note

- However, this incident will further strain the image of Nepal in India.
- Eventually, India will have to consider some options regarding India-Nepal border

## Nepal China border

- The border between China and Nepal is 1,414 kilometres (879 mi) in length
- **Five Fingers of Tibet**

- The Five Fingers of Tibet is a Chinese strategy attributed to Mao Zedong which considers Tibet to be China's right-hand palm, with five fingers on its periphery-Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Arunachal Pradesh.

### Nepal -India (UP) border dispute

- **Susta territory** is an area under territorial dispute currently in **Tribeni Susta, Lumbini Zone, Nepal, and near Nichlaul, Uttar Pradesh, India**. The area under dispute totals over **14,000 hectares (140 km<sup>2</sup>)** that **Nepal claims**.

### The founding father of the People's Republic of China (PRC) - Mao Zedong

- After having inflicted military defeats on China, the imperialist countries forcibly took from her a large number of states tributary to China, as well as a part of her territory.
- **Japan appropriated Korea, Taiwan, the Ryukyu Islands, the Pescadores, and Port Arthur; England took Burma, Bhutan, Nepal, and Hongkong; France seized Annam; even a miserable little country like Portugal took Macao from us.**
- At the same time that they took away part of her territory, the imperialists obliged China to pay enormous indemnities. Thus heavy blows were struck against the vast feudal empire of China.

### Media reports

- New Delhi is evaluating the exact location of the Chinese encroachment in Nepal and its proximity to the Indian border and whether the move was made in connivance with a section of the political leadership in **Kathmandu** or by taking the **KP Sharma Oli** government for a ride.

### Another aspect-The uncertain Nepal politics

- Former PM and Communist Party president **Prachanda** has said that on every front, **KP Oli** has been unsuccessful and he should resign from the post of Prime Minister of Nepal.
- However, **KP Oli** has refused to resign from the post despite the raging internal conflict in the party. After his refusal, **Prachanda** even threatened to divide the ruling Communist Party.

### Power-sharing issue- Pushpa Kamal and Dahal and K.P Oli

Why is it bad for India?

- To stay in power, **K.P Oli** will require support from the Chinese Communist Party. We have earlier seen how the Chinese envoy helped save **K.P Oli's** government a few months ago.
- So if another political crisis emerges it will only increase **K.P Oli's** dependence on China.
- India needs to tread very carefully as its larger national interests could be badly affected if China encroaches more land in Nepal.

### War of words

- **Yogi Adityanath**
  - **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** advised **Nepal** not to repeat the mistake of Tibet.
- **PM Oli**
  - "Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Adityanath has said some things about Nepal.
  - His comments are inappropriate and illegitimate. Someone in the Indian leadership should ask him not to comment on issues that he does not understand. Any comment on Nepal and threatening it will be condemned.

### Points to note

- Nepal PM's statements come during a time when Nepal has approved a new map that claims major territories of India.
- He again stated that **85% of coronavirus** cases in Nepal are coming from India.

### Nepal's support for China

- During all this Nepal suddenly stated that it supports China in the ongoing Hong Kong issue.
- Nepal believes in non-interference in the internal affairs of any country and supports China's efforts to maintain law and order in Hong Kong.
- **Nepal blamed India that it created an artificial river.**
- Nepal's House of Representatives on Saturday unanimously passed a Constitutional amendment revising the map on its coat of arms to include three areas of **Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura**.

### Developments

- **2014**
  - Nepal and India have agreed to set up a boundary working group at the surveyors-general level in order to settle some boundary issues, including **Susta and Kalapani**, and maintain and renovate border pillars.
- **2019**

- Matters of bilateral Boundary issues were discussed in a meeting with Foreign Secretary of India Mr. Vijay Gokhale with Ambassador Mr. Nilamber Acharya.
- EAM S Jaishankar was on a two days visit to Kathmandu.

### The lipu lek pass road

- The LipuLekh pass road was a huge development for India. It not just was a boost for pilgrims but would also help military activities near India -China border



### A question you might be wondering

- Why didn't Nepal release new map right after India released a new map?
- Why did Nepal need the lipu lek road event to suddenly strain relations with India by producing a new map?

### Reason

- Because by then the Chinese involvement in Nepal's politics had deepened a lot.
- Nepal's PM Oli was about to lose his power within the party, but the Chinese envoy jumped in a micro-managed the entire Communist party of Nepal.

### India's reaction to Nepal

- "This artificial enlargement of claims is not based on historical facts or evidence and is not tenable. It is also violative of our current understanding to hold talks on outstanding boundary issues,".

### A strange thing Nepal is doing

- The Kathmandu Times reported that the Nepal government has formed a nine-member team of experts to collect historical facts and evidence related to the country's claim to Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura.

- The report said the team is tasked with finding the original or attested copies of documents related to the Nepal-India border, including the evidence regarding the northwest boundary of the country.

### Plans to make the issue international

- Will India ever give up control over the territory claimed by Nepal?
  - Unlikely and certainly not under any compulsion. Nepali nationalists may like to believe that passing a constitutional amendment, roping in the support of China, or internationalising the issue at the United Nations will force India to back down.
  - But it is doubtful that any realist in Kathmandu, especially Prime Minister Oli, is under the illusion that Delhi will cave into any such demands or coercion.

### What India can do in the larger geopolitical game

- Supporting Mongolia is a step India must take in order to China's increasing influence in Nepal.

### Way forward

- Boundary disputes are common ground for countries that have an ancient history and shared borders, and the India-Nepal border issues one such dispute.
- Thus, the two neighbouring countries should not let the war of maps deteriorate their historical ties.

### Mains model questions

"Boundary disputes have remained the Achilles heel in India's Neighbourhood policy". Discuss the statement in the context of the recent diplomatic tussle between India and Nepal.





## 2 Indian officials Abducted & Tortured in Pakistan

by Dr Mahipal Rathore

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbour || Pakistan

### Title

Indian officials abducted and tortured by Pakistani agency, Is it a violation of Vienna Convention?

### Why in news?

A day after two staffers of the Indian High Commission in Pakistan, who went “missing” for most of Monday and “returned” after India summoned Pakistan’s Acting High Commissioner Syed Haider Shah and issued a demarche, the government on Tuesday again summoned Shah and lodged “a strong protest” on the two officials’ “abduction and torture” by Pakistan’s security agencies for 10 hours.



### The events

- 15 June - Two drivers working with the Indian High Commission in Pakistan went missing.
- Both the drivers belonged to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a central police force, and were on deputation with the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.
- The two had left for work outside the High Commission

- They seemed to have been picked up by Pakistani security agencies and kept in illegal custody for more than 10 hours.
- They were later released by the Police in the evening.
- A FIR (first information report) filed against them said they had been found with fake currency notes.
- **Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry** that claimed the two had been involved in a road accident

### India's official action

- New Delhi had complained to the **Pakistani government after the two went missing. The External Affairs Ministry had summoned the Pakistani envoy.**
- The Charged Affairs of the High Commission of Pakistan, Mr Haider Shah, was summoned and a
- strong protest lodged on the issue.

### Statement made by Ministry of External Affairs

- Two officials of the Indian High Commission were forcibly abducted by Pakistani agencies on 15 June 2020 and kept in illegal custody for more than 10 hours.
- They were released only after strong intervention by the High Commission of India in Islamabad and the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi.

### Vienna Convention on DIPLO CONSULAR RELATIONS

- The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 is an international treaty that defines a framework for consular relations between independent countries.
- The Vienna Convention consists of 79 articles, most of which provide for the operation of consulates; outline the functions of consular agents; and address the privileges and immunities granted to consular officials when posted to a foreign country.
- A few other articles specify consular officials' duties when citizens of their country face difficulties in a foreign nation.
- Of particular interest for the right of individuals is article 36, providing for certain obligations for competent authorities in the case of an arrest or detention of a foreign national, in order to guarantee the inalienable right to counsel and due process through consular notification and effective access to consular protection.

- Vienna Convention on Consular relations contains plethora of articles and provisions, Article 5, Article 23, Article 31, Article 35, and Article 36

### Breaking conventions

These actions by Pakistan not only constitute an egregious violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 as also the 'Code of Conduct for treatment of **Diplomatic / Consular personnel in India and Pakistan Signed in 1992 and reaffirmed by both sides in March 2018**, but are also against all established norms and practices of diplomatic conduct.

### What is diplomatic immunity?

- The protection given under international law to foreign diplomats and their families.
- It was formalised through the **1961 Vienna convention on diplomatic relations (VCDR)**
- The treaty defines a framework for diplomatic relations between independent countries.
- It specifies the privileges of a diplomatic mission that enable diplomats to perform their function without fear of coercion or harassment by the host country.
- This forms the legal basis for diplomatic immunity.
- Its articles are considered a cornerstone of modern international relations.
- As of October 2018, it has been ratified by 192 states

### 'persona non-grata'

- Protection of diplomatic and consular representatives – as well as the security and inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions, their archives, documents and communications – is one of the pillars upon which international relations rests
- Pakistan is responsible for the safety and security of the Indian High Commission, its officials, staff members, their families and properties.

### Increased Surveillance

- Movement of Indian vehicles and staff are always under the observation of Pakistani intelligence agencies.
- Several top Indian diplomats in Pakistan have been aggressively tailed in Islamabad over the last several days and India has protested against the excessive surveillance.
- India cited 13 such instances just in March 2020.

### Additional info

- On May 31, India had expelled two officials of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on charges of spying – the first such move since 2016.
- India and Pakistan downgraded their diplomatic ties in August last year after revocation of special status to **Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370** – both countries recalled their High Commissioners. Their High Commissions are currently led by Deputy High Commissioners.

### Mains oriented question

India and Pakistan downgraded their diplomatic ties in August last year after revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, after that many tension on border has been seen, on the other side China intervention and Pakistan bending towards China has also affected the diplomatic relations of the trio country. What stand should India take to strengthen its diplomatic relations with the neighboring country?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

## In Xi Jinping's effort to make China No. 1, he's forgotten the basics

by Anirudh

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbors || China

### Title

Xi Jinping's Chinese Dream, President Jinping compromised principles to make China no 1

### Why in news?

Beijing perceives the current global economic chaos caused by the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity to restore trade linkages and rebuild international influence. China wants to dominate the world in advance technologies like Quantum Computing, Artificial intelligence and Space by 2025 with its "Made in China Policy". Xi's push for global dominance will face global resistance.

### Concerns shown by America and Europe

- America and Europe have shown serious concerns regarding china's strategic and economic aggression across the world. Few important concerns are mentioned below.
  - China's hunger for the land
  - China a Threat to liberal democratic order
  - No respect for human rights
  - Trade malpractices of china
  - Ever increasing military budget of china

### Land hunger of China

- China has been trying to grab the land in its neighbourhood through its **Coercive Diplomacy** against its small neighbouring countries.
- China grabs the offshore lands and ports of developing countries through **Debt Trap Diplomacy**

### Threat to Liberal Democratic Order

- China encourages authoritarian regimes elsewhere by demonstrating that advanced modernisation can be combined with authoritarian ruling.

- At the same time **Western liberal order is facing backlash** and a crisis of legitimacy as citizens increasingly question its ability to deliver.



RASHTRA DEBATES  
JAN 31 2018

### China: A threat to the liberal democratic order

- The super efficiency of the Chinese state in executing big ticket projects and its ability to take swift decisions persuaded leaders of **Turkey, Poland to Hungary, to praise China's "authoritarian capitalism"**.

### Human Right Violator

- China poses an **"existential threat"** to the international human rights system
- China's approach in dealing with Corona Outbreak, suppressing voices of freedom in Hong Kong and indiscriminant killing of **Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang** province drawn attentions of human right groups

### Trade Malpractices of China

- Condition of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights is very poor in China.
- Intellectual property rights holders face not only a complex and uncertain enforcement environment, but also pressure to transfer intellectual property rights to enterprises in China through a number of government policies and practices.
- China flouts international trade laws of WTO by providing subsidies in high tech manufacturing sector and imposing import ban on foreign goods.

### Ever Increasing Military Budget of China

- In terms of investment in **defence sector China stands second only to USA in the world.**
- China is increasing its military presence in every corner of the world from South China Sea to Indian Ocean
- China with its heavy investment in missile technology, have achieved the capability to reach any of the **NATO allied country.**
- Which is cause of concern for both **USA and EUROPE**

### Europe's Reply

- **Developed economies of Europe have started to cautiously track the economic aggression of China during Covid-19 pandemic.**
- Germany toughened rules for non-EU share purchases or acquisitions of companies that are part of its critical infrastructure, amid growing disquiet about takeovers by Chinese firms.
- UK has decided to reconsider role of Chinese telecom giant Huawei in its ambitious 5G network project

### NATO and Rising Power of China

- In his plan for next ten years, NATO is envisaging more global partners in Asia Pacific to counter the rising power of China.

### Additional info

- **Intellectual property Right:** Intellectual property is a category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect. There are many types of intellectual property, and some countries recognize more than others. The most well-known types are copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets
- **NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 North American and European countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949

### Mains oriented question

Developed countries like USA, UK, Germany, France and Japan should cooperate with India to contain the China before it becomes unstoppable. Comment.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes



## China grants Bangladesh 97% less Tariff Package

By Prashant Dhawan



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbor || Bangladesh

### Title

China grants Bangladesh 97% less Tariff Package

### Why in news?

In a significant show of economic diplomacy in South Asia, China has announced tariff exemption for 97% of exports from Bangladesh. Diplomatic sources of Bangladesh have described the Chinese move as a "major success" in Dhaka-Beijing relationship.

### Bangladesh- China Relation

- Bangladesh-China relations are the bilateral relations of Bangladesh and China.
- Both countries are members of the BCIM Forum (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation).
- According to Chinese government designations, Bangladesh and China are "strategic partnership of cooperation"

### Economic relation

- Both countries agreed to build a "Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center" in Dhaka.
- The amount of foreign trade between Bangladesh and China is about 10 billion dollars.
- Bangladesh imports about 8 billion dollars of goods from China while it exports 2 billion dollar of goods.
- However China has recently waived tariffs of 97% Bangladesh's product. This will reduce the trade deficit between Bangladesh and China

### What happened recently?

- In a bid to woo Bangladesh, China has provided a huge trade boost to the country by announcing tariff exemption for 97% of Bangladeshi Products effective from July.

- with this announcement, a total of 8,256 Bangladeshi Products that would be exempted from tariff.
- Currently, 3095, Bangladeshi products enjoy duty-free access to Chinese market under Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement

### China Bangladesh trade

- The bilateral trade between Bangladesh and China which amounted to \$18 billion in 2019
- Unfortunately Bangladesh has massive trade deficit with China over 14 billion US dollars
- one of the most negative part of trade between both the countries is China is more benefited in comparison to Bangladesh
- In India-Bangladesh trade Bangladesh faces the trade deficit of 8 billion dollars
- in the recent time China has given a great boost to Bangladesh to lower down the trade deficit and they export more to China
- The decision is not taken suddenly but during the Asian-African conference Chinese President announced that China will grant duty free access for the least developed countries (LDC)
- This beneficial market access scheme will be applied only for imports from LDCs that have diplomatic relation with China

### APTA: Asia Pacific Trade Agreement

- This is being done under Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
- the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously known as the Bangkok Agreement and renamed on 2 Nov 2005
- Members are Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka, Mongolia

### Impact on India

- As China has given access for the duty free trade to the LDCs countries India has also done so in the past, in the year 2018 India gave tariff concession on 3,142 items to China and other APTA countries
- It can not worry much to India but the matter of concern for the India is the influence of China on the Bangladesh in the future
- Although APTA tariff concessions to the Bangladesh isn't a huge concern for India, we must be cautious of the huge debt Bangladesh has undertaken from China

### 2019 Bangladesh PM China Visit

- Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to China seemingly succeeded in bolstering ties between the countries.
- During the trip, both sides inked a host of agreements, including two deals to provide loans to the Bangladesh power sector, worth \$1.7 billion (€1.52 billion).

### On growing relation of both the country

- Bangladesh and China turned their relation into a strategic partnership in 2016, and, in recent years, Chinese investment in the South Asian Country has risen rapidly
- As part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Beijing and Dhaka signed deals worth \$21.5 billion covering a raft of power and infrastructure projects. To date, pledged BRI-related investment in Bangladesh stands at around \$38 billion, estimates Standard Chartered, a British bank.

### Bangladesh stand on Present Scenario

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh announced on Friday that 97% of items covering fisheries and leather products would be exempted of Chinese tariffs.**
- Beijing's decision came a month after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Xi Jinping discussed enhancing bilateral relations in the background of the economic hardship triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- "As part of our economic diplomacy, Bangladesh had written to China to exempt our export items from tariffs. In response to this China's State Council Tariff Commission has issued a notification recently.
- Bangladesh is among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and that is why this decision was taken by China",

### Conclusion

In the larger scale if we see that Bangladesh is already stuck in the debt trap of China but if we practically assume then we will notice that Bangladesh has very smartly maintained the relation in all the aspects, the economic relation between both the countries is in win win situation for both the countries. India should not get more concerned but for future it can be not

very sign for India if both the countries go in same relation like today India should bring its ties with Bangladesh more close so it can be more beneficial for Indian Side

### Mains oriented question

Bangladesh-China growing relation many geo-strategic and geo-economic concerns for India. Discuss.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

## What India said about Pakistan at UNHRC?

by Anirudh

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2|| International Relations || India & its Neighbor ||Pakistan

### Title

India vs Pakistan at UNHRC, India slams Pak for raising Kashmir issue at global platform

### Why in news?

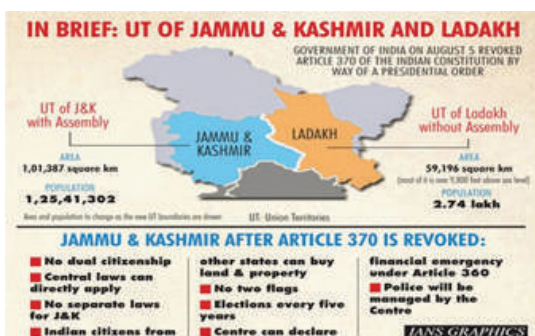
India slams Pakistan over raising Kashmir issue at UNHRC ask it to introspect on to its grave human right situation

### What happened recently?

- India, while exercising its right to reply in UNHRC, slammed Pakistan for raising the "Kashmir issue" in the 43rd session of UNHRC.
- India drew the attention of the council to unabated torture and systematic persecution of religious minorities and **human right violation of Baluchs and Pashtuns in Pakistan**.
- India said it is questionable that a country of serious credibility issues would talk about human rights and self-determination.

### Removal of article 370

- In August 2019, Government of India abolished **Article 370** From Constitution Of India and converted Jammu and Kashmir into a union territory by bifurcating erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state.



### Unnerved Pakistan

- In September 2019, after being rejected by all big nations to pressurise India.
- Unnerved Pakistan accused India with false accusation of "**Genocide in Kashmir**", while addressing United Nations human right forum.
- With no success in earlier attempts Pakistan repeated its false rhetoric in the **43rd session of UNHCR**.

### Hypocrisy of Pakistan

- The world has been witnessing violation of human rights in Pakistan in many ways.
- Two such issues demand immediate attention from the world community.
  - Systematic persecution of religious minorities
  - Ultimate torture of Balochs and Pashtuns.

### Religious Persecution of Hindus

- Hindus are **subjected to atrocities and religious and racial indiscrimination**. Hindus are untouchable in Pakistan.
- Children are forced to sit on separate benches in Pakistani government schools.
- Hindus are not allowed to celebrate their festivals and perform their ritual rites.
- Hindu and Sikh families were forced to **flee Pakistan after the religious persecution** crossed its limits in the past two decades.
- Besides religious persecution, the safety of the women belonging to the minority community was one of the primary reasons behind their immigration.

### Religious persecution of Christians

- **Pakistan's Christians**, like other religious minorities in the country, have been the target of escalating attacks in recent years.
- The attacks, on their residential areas and places of worship, have mostly been motivated by the **country's controversial blasphemy laws**.

### Atrocities in Balochistan

- Balochistan is one of the four provinces of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Due to the violence and human right violation in Balochistan it is one of the most disturbed places in the world.

- It has the country's longest coastline and largest Natural Gas Reserve and contains a vast array of resources such as Coal, Oil, Copper, Gold, lead zinc.



- Balochs are demanding the right of self-determination.
- The Pakistan government is **accused of abducting and killing tens of thousands** of people in Balochistan throughout a decades-long rebellion. Cases of enforced disappearances are common in Balochistan.

### The Pashtun Tahafuz Movement

- The **Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM)** or Pashtun Protection Movement, is the self-determination movement of Pashtun tribesmen in the tribal areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.
- The Pashtun tribesmen **have been taking fire; their homes, property and livelihoods** have been destroyed; they have lost their families and children in this brutal war on western front of Pakistan.



### Pakistan Propaganda

Pakistan's false outrage over human rights in Kashmir is a propaganda to hide the Human Right Violation and divert the attention of world from its State Funded Terrorism.

### Additional info

- **UNHRC:** The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was founded in 2006 as a substitute to the UN Commission on Human Rights which was being continuously abashed for having states with notorious records of human right violation as its members. 12 years later, the UNHRC is seemingly meeting with the same fate as it has members like Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Philippines on its board and is accused of keeping mum on grave issues like Russian occupation of Ukraine, human rights violation in Cuba among others.

### Mains oriented question

India at many occasions said that it is questionable that a country (Pakistan) of serious credibility issues would talk about human rights and self-determination. Illustrate.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)



# US bans work visas How it will impact India?



by Ankit Agrawal

(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || Indian & Rest of the World || USA

## Title

US suspends H1B visa, How it will impact Indian IT Companies?

## Why in news?

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday issued a proclamation to suspend issuing of H-1B, H-2B, J, L and other temporary work permits for immigrants. The proclamation comes into effect from June 24. He said the move was to provide employment opportunities to more than 20 million Americans who have lost their jobs in recent weeks

## What is a visa?

- A visa is an official document that allows the bearer to legally enter a foreign country.
- The visa is usually stamped or **glued into the bearer's passport**.
- There are several different types of visas, each of which afford the bearer different rights in the host country.

## Types of U.S. Work visas

- The US work Visa allows foreign nationals to work in the United States.
- There are various types of Visa issued by USA- **H-1B and H-2B, H-4, J, and L visas**.

## What are h-1b, h-2b, l and other work visas?

- In order to fill a vacuum of highly-skilled low-cost employees in IT and other related domains, The US administration issues a certain number of visas each year which allows companies from outside the US to send employees to work on client sites.
- Of these work visas, **the H-1B remains the most popular among Indian IT companies**.

- The US government has a **cap of 85,000 total H-1B visas for each year**.
- Of this, 65,000 H-1B visas are issued to highly skilled foreign workers. The rest 20,000 can be additionally allotted to highly skilled foreign workers who have a higher education or master's degree from an American university.
- Even though the H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa, it is one of the few US visa categories recognized as dual intent.
- It means that the **H-1B visa holder can apply for and obtain a US Green Card** while in the US on an H-1B visa.
- The **US government also issues L1 visas** which allows companies to transfer highly skilled workers to the US for a period of up to seven years. **H-2B visas allow food and agricultural workers** to seek employment in the US.

## What USA has done now?

- The US administration on Tuesday said it was extending the 60-day ban on immigration and non-immigrant worker visas till the end of 2020.
- Visas including the **much-coveted H-1B and H-2B**, and certain categories of **H-4, J, and L visas** shall remain suspended until December 31, the White House said in a press note.

## Why did the US suspend non-immigrant worker visas?

- The technology boom coupled with the arrival of the internet and **low-cost computers in developing nations such as India and China saw a large number of graduates** willing to work at relatively low costs in the US, **A win-win situation for both employer and the employee**.
- However, it has since often been criticised for sending low cost workers to the US at the expense of domestic workers.
- In January 2017, after taking over as the president of the US, Trump had hinted that the low-cost workers were hampering the economy and undercutting jobs of citizens.
- Trump seized the opportunity provided by **the economic contraction due to Covid-19** by first banning the entry of **non-immigrant workers till June 23, and then extending it till December 31**.

## Impact Indian IT companies?

- Indian IT companies are amongst the biggest beneficiaries of the US H-1B visa regime.

- ▶ Indian IT companies are amongst the biggest beneficiaries of the US H-1B visa regime.
- ▶ As of April 1, 2020, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) had received about 2.5 lakh H-1B work visa applications, according to official data.
- ▶ Indians had applied for as many as 1.84 lakh or 67% of the total H-1B work visas for the current financial year ending March 2021.
- ▶ Apart from the suspension of these work visas, the **executive order signed by Trump** has also made sweeping changes to the H-1B work visa norms, which will no longer be decided by the currently prevalent lottery system.
- ▶ The new norms will now favour highly-skilled workers who are paid the highest wages by their respective companies.

### Conclusion

Suspension H1B visa could result in a significant impact on margins and worker wages of Indian IT companies which send thousands of low-cost employees to work on client sites in the US. Though the large Indian IT companies have cut down their dependency on H-1B and other worker visas by hiring as much as 50 per cent of staff locally, they still rely on these visas to keep costs in check.

### Mains oriented question

Recently the US has suspended H1B visas for India, How will it impact Indian IT Companies and other Migrant workers to the US?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# China's grand plan for Tibetan rivers

by Anirudh

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbor || China

## Title

China's grand plan to grab water of Tibetan rivers, Will it trigger water wars in Asia

## Why in news?

China's grand plan to grab water of Tibetan rivers, Will it trigger water wars in Asia

## Tibet: Source of water

- Tibet is the world's largest and highest plateau, **Forty-six per cent of the world's population** depend upon water obtained from rivers originating in Tibet.
- **The Indus, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween and Mekong rivers** are important trans boundary rivers, which originate in Tibet plateau



## Dams on trans-boundary Rivers

- Against the International norms, **China has unilaterally constructed Dams on TransBoundary Rivers like Mekong, Brahmaputra, Salween and Irrawaddy.**
- Water retention in large reservoirs of these dams are resulting in drought-like situations in lower riparian countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

## China and Mekong Countries

- River Mekong enters into SouthEast Asia through China, Myanmar, Laos tri-junction after originating from Tibetan autonomous region.
- River Mekong supports the livelihood of **60 million people** as it flows past Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand and through Cambodia and Vietnam.
- According to a study, China's Mekong River dams held back large amounts of water during 2019- 20.
- It resulted in drought in **downstream countries** like Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia last year.
- At the same time, China had higher than-average water levels upstream



## Brahmaputra: India and Bangladesh

- **Brahmaputra River** is known as Yarlung Zangbo in China.
- It originates in Tibetan autonomous region and enters into India by making steep gorges in Himalayan Mountains.
- It enters into Bangladesh after flowing through **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** in India-**China has built numerous dams on Brahmaputra river at Dagu, Jiacha, Jiexu and Zangmu.**
- India and Bangladesh have shown serious concerns regarding these dams and their effect on hydrology and water availability to India and Bangladesh

## WATER POWER

1 DAGU 640 MW | 2 JIEXU | 3 ZANGMU 510 MW | 4 JIACHA 320 MW



### Impact on the Arunachal Pradesh: Siang River in Arunachal

- Siang is the principal constituent river of the **Brahmaputra** and flows for **1,600 km** through southern Tibet before entering Arunachal Pradesh.
- The River is considered the lifeline of northern Arunachal Pradesh.
- In 2017, The crystal clear waters of the Siang river suddenly turned dark black
- The river water was **polluted by large volumes of heavy slag obtained from dam construction sites in China.**
- River water is no longer fit for consumption and aquatic life of river have been damaged resulting into **loss of livelihood for fishermen community**

### China Weaponizing Water

- After the Doklam standoff China showed its intention to use water as a weapon.
- It stopped sharing **the hydrological data of Brahmaputra River with India post Doklam stand-off.**
- In absence of hydrological data, floods caused by Brahmaputra River damaged crops and livelihood of millions of people in Assam.

### Ecological Impact of Dams in Tibetan region

- Construction activities related to dams have resulted in **plateau warming more than three times faster than the global average.**
- **Glacial recession**, especially in the eastern Himalayas, and the thawing of Tibet's permafrost (or permanently frozen ground) have accelerated in recent years.

### Conclusion

- China's dam rush in Tibet region is causing long term **ecological degradation** and it has started a new water race in Asia.
- World community should come forward and make an international agreement binding on all parties so that water availability to the small downstream countries can be secured.

### Mains oriented question

In the recent turmoil between China-Taiwan on the River and water will have an impact on the region and its impact on India?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes



## USA claims Huawei is 'backed by Chinese military'

by Anirudh

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2|| International Relations || India & Rest of the World|| USA

### Title

Trump claims Huawei is backed by Chinese military, US financial sanctions against Chinese firm

### Why in news?

The US Defense Department has determined that **20 top Chinese firms**, including Huawei, are either owned by or backed by the Chinese military.

### US Laying Groundwork for New Sanctions

- The list, seen by US media, features video surveillance firm Hikvision, China Telecoms, China Mobile and AVIC.
  - Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co., Ltd.
  - The Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC)
  - Kong Stock Exchange

### List Likely to Grow

- It comes as the US has pressured other countries, including the UK, to bar Huawei for national security reasons.
- The list has been published in order to inform congressional committees, US businesses, investors and other potential partners of Chinese firms about the role such firms may play in transferring sensitive technology to the Chinese military.
- The list is also likely to grow.

### Unanimous Consensus from both Parties

- Under US law, the Defense Department is required to track firms "owned or controlled" by China's People's Liberation Army that are active in the US.
- The Pentagon has been under pressure in recent months from lawmakers of both the Democrats and Republican parties to publish and update the list.

### Companies Under Review Since Nov 2019

- In the letter, the senators emphasised their concerns about the danger of exporting critical US technologies to companies with Chinese ties.
- The senators stressed that reviews should be conducted to assess whether the Chinese Communist Party had been stealing US technology with military applications, as well as whether it had been enlisting Chinese corporations to harness emerging civilian technologies for military purposes.
- The White House already taken several steps against Huawei and other Chinese firms, including barring US companies from selling them certain technology without permission.
- The administration has also said its trade war with China, which resulted in billions of dollars worth of tariffs, was a response to theft of US trade secrets.

### What this means for Companies?

- The Pentagon's designations do not trigger penalties, but the law says the president may impose sanctions that could include blocking all property of the listed parties.
- The list can be seen as "a useful tool for the U.S. Government, companies, investors, academic institutions, and likeminded partners to conduct due diligence with regard to partnerships with these entities, particularly as the list grows."

### Reply by Companies

Hikvision called the allegations "baseless," noting it was not a "Chinese military company," and had never participated in any R&D work for military applications but would work with the United States government to resolve the matter.

### Points to Increasing Tensions b/w US-China

The list will likely add to tensions between the world's two largest economies, which have been at loggerheads over the handling of the coronavirus pandemic and China's move to impose security legislation on Hong Kong, among multiple points of friction that have worsened this year.

### Indian side and India's View on overall

- India is already not in good terms with China
- The border dispute between India and China in recent time has brought up tension between the two at high point
- India took many step from #boycottChina to ban on 59 Chinese app has made Indian side very clear that no interference in the border will be bared by the nation
- US has kept on backing India over the entire issue
- US-China is economic rivalry and China acting as Global leader is matter of concern for US
- Many a time India has kept silent on the China issues or have been on very parallel position in making statement
- But India has cleared its opinion on China Hong Kong issue and on human right violation but till now India has not clearly given any statement on the issue as it won't going to affect India much but will help as toll when they represent their issue with China on global stages

### Mains oriented question

Covid-19 Pandemic changed the economic graph of many nations including the global leader USA, but it is seen that China is still surviving with good economic grape; it is a major concern for the USA. Explain this in context with the US-China economic war.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# 36th ASEAN Summit

Vietnam Warns of Chinese Aggression

By Prashant Dhawan



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2|| International Relations || International Organizations || ASEAN

## Title

36th ASEAN Summit Vietnam Warns of Chinese Aggression

## Why in news?

Vietnam warned the virus pandemic had swept away years of economic gains as Southeast Asian leaders met online for a summit that will also be dominated by anxiety over Beijing's moves in the flashpoint South China Sea. The current chair of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** also wants to use the summit to inject momentum into talks on a sprawling China-backed trade pact, the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**.

## Present scenario

- The immediate focus for the **10-member bloc** is the **crippling cost of the coronavirus**, which has ravaged the economies of tourism and export-reliant countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.
- A special ASEAN meeting convened in April to tackle the pandemic failed to agree on an emergency fund.
- The country's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc gave a sobering opening address on Friday that emphasised the "serious consequences" of the pandemic for economic development among ASEAN'S members.

## ASEAN Covid-19 Response Fund

- The summit has decided to establish the **ASEAN Covid-19 response fund** with a reserve for medical supplies to meet urgent needs during epidemics.
- A special ASEAN meeting convened in April to tackle the pandemic had failed to agree on an emergency fund.

- It has also decided to build the **ASEAN standard procedures of epidemic response** in case of health emergencies.

## Crippling Economies

- The Summit has stated that the ASEAN region's **economy is expected to contract for the first time** in 22 years.
- It has also focused on the crippling cost of the coronavirus, which **has ravaged the economies of tourism and export-reliant countries** such as Thailand and Vietnam.

## South China Sea Issue

- The Summit noted concerns over land reclamations and recent developments in the South China Sea.
  - China claims most of the **resource-rich South China Sea** but is also contested by **Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan**.
  - Vietnam had also accused China of sinking its trawler. This incident had prompted the USA to warn that China is trying to **exploit the pandemic situations of other states to expand its unlawful claims**.
  - The USA is not a claimant to any territories in the **South China Sea** but has sent its navy to patrol the area in support of freedom of navigation, while China had slammed this move as an interference in regional affairs by an outside power.
- Both **Vietnam and Philippines lodged protests with China** after it unilaterally declared the creation of new administrative districts on islands.
  - Also, in April **China has officially named 80 islands** and other **geographical features** in the disputed waters to which Vietnam and the Philippines also have competing claims.
- The Summit has also called on parties to refrain from escalating tensions and abide by responsibilities under international laws.

## Additional info

### Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- ASEAN is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation.
- It was established in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It consists of ten members namely, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- Chairmanship of ASEAN rotates annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States. ASEAN countries have a total population of 650 million people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$2.8 trillion.
- The group has played a central role in Asian economic integration, signing six free-trade agreements with other regional economies and helping spearhead negotiations for what could be the world's largest free trade pact.



### Conclusion

The pandemic has already thrown the challenges within the political, economic and social environment of the world and in each region. The major economies like the US, EU and India etc. are witnessing economic shutdowns due to the lockdown imposed by the pandemic. This, in turn, has reduced the demand for oil and dragged the oil prices to a historic low. Irresponsible acts which are also violations of international law are affecting the environment of security and stability in certain regions. Thus, cooperation among regions as well as among countries to manage such geopolitical tensions and pandemic situations are expected to resolve such scenarios.

### Mains oriented question

Irresponsible acts which are also violations of international law are affecting the environment of security and stability in certain regions. Illustrate.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

### Notes



# China Claims Large Part of Bhutan's Land

By Prashant Dhawan



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbours || Bhutan

## Title

China Claims Large Part of Bhutan's Land China Claims Large Part of Bhutan's Land

## Why in news?

Now China opens a new border dispute with Bhutan. Even as the rest of the world is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, which originated in Wuhan city of China's Hubei province, Beijing has been aggressively attempting to alter the status quo in the East China Sea, South China Sea and with India in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

## What happened recently?

- New Delhi, Continuing with its expansionist agenda, China has now created a new border dispute with Bhutan, one of India's traditional ally.
- At a virtual meeting of the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** in the first week of June, Beijing objected to the grant for **Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS)** in eastern Bhutan's Trashigang district bordering India and China, claiming that the location was disputed.
- Even as the rest of the world is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, which originated in Wuhan city of China's Hubei province, Beijing has been aggressively attempting to alter the status quo in the East China Sea, South China Sea and with India in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh.



## Bhutan government stand

- The Bhutan government has since issued a formal letter to the GEF council, strongly opposing the references questioning the sovereignty of Bhutan and its territory on the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary in the documents of the council's session.
- Bhutan has urged the GEF council to purge all references of China's baseless claims from Council's documents.

## Bhutan-China on dispute

- Bhutan and China have had a border dispute since 1984. Talks between Thimphu and Beijing have been limited to **three areas of dispute** (two in North Bhutan -akarlung and Pasamlung areas -and one in West Bhutan). Sakteng is not part of any of the three disputed areas.

## Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS)

- Located in the eastern most part of the country, **SWS has an area of 739 sq km<sup>2</sup>** of alpine meadow and temperate and warm broadleaf forests. Three major rivers- Manas Chu, Bada Chu and Dhansiri Chu - have their origin here.
- **Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary** located mostly in Trashigang District and just crossing the border into Samdrup Jongkhar District, Bhutan. It is one of the country's protected areas. It is listed as a tentative site in Bhutan's Tentative List for UNESCO inclusion

## The Famous Doklam issue

- It started when Indian Army objected to road construction by the People's Liberation Army of China in the Doklam plateau.
- China claims it to be a part of its Danglang region. However, both India and Bhutan recognize it as Doklam and consider it to be a Bhutan territory.
- India accused the Chinese of destroying its bunkers and China accused Indian troops of entering into its territory.
- China stopped the passage of pilgrims toward **Kailash-Mansarovar through the Nathu La pass in Sikkim.**
- Both India and China increased the presence of their troops and there was a standoff between the two armies.
- Later there was the **withdrawal of troops from Doklam**

### India's stand

- ▶ China has border dispute every neighborhood countries
- ▶ India backed Bhutan during Doklam and even now
- ▶ India stand is clear with the border dispute that they are supporting Bhutan in any kind of Border dispute
- ▶ Bhutan has a **very strategic position considering India's geography and its neighbours.**
- ▶ India and Bhutan signed a Friendship Treaty in 2007 and have maintained it well since then.
- ▶ India is worried that if the road is completed, it will give China greater access to India's strategically **vulnerable Siliguri Corridor** which might prove harmful for India in the long run. This is because China is on a preparatory stage for emphasizing its String of Pearls domain in the neighbourhood.
- ▶ **India has been opposing China's One Belt One Road initiative** as it passes through the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) would mean undermining India's sovereignty. They are also interfering in internal affairs of Kashmir hence

### Mains oriented question

Anchoring in the boundaries of neighboring countries now has been in the habit of China for dominating the neighborhood country. Write the answer in context with the recent Bhutan-China dispute.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# US-China relations

#UPSC IAS

by Anirudh

视频



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2||International Relations|| India & it's Neighbours|| China

## Title

US-China relations - USA Bill to impose sanction on China explained

## Why in news?

- The US House of Representatives recently approved legislation calling for **sanctions against Chinese officials responsible for the oppression of Uyghur Muslims**.
- The bill calls for **penalties against** those responsible for repressing the **Uyghurs and other Muslim groups in Xinjiang province of China**.
- According to reports by the United Nations, more than **one million Muslim Uighurs** and leaders of other predominantly Muslim minority groups were detained in Xinjiang camps during a crackdown.
- Bypassing the bill, the **United States Congress has taken a firm step to counter China's human rights abuses against the Uighurs**.
- It has sent a clear message that the Chinese government cannot act with impunity.



## China's response

- China denies the mistreatment in the camps

- Camps provide vocational training
- China also refuses to allow independent inspections.

## Status of bill

- The bill has now been sent to the White House for President Donald Trump to veto or sign into law.
- Developments in the US-China relationship
  - **Covid-19 Blame-** The USA President has blamed China again and again for worsening the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - **Trade War-A** growing trade war between the USA and China.
  - **Issue of Panchen Lam-** Over the release of Tibetan Buddhism's 11th Panchen Lama, who was taken into captivity at the age of six.
  - **Hong Kong's Autonomy-** China has approved a proposal for bringing new national security legislation in Hong Kong, despite apprehensions raised by the USA.
  - **South China Sea-** China's growing assertiveness over the South China Sea.

## Way ahead

- **With the USA signing out of major global deals and taking a backstage in the global scenario**, China certainly has taken advantage of this and has become more **assertive** in recent past.
- It's up to the **global community now to fix the responsibility and accountability of major powers according to international laws and humanitarian values**.

## Additional Information-Uighurs Muslims

- A predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group.
- One of the **55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China**.
- China recognises the community only as a regional minority and rejects that they are an indigenous group.
- Currently, the largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in the **Xinjiang region of China**.
- A significant population of Uighurs also lives in the neighbouring Central Asian countries such as **Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan**.

## In Xi Jinping's effort to make China No. 1, he's forgotten the basics

by Anirudh

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbors || China

### Title

Xi Jinping's Chinese Dream, President Jinping compromised principles to make China no 1

### Why in news?

Beijing perceives the current global economic chaos caused by the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity to restore trade linkages and rebuild international influence. China wants to dominate the world in advance technologies like Quantum Computing, Artificial intelligence and Space by 2025 with its "Made in China Policy". Xi's push for global dominance will face global resistance.

### Concerns shown by America and Europe:

- America and Europe have shown serious concerns regarding china's strategic and economic aggression across the world. Few important concerns are mentioned below.
  - China's hunger for the land
  - China a Threat to liberal democratic order
  - No respect for human rights
  - Trade malpractices of china
  - Ever increasing military budget of china

### Land hunger of China:

- China has been trying to grab the land in its neighbourhood through its **Coercive Diplomacy** against its small neighbouring countries.

- China grabs the offshore lands and ports of developing countries through **Debt Trap Diplomacy**

### Threat to Liberal Democratic Order:

- China encourages authoritarian regimes elsewhere by demonstrating that advanced modernisation can be combined with authoritarian ruling.
- At the same time **Western liberal order is facing backlash** and a crisis of legitimacy as citizens increasingly question its ability to deliver.



RAJGUNA DEBATES  
JAN 11 2018

China: A threat to the liberal democratic order

- The super efficiency of the Chinese state in executing big ticket projects and its ability to take swift decisions persuaded leaders of **Turkey, Poland to Hungary, to praise China's "authoritarian capitalism"**.

### Human Right Violator:

- China poses an **"existential threat"** to the international human rights system
- China's approach in dealing with Corona Outbreak, suppressing voices of freedom in Hong Kong and indiscriminant killing of **Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang** province drawn attentions of human right groups

### Trade Malpractices of China:

- Condition of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights is very poor in China.
- Intellectual property rights holders face not only a complex and uncertain enforcement environment, but also **pressure to transfer intellectual property rights** to enterprises in China through a number of government policies and practices.
- China flouts international trade laws of WTO by providing subsidies in high tech manufacturing sector and imposing import ban on foreign goods.



### Ever Increasing Military Budget of China:

- In terms of investment in **defence sector China stands second only to USA in the world.**
- China is increasing its military presence in every corner of the world from South China Sea to Indian Ocean
- China with its heavy investment in missile technology, have achieved the capability to reach any of the **NATO allied country.**
- Which is cause of concern for both **USA and EUROPE**

### Europe's Reply:

- **Developed economies of Europe have started to cautiously track the economic aggression of china during Covid-19 pandemic.**
- Germany toughened rules for non-EU share purchases or acquisitions of companies that are part of its critical infrastructure, amid growing disquiet about takeovers by Chinese firms.
- UK has decided to reconsider role of Chinese telecom giant Huawei in its ambitious 5G network project

### NATO and Rising Power of China:

- In his plan for next ten years, NATO is envisaging more global partners in Asia Pacific to counter the rising power of China.

### Additional info:

- **Intellectual property Right:** Intellectual property is a category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect. There are many types of intellectual property, and some countries recognize more than others. The most well-known types are copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets
- **NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 North American and European countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949

### Mains oriented question:

Developed countries like USA, UK, Germany, France and Japan should cooperate with India to contain the China before it become Unstoppable. Comment.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

## HK National Security Law

### Why India wont speak against China?



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

#### Relevance

GS 2 || International Relations || India & its Neighbor || China

#### Title

Hong Kong National Security Law, why India & ASEAN will not go against China?

#### Why in news?

China has passed a new security law for Hong Kong

#### What happened recently?

- China has passed a new security law for Hong Kong which states that China will oppose "foreign interference" in Hong Kong and will punish foreign forces which use Hong Kong to carry out "**separatist, subversive, infiltrative or destructive activities**"
- Chinese Parliament approves controversial Hong Kong security bill

#### New Security Bill: Creating Tensions:

- The move has been condemned and prompted anxiety inside and outside Hong Kong. Pro-democracy legislator Claudia Mo said "Hong Kong as we knew it is finally dead."
- Similarly the move created tensions outside Hong Kong
- Hong Kong Police tear gas as protesters decry China Security Law Plan

#### Criticism in USA:

- President Donald Trump has announced that he will start to end preferential treatment for Hong

Kong in trade and travel, in response to a new security law pushed by Beijing.

- In fact, USA is pushing its allies to voice their disapproval against China's move to impose a **national security law on Hong Kong**
- Trump targets China over Hong Kong Security Law

#### Others countries stand:

- Apart from America, the UK, Australia and Canada have also expressed their deep concern for Hong Kong
- **Pro-democracy** activists worldwide said it is the end of One country, two system of China
- China and allies condemn china's approval of Hong Kong Security Laws

#### China was aware of such reaction from USA:

- China was aware of such reaction from USA and its allied countries
- So, China seeks support from various countries by sending demarches to India and several other countries explaining the reason for the new draft legislation
- China said "**It is purely China's internal affair and no foreign country may interfere in this matter**".
- China sent demarches to India and several other countries explaining the reason for the new draft legislation

#### North Korea support's China:

- North Korea extend support to China's Hong Kong security bill
- North Korea expressed its support for China's decision to impose new national security laws in Hong Kong, calling it a "**legitimate step**" to safeguard the state security.
- North Korea spokesperson said "**We categorically oppose and reject the outside interference detrimental to the security and the social and economic development of Hong Kong.**"
- India being the largest democracy in the world, has always advocated for democracy.
- Despite the fact that India and most ASEAN countries have concerns about the city's autonomy, they are unlikely to take similar positions as the USA took.

### ASEAN Countries are Dependent on China:

- Dylan Loh, an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and global affairs at NTU
- All the ASEAN countries have economic dependence on China and no one in ASEAN countries want to irritate China on Hong Kong Issue
- Even if there were any genuine concerns, Loh said individual countries were likely to err on the side of caution and show support in the form of **“generic statements of concern about the stability and safety of Hong Kong society”**

### China action has no impact on ASEAN States:

- Drew Thompson, a former Pentagon official responsible for **managing bilateral relations** with **China, Taiwan and Mongolia**, said What was happening with Hong Kong did not “directly infringe or impact ASEAN member states”.
- Neither was there a “popular outcry” from ASEAN populations unlike South Korea where people having sympathy for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement

### Why is India acting soft over the issue?

- India reasons for not taking harsh positions as other countries took
- Indian **Foreign Policy Expert Sinderpal Singh** said India, like the ASEAN countries, did not face a public pressure over the Hong Kong situation, compared to countries like Australia which “have some push from the populace and politicians who think it's something to speak up about”.

### Non Interference:

- Singh, a senior fellow at NTU's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies said
- India never interferes in the domestic politics of other countries (Part of Panchsheel treaty)

### Mutual Understanding:

- India also faced international criticism when India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Singh said: “There's an understanding in the last few years that China will not publicly say anything strongly objectionable about the Kashmir situation, and India reciprocates by not **commenting on Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang,**”

### Border Tensions:

- Tensions between the two Asian giants have spiked in recent weeks with a series of skirmishes and military build-up by both sides at the Line of
- Actual Control that separates the two countries both sides have maintained they are in dialogue to resolve the **stand-off peacefully**, with New Delhi on Thursday rejecting Trump's offer to mediate

### India may give strong reaction:

- Experts believe that India will not go with US even if US will put sanctions against China
- Singh, further said: India would likely not comment on the Hong Kong situation unless the border issue took a turn for the worse

### Additional info:

- Panchsheel Pact, also known as **Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence**, was in news recently in the months of **June-July 2017 as China accused India of trampling** on the Panchsheel principles by allegedly entering Chinese territory.
- Panchsheel Pact or Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence are a series of principles that have formed the basis of the relationship between India and China. The Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence are:
  - Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
  - Mutual non-aggression
  - Mutual non-interference
  - Equality and mutual benefit
  - Peaceful co-existence

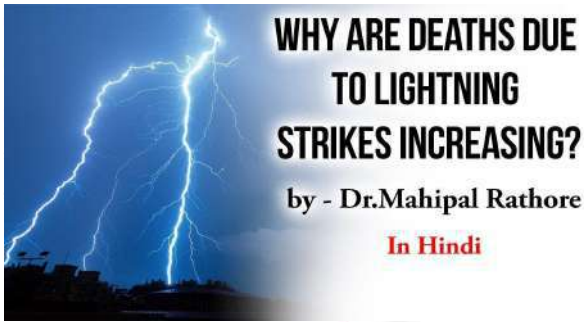
### Mains oriented question:

As every country has put their opinion very strongly but India's opinion was not strongly presented. If India aims to become a Regional Power and Eventually a Global Power, shouldn't India give comments on such events across the world?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

## Disaster Management



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3 || Disaster Management || Major disaster || others

### Title

Lightning deaths in India - Why more people are dying due to Lightning strikes?

### Why in news?

Two persons from Semrimau and Parshuram Purwa villages died when trees fell on them during the thunderstorm. Thirteen persons have lost their lives in the thunderstorm and lightning that struck several parts of central Uttar Pradesh on Saturday night.

### Lightning

- A lightning strike or lightning bolt is an electric discharge between the atmosphere and an object.
- Lightning is a very rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere, some of which is directed towards the Earth's surface.
- These discharges are generated in giant moisture-bearing clouds that are 10-12 km tall. (mostly a cumulonimbus cloud)
- The base of these clouds **typically lies within 1-2 km of the Earth's surface**, while their top is 12-13 km away
- The electrical potential difference between the layers of these clouds is huge — of the order of a billion to 10 billion volts.
- In very little time, a massive current, of the order of **100,000 to a million amperes**, starts to flow between the layers.
- An enormous amount of heat is produced, and this leads to the heating of the air column between the two layers of the cloud.

- This heat gives the air column a reddish appearance during lightning. As the heated air column expands, it produces shock waves that result in thunder. A single lightning event is a "flash", which is a complex, multi-stage process, some parts of which are not fully understood.
- Most cloud to ground flashes only **"strike" one physical location, referred to as a "termination"**.

### Why is a lightning strike lethal?

- There is a greater probability of lightning striking tall objects such as trees, towers or buildings.
- Once it is about 80-100 m from the surface, lightning tends to change course towards these taller objects.
- People are most commonly struck by what are called "ground currents".
- The electrical energy, after hitting a large object (such as a tree) on Earth, spreads laterally on the ground for some distance, and people in this area receive electrical shocks.

### How many strikes happen in India?

- Occurrences of lightning are not tracked in India, and there is simply not enough data for scientists to work with.
- India sees **2,000-2,500 lightning deaths every year on average**. Lightning is the biggest contributor to accidental deaths due to natural causes
- In 2018, over 3,000 people died due to lightning strikes in the country.
- Lightning remains among the least studied atmospheric phenomena in the country.
- Just one group of scientists, at the Indian Institute of Tropical Management (IITM) in Pune, works full-time on thunderstorms and lightning.

### What makes Lightning so deadly?

- Predictions are not made widely
- It is hard to forecast as lightning incidents are scattered Deadly current
- Lightning strikes can produce severe injuries, and have a mortality rate of between 10% and 30% up to 80% of survivors sustaining long-term injuries.
- Nerves and muscles may be directly damaged by the high voltage producing holes in their cell membranes, a process called electroporation.
- Most farmers and labourers wait for the storm to pass



in their open fields or seek shelter under lone trees: the worst places to be when trying to avoid lightning.

### Are Western disturbances responsible?

- ▶ Experts claim that while western disturbances bring about rainfall, no severe thunderstorm accompanies it.
- ▶ Deadly lightning bolts strike owing to local weather activities because convective clouds form, which in turn, cause lightning.

### How can Lightning be detected?

- ▶ Lightning detecting sensor machines
- ▶ A single lightning sensor can detect lightning activity half an hour in advance in area covering 200 km around it.
- ▶ Despite the availability of such technology, in many states, there is no warning or advisory issued to the general public regarding lightning strikes

### Apps

- ▶ IITM (Pune) has developed a mobile app called Damini for the Bihar government's use.
- ▶ The app provides information about the locations of lightning strike 30-40 minutes in advance.
- ▶ Dissemination of the information?
- ▶ In Andhra Pradesh, the SDMA sends alerts on a mobile application called Vajrapath

### Conclusion:

For year's mankind has been disturbing the ecosystem for benefits and at the name of developing the nation, nature has faced destruction at a par before causing destruction. We have often seen that trees have been cut down, water scarcity in many places all over the globe, global warming, flood, drought, excess rain, landslide, earthquakes and many uneven event mostly in the year 2020, somewhere we can say that most the damages are manmade and humans are the biggest threat to the planet, this is the high time that the human have to understand the threat they are and stop destructing environment for temporary benefits and preserve it for our future generation.

### Mains oriented question:

Discuss whether the change in the environment and natural destruction due to climate change can be termed as man-made disasters.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Assam Gas Leak

by Ankit Agrawal



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 3 || Disaster Management || Major Disasters || Industrial Disaster

## Title

Assam Gas Leak from Baghjan 5 well, Why is it so difficult to control?

## Why in news?

According to a Guwahati-based expert, "the control of a blowout depends on two things: the size of the reservoir and the pressure at which the gas/oil is flowing out. This reservoir was particularly difficult to control since it was a gas well and ran the risk of catching fire at any point"

## What happened recently?

- Since the morning of May 27, natural gas has been continuously flowing out of a gas well in Assam following a blowout — or a sudden, uncontrolled release of gas/oil.
- Meanwhile, people from surrounding villages have been evacuated, while a variety of fish and an endangered Gangetic dolphin have died.

## Location of the oil rig?

- The Baghjan 5 well is a purely gas-producing well in Tinsukia district.
- It is at an aerial distance of 900 metres from the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.
- It was drilled by Oil India Limited (OIL) in 2006.
- It produces around 80,000 standard cubic metres per day (SCMD) of gas from a depth of 3,870 metres.

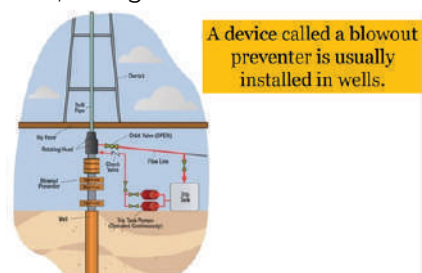
- As per officials, the current discharge is at 90,000 SCMD at a pressure of 4,200 PSI, far higher than the normal producing pressure of around 2,700 PSI.

## Drilling of natural gas:

- Like all forms of energy drilling, natural gas drilling starts when a deposit of natural gas is found deep beneath the Earth's surface.
- To find these deposits, energy companies use a variety of methods.
- They look at the surface geology of an area, the seismic energy (how energy moves from inside the Earth to its surface) and even the magnetic properties of the underground rock formations.
- Once a likely deposit of natural gas is located, the energy company then drills down to reach it
- A natural gas well isn't at all like a water well (where you drill a hole in the ground and water fills it).
- Natural gas tends to be contained within the underground rock itself.
- The rock must be broken to release the gas.
- And if it's brought out the wrong way, it can contaminate the groundwater supply surrounding it.
- Energy companies send electric charges down the well, which affect the rock around it.
- After the charges are set off, a highly-pressurized liquid fracking solution is sent down the well.
- This solution breaks up the rocks, releasing the natural gas.
- Since the gas is lighter than the fracking solution, it rises to the top of the well for capture.
- Natural gas is a mix of propane, methane, propylene and other gases

## Gas Leak

- Sometimes, the pressure balance in a well may be disturbed leading to 'kicks' or changes in pressure.
- If these are not controlled in time, the 'kicks' can turn into a sudden blowout.
- Lack of attention, poor workmanship, bad maintenance, old age etc.



### Reason for the gas leak in baghjan 5 well:

- The gas well at Baghjan was being serviced, and a new sand was being tested at another depth the same well.
- To repair the well-head, you need to temporarily 'kill the well' or shut down the producing zone.
- "The blowout preventer was also removed, since we were in the process of repairing the well-head.
- But suddenly, gas started to ooze out of the exposed well.
- Before anyone could do anything, it broke through our cement barrier," said Tridiv Hazarika, spokesperson of OIL

### Comparable blowouts in past

- OIL-owned oil well in Dikhan (Dibrugarh) in 2005.
- An ONGC-owned oil well in Rudrasagar in the 1970s.
- Took three months to contain.

### Why is it so difficult to control?

- The control of a blowout depends on two things: Size of the reservoir and the pressure at which the gas/oil is flowing out.
- This reservoir was particularly difficult to control since it was a gas well and ran the risk of catching fire at any point.
- To control a blowout, the first step is to pump in water, so that the gas does not catch fire.



### Impact in the surrounding

- As many as 1,610 families with 2,500-3,000 people have been evacuated to relief camps.
- Locals have complained of symptoms such as burning of eyes, headache etc.
- There are reports of deaths of a river dolphin, and a variety of fish.
- While the well is outside the Eco Sensitive Zone of the park,

- The boundary does not matter since the gas is moving through the air.
- Condensate is falling into Dibru-Saikhowa National Park too.
- Also close is the Maguri-Motapung wetland — an Important Bird Area notified by the Bombay Natural History Society.

### Conclusion:

Industrial disaster is very often seen in India nowadays, especially when factories and industries were closed for long due to lockdown in the country. Many times these disasters are controlled but many times it brings disaster at a huge parameter causing death of life and threat to the environment by releasing toxic chemicals and gases in the environment, Vizag gas leak is an example of such kind of disaster. It is very important the state government and the authority take proper care and do time to time survey of the industrial establishment if they find any risk or illegality immediate action should be taken all the industrial establishment should be at the periphery of the town away from the crowd so at the time of any disaster no harm is cause to living beings.

### Mains oriented question:

The proactive action after disaster is not the solution but the proper procurement and management of the industry is more important for avoiding industrial disaster.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)



## Geography

## Cyclone Nisarga

Coastal Maharashtra under RED ALERT

by Anirudh



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 1 || Geography || Climatology || Tropical Cyclones

## Title

Cyclone Nisarga explained - Coastline of Maharashtra under Red Alert,

## Why in news?

Cyclone 'Nisarga' will make landfall along the Maharashtra coast on Wednesday with high wind speed ranging up to 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph besides heavy rainfall and storm in Mumbai and other coastal areas of the state. First tropical cyclone since 1891 that may hit Maharashtra coast.

## About the cyclone:

- According to India Meteorological Department (IMD): The depression over the south-east and adjoining **east-central Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep area**,
- It was likely to intensify into cyclone Nisarga, largely to impact **Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg districts and neighbouring areas in Konkan**
- Cyclone Nisarga, a deep depression in the Arabian Sea has intensified into a cyclonic storm. It will further turn into a severe cyclonic storm by tonight and cross north Maharashtra and Gujarat coasts between Harihareshwar in Raigad district and Daman

## Maharashtra's trouble:

- Corona Virus cases are increasing day by day, with Maharashtra being the worst affected state in the country.

- With increasing corona virus cases, **Maharashtra has to face another challenge of Cyclone Nisarga**
- According to weather.com, the name **Nisarga** is suggested by Bangladesh.

## IMD: India meteorological department:

- IMD has issued Yellow message

  
**India Meteorological Department**  
 Earth System Science Organisation  
 (Ministry of Earth Sciences)  
 BULLETIN NO. : 15 (ARB/02/2020)

TIME OF ISSUE: 0230 HOURS IST DATED: 02.06.2020  
 FROM: INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (FAX NO. 24643965/24699216/24623220)  
 TO: CONTROL ROOM, NDM, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (FAX NO. 28701729)  
 CONTROL ROOM NDM (FAX NO. 28701729)  
 CABINET SECRETARIAT (FAX NO. 23012284, 23018638)  
 PS TO HON'BLE MINISTER FOR S & T AND EARTH SCIENCES (FAX NO. 23316745)  
 SECRETARY, MOES (FAX NO. 24629777)  
 H.Q. (INTEGRATED DEFENCE STAFF AND CDS) (FAX NO. 23005137/23005147)  
 DIRECTOR GENERAL, DOORDARSHAN (23385843) DIRECTOR GENERAL, AIR (23421101, 23421105, 23421219)  
 PIB MOES (FAX NO. 23389042)  
 UNI (FAX NO. 2335841)  
 D.G. NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (NDRF) (FAX NO. 28105912, 2436 3260)  
 DIRECTOR, PUNCTUALITY, INDIAN RAILWAYS (FAX NO. 23388503)  
 CHIEF SECRETARY, KERALA (FAX NO. 0471-2327176)  
 ADMINISTRATOR, LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS (FAX NO. 0413-262184)  
 ADMINISTRATOR, UNION TERRITORY OF DAMAN & DIU (0260-2230775)  
 ADMINISTRATOR, UNION TERRITORY OF DADRA NAGAR HAVELI (0260-2230775)  
 CHIEF SECRETARY, KARNATAKA (FAX NO. 080-22259913)  
 CHIEF SECRETARY, GOA (FAX NO. 0832-2415291)  
 CHIEF SECRETARY, MAHARASHTRA (FAX NO. 022-22026594)  
 CHIEF SECRETARY, GUJARAT (FAX NO. 079-23280306)  
 CHIEF SECRETARY, DAMAN & DIU (FAX NO. 0260-2230775)  
 CHIEF SECRETARY, DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI (FAX NO. 0260-2645468)

Sub: Depression over Eastcentral Arabian Sea: **Cyclone Alert for north Maharashtra - south Gujarat coasts: Yellow message**

The Depression over Eastcentral Arabian Sea moved northwards with a speed of 04 kmph during past 06 hours and lay centred at 2330 hours IST of yesterday, the 01<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 over Eastcentral Arabian Sea near latitude 14.4°N and longitude 71.2°E about 300 km west-southwest of Panjim (Goa), 550 km south-southwest of Mumbai (Maharashtra) and 770 km south-southwest of Surat (Gujarat).

- Types of Warning Issued by IMD

The IMD uses 4 colour codes are:

Colour	Advisory
Green (All is well)	No advisory is issued.
Yellow (Be Aware)	Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities
Orange/Amber (Be prepared):	The orange alert is issued as a warning of extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commerce with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
Red (Take Action)	When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued

- Categorization:

Types of Disturbances	Associated wind speed in the Circulation
1. Low Pressure Area	Less than 17 knots ( < 31 kmph)
2. Depression	17 to 27 knots ( 31 to 49 kmph)
3. Deep Depression	28 to 33 knots ( 50 to 61 kmph)
4. Cyclonic Storm	34 to 47 knots ( 62 to 88 kmph)
5. Severe Cyclonic Storm	48 to 63 knots ( 89 to 118 kmph)
6. Very Severe Cyclonic Storm	64 to 119 knots ( 119 to 221 kmph)
7. Super Cyclonic Storm	120 knots and above ( 222 kmph and above)

## IMD authorities:

- Nisarga, which is likely to make landfall afternoon as a severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of **90 to 105 kilometres per hour (kmph) gusting to 125 kmph**, can inundate the low-lying areas, especially in Mumbai and its adjoining areas, and can cause severe structural damages.



- Very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall was predicted.
- **Categorization of rainfall:** As per Indian Meteorological Department

Rainfall	Categorization
15.6mm to 64.4mm	Moderate rainfall
64.5 mm to 115.5 mm	Heavy rainfall
115.6 mm to 204.4 mm	Very Heavy rainfall
More than 204.5 mm	Extremely Heavy rainfall

### Steps by Government:

- Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director-general, IMD said
- Central and state government agencies are trying to take all possible steps to prevent damage.
- They advised fishermen in **Maharashtra, Kerala, coastal Karnataka, Gujarat, Goa, and Lakshadweep to avoid venturing out to the sea.**
- All were told to stay in the house day before and after the cyclone arrived in the region

### Cyclones are Rare to hit Maharashtra:

- As per IMD's Cyclone E-Atlas, a repository that tracks tropical cyclones and weather depressions over the north Indian Ocean since 1891, no weather system has turned into a cyclone and made landfall near Mumbai or along the Maharashtra coast during June.
- "Only two depressions, in **1948 and 1980, have come close but never turned into a tropical cyclone during June, indicate records,**"
- Cyclones are rare in Maharashtra because tropical cyclones move from east to west.
- The storms that form during the onset of monsoon over the Arabian Sea usually move towards Oman in the Persian Gulf.



- Map Showing the usual path of cyclones in Arabian Sea

### Early Cyclones on West Coast:

- Cyclone Phyan in November 2009(Not June) had last impacted these districts and even Mumbai had recorded extremely heavy rains.
- Last year Vayu had skirted the Gujarat coast, when it re-curved and later weakened

### Additional info:

- The India Meteorological Department is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology

### Mains oriented question:

Which factor impact the ocean current formation and how do they change the climate of the different region of the world?

Or

Due to change in climate and major changes in environment ecology we have seen great changes in the monsoon and rain pattern in India? How does it impact Indian weather system, agriculture and economy? Write answer with suitable example



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

## Frequent Earthquakes in Delhi-NCR

By Ankit Agrawal



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 1 || Geography || Geomorphology || Earthquake

### Title

Frequent Earthquakes in Delhi - Know reasons behind it? Will a major earthquake hit Delhi in future?

### Why in news?

Frequent Earthquakes in Delhi in month of April and May has caused chaos among the masses.

3 June - 3.2 Richter Scale - Faridabad  
1 June - 3 Richter Scale- Rohtak  
1 June - 1.8 Richter Scale- Rohtak  
May 29- 2.9 Richter Scale- Rohtak  
May 29- 4.5 Richter Scale- Rohtak  
15 May - 2.2 Richter Scale- New Delhi  
10 May - 3.4 Richter Scale- Delhi  
06 May - 2.3 Richter Scale- Faridabad  
03 May - 3.0 Richter Scale- Delhi  
16 April - 2.0 Richter Scale- Delhi  
13 April - 2.7 Richter Scale- Delhi  
12 April - 3.5 Richter Scale- Delhi

### Richter scale:

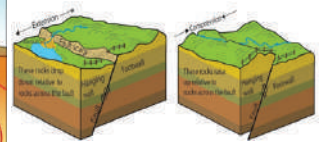
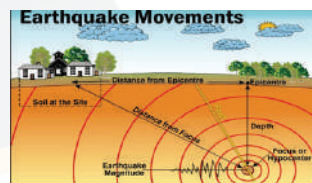
- The Richter scale is a mathematical measure of earthquake intensity.
- Discovered in 1935 by Charles Richter.
- The intensity of earthquake per scale increases by 10 times .e.g. Earthquake measuring 3 on the Richter scale would increase 10 times on 4 Richter scale.
- An earthquake is the release of energy caused by a sudden slip on a fault.

### Why do tremors come again and again?

- In areas where there is a high risk of earthquakes, stress in the **lower surfaces of the earth increases**

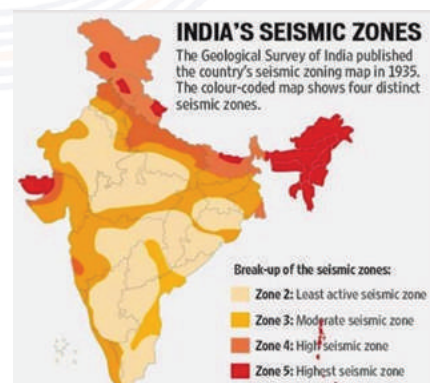
in hundreds of years.

- This is caused by the **movement of tectonic plates**, but the effect of stress is not only sudden but slowly.
- First the earth remains calm for a long time, then the layers start moving for some time and this process is repeated again and again.
- Nepal is located at the place where the activity of the layers of the earth is highest. Every year the Indian plate slips under the **Eurasian plates by about four centimeters**.
- This is a very high speed for the plates of any continent to move. This is also the reason for the increasing height of the Himalayas.



### Earthquake zone in India:

- According to the risk of earthquake, the country is divided into four parts, zone-2, zone-3, zone-4 and zone five.
- Of these, the **least threatened is Zone 2** and the highest risked is Zone-5.
- All the states of North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand & parts of Himachal Pradesh fall under Zone-5.
- Delhi falls in Zone-4,



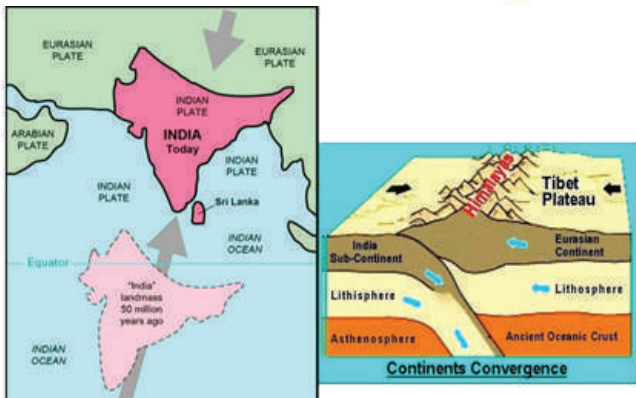
### Delhi standing on danger line due to haphazard development:

- Delhi has developed in a very clumsy way.
- The construction of colonies here is quite dense. Also, there is a lot of illegal construction in Delhi.
- Two-thirds of the capital's population live in illegally constructed houses.

- A few years ago, the building collapsed in Laxmi Nagar without earthquake raises a questions over the quality of the buildings.
- Areas on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi come under the maximum danger.

### Why northern area more prone?

- The reason for this lies in Earth's distant past, when the Indian tectonic plate smashed into the Eurasian plate with such force that the crust folded upwards around the area of the collision, forming the Himalayan mountain range.
- Indian plate hasn't come to rest, even though **some 55 million years have passed**, and is still moving into the
- Asian plate at **5-6 cm per year**.
- This is a very high speed for the plates of any continent to move.



### Why frequent earthquakes in Delhi?

- Delhi-NCR comes under high risk zone.
- Fault lines are present in Delhi-NCR.
- According to the macro seismic zoning map of India, **around 30% of Delhi falls under Zone V** (very high risk), while the rest is under **Zone IV (high risk)**.
- In areas where there is a high risk of earthquakes, stress in the lower surfaces of the earth increases in hundreds of years.
- This is caused by the movement of tectonic plates, but the effect of stress is not only sudden but slowly.
- First the earth remains calm for a long time, then the layers start moving for some time and this process is repeated again and again.

### Is Delhi due for a massive earthquake in the future?

- There's no clear answer since earthquakes still cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty.
- **Question that comes in mind:**
  - If the crust in this part of the world can slowly release all of its tension, there wouldn't have to be a mega-quake in the future, right?
  - This line of reasoning makes sense but the problem is that the part of the crust in question contains just too much energy for a big earthquake to not happen.
- In a paper published in December 2013, **"The ~500 km long 'Central Himalayan seismic gap' of north-west India is the largest section of the Himalaya that has not experienced a very large earthquake in the past 200-500 years."**
- A seismic gap refers to the portion of a fault that hasn't experienced quakes in a while though it should have, indicating its building strain that it could later release in one large burst.
- The last time the Central Himalayan gap (CHG) experienced a quake was in 1803, and before that in 1505.

### Delhi standing on danger line:

- Delhi has developed in a very clumsy way.
- The construction of colonies here is quite dense.
- Two-thirds of the capital's population live in illegally constructed houses.
- A few years ago, the building collapsed in Laxmi Nagar without earthquake raises a questions over the quality of the buildings.
- Areas on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi come under the maximum danger.

### Mains oriented question:

What is an Earthquake and what are its causes? Also discuss the impact of earthquake, along with challenges faced in predisaster preparedness for it.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)



## Polity

# PM-CARES Fund not under RTI

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2 || Polity || Constitutional Framework || Fundamental Rights

### Title

PM CARES Fund is not a public authority under RTI says PMO - RTI on PM CARES

### Why in news?

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has refused to disclose details on the creation and operation of the PM CARES Fund, telling a Right to Information applicant that the fund is "not a public authority" under the ambit of the RTI Act, 2005.

### Right to information act, 2005

- Right to Information (RTI) is an act of the Parliament of India which sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information.
- It replaced the former Freedom of Information Act, 2002.
- Under the provisions of RTI Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "**public authority**" which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.

### What is 'public authority' under RTI?

- As per **Section 2(h) of the RTI Act**, "public authority" means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted,—
  - by or under the Constitution;
  - by any other law made by Parliament;
  - by any other law made by State Legislature;
  - By notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government.

- The definition of 'public authority' also includes-Bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government and non-governmental organizations substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.

### Current issue

- A few days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the Fund on his Twitter account on March 28, Sri Harsha Kandukuri filed an RTI application on April 1, Asking the PMO to provide the **Fund's trust deed and all government orders**, notifications and circulars relating to its creation and operation
- When he did not receive any response within 30 days, he appealed.
- Finally, he received a response from the PMO's information officer dated May 29.

### Reply from PMO

- "PM CARES Fund is not a **Public Authority under the ambit of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, 2005**.
- However, relevant information in respect of PM CARES Fund may be seen on the Website [pmcares.gov.in](http://pmcares.gov.in),"the reply said.

### But question arises:

- By denying PM CARES fund the status of 'public authority', it is only reasonable to infer that it is not controlled by the Government.
- But we know that, Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
- For a trust which is created and run by 4 cabinet ministers in their ex-officio capacities, denying the status of '**public authority**' is a big blow to transparency and not to mention our democratic values", RTI activist said

### Is PMNRF subject to the RTI Act?

- There is also ambiguity regarding whether the PMNRF is subject to the RTI Act.
- While the **Central Information Commission** directed it to disclose information in 2008,

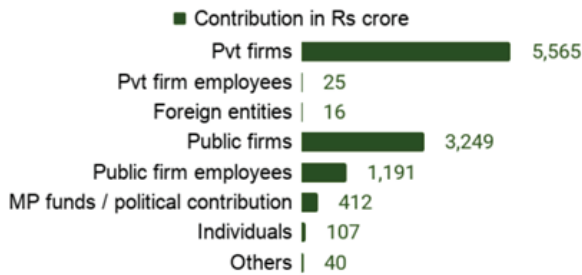


- A division bench of the Delhi High Court gave a split opinion on the question of whether PMNRF is a public authority under the Act.

### PM cares fund under CAG?

- Sources at the CAG office, said, "Since the fund is based on donations of individuals and organisations, we have no right to audit the charitable organisation".

#### The PM-CARES corpus



### Way ahead:

- There is also ambiguity regarding whether the PMNRF (Prime Minister's National Relief Fund) is subject to the RTI Act.
- While the Central Information Commission directed it to disclose information in 2008, a division bench of the **Delhi High Court gave a split opinion on the question of whether PMNRF is a public authority under the Act.**

### Mains oriented question:

"Indiscriminate and impractical demands under RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information would be counterproductive". Comment.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

## Manipur Political Crisis

Role of speaker in disqualification of members

by Dr Mahipal Rathore

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 2 || Polity || Political Dynamics || Anti Defection Law

### Title

Manipur Political Crisis 2020, Anti Defection law and Role of Speaker

### Why in news?

8 Congress MLAs joined BJP, taking the government's tally to 40 members. CM N.Biren Singh himself had joined BJP just before the 2017 elections

### Know the issue step wise?

- **March** - One Congress MLA, who had defected to the BJP, was disqualified by the Speaker following an order of the Supreme Court, reducing the house strength to 59 members.
- **June 8** - High Court of Manipur restrained the seven Congress MLAs, who defected to the BJP, from entering the assembly till Speaker Y. Khemchand Singh finally disposed of the pending anti-defection cases against them.

### What happened in June 2020?

- Right before the Rajya Sabha elections, on **17 June**, many MLAs switched support from the BJP govt.
- **4 NPP, 1 TMC, 1 independent, 3 BJP MLAs** tendered resignation from the House and joined Congress
- 4 out of 7 who had left Congress, went back to Congress again.
- House strength - 56
- Congress + = 30
- Okram Ibobi Singh staked claim to form a govt.

### The Speaker's Decision

- Just before the elections, the **Speaker**: - disqualified the 4 BJP (Congress) MLAs who had returned to Congress.

- While allowing the other three, still with BJP, to vote in the Rajya Sabha election.
- His decision brought down the **Congress tally to 26**, at par with BJP, in a house now reduced to 52 members

### Anti-Defection Law

- **10th Schedule of the Constitution**, added via the **52nd Amendment Act, 1985**.
- An elected member of the house shall be disqualified from being a member if they win the election as a candidate of one party and then join another.
- The power for this disqualification is vested in the Speaker, who is usually a nominee of the ruling party.

### Grounds for disqualification

- If an elected member gives up his membership of a political party voluntarily.
- If he votes or abstains from voting in the House, contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
- If any member who is **independently elected joins any party**.
- If any nominated member joins any political party after the end of 6 months.

### The Speaker

- The decision on disqualification questions on the ground of defection is referred to the Speaker or the Chairman of the House, and his/her decision is final.
- Originally, the Act provided that the presiding officer's decision was final and could not be questioned in any court of law.
- In **Kihoto Hollohan case (1993)**, the Supreme Court declared this provision as unconstitutional on the ground that it seeks to take away the jurisdiction of the SC and the high courts. Presiding officer should function as a tribunal

### The Problem

- Time taken for speaker's decision is not fix
- Whether a High Court can direct a Speaker to decide a disqualification petition within a certain time frame is pending before a **Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court**. (2016 SA Sampath Kumar vs Kale Yadaiah)

- **January 2020 - Speakers of assemblies and the Parliament must decide disqualification pleas within a period of three months except in extraordinary circumstances.**

### Mains oriented question

Anti-defection law works as a banner and insurance against violation of the people's mandate for a party but it cannot be made a tool stifle all dissent. Discuss.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Liquor Revenue for States

#UPSC #IAS

by Joicy joy

in English



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || Polity||Other Constitutional Dimensions ||  
Centre-State Relations

## Title

Liquor Revenue for States, Other sources of revenue for states

## Why in news?

- Recently, in the third phase of the nationwide lockdown, the central government eased restrictions and allowed the sale of liquor.
- The Delhi government announced a 70% hike as 'Special Corona Fee' in the price of liquor across categories.

## State's Earnings from Liquor

- Liquor makes a significant contribution to the exchequers of all the States and territories of the Union except Gujarat and Bihar, both of which have implemented the prohibition.
- Generally, States determine the levy of excise tax on the liquor manufacture and sale.
- Some states also levy VAT (value-added tax) on them, for example, Tamil Nadu.
- States also charge special fees on international imported liquor; shipping fees; and label & mark registration fees.
- Some states, such as Uttar Pradesh, have levied a 'special liquor duty' to raise funds for particular purposes, such as holding stray cattle.

A report published by the Reserve Bank of India last September ('State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2019-20')

### WHAT STATES EARNED AS EXCISE DUTY (IN ₹ CRORE)

	2018-19 (RE)	2019-20 (BE)
All states + 2 UTs	1,50,657.959	1,75,501.422
Uttar Pradesh	25,100	31,517.41
Karnataka	19,750	20,950
Maharashtra	15,343.085	17,477.388
West Bengal	10,554.36	11,873.65
Telangana	10,313.685	10,901

Top 5 earners listed above.

Source: State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2019-20; RBI

## Key Findings of the Report

- The average monthly collection in 2019-20 was 15,000 crore, the pre-coronavirus projection for 2020-21 was even higher.
- The 29 states and Union territories collected a total of 1.76 trillion through excise duty on liquor in 2019-20. This is 16.5% higher than the collection in 2018-19.
- It shows that state excise duty on alcohol accounts for around 10-15% of Own Tax Revenue of a majority of states.
- State excise duties on liquor is the second or third largest contributor to the group State's Tax revenue; Goods and Services Tax-GST is the largest.
- This is the reason states have always wanted liquor kept out of the purview of GST.
  - Exempting alcohol from GST was a key request put forth by state governments when the tax reform was being implemented across the country.

## State Excise

- Excise duty on production of few items including that on liquor and other alcohol-based items is imposed and collected by state governments and is called 'State Excise' duty.
- In essence, the excise duty is a tax on production. In India, it is levied on manufactured items intended for domestic consumption.
- Revenue receipts from state excise come mainly from commodities such as Country Spirits; Liquor; Foreign Liquors and Spirits; Medicinal and Toilet Preparations containing Alcohol, Opium, etc; Opium, Hemp and other Drugs; Sales to Canteen Stores Depots.
- Apart from these, a substantial amount comes from licences, fine, and confiscation of alcohol products.

## Other Sources of Revenue for States

### Tax Revenue

#### State's Own Tax Revenue

- Taxes on Income (tax on agricultural and taxes on professions, trades, callings, and employment)
- Taxes on Property and Capital Transactions (land revenue, stamps and registration fees, urban immovable property tax).
- Taxes on Commodities and Services (sales tax, state sales tax/VAT, central sales tax, the surcharge on sales tax, receipts of turnover tax, other receipts, state excise, axes on vehicles,



## Notes

- taxes on goods and passengers, taxes and duties on electricity, entertainment tax, state GST, and “other taxes and duties”)
  - **Share in Central Taxes**
  - **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution requires that the Finance Commission be constituted every five years so that the States can obtain a proportional share of the union government's tax revenue.
- **Non-Tax Revenue**
- Collected by the governments for providing/facilitating any goods and services.
  - **It is compulsory to pay a portion of the earned/generated income and the number of goods and services consumed as tax.**
  - Non-tax income, however, is taxable only when government-provided services/facilities are used.

# PM CARES Fund



by Joicy Joy

in English

#UPSC #IAS

(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || Polity || Constitutional Bodies || GAG

## Title

PM CARES Fund is not a public authority under RTI says PMO

## Why in news?

The PMO has rejected an RTI application seeking details of the PM CARES Fund, stating that the fund is not a public authority under the Act.

## Background

- The government has set up the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES Fund) to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This Fund has been set up owing to several requests made by the people to support the government in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency.

## About the Fund

- The PM CARES Fund was created on 28 March 2020, "with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic".
- The Fund is a public charitable trust.
- **Chairman - Prime Minister**
  - Other Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister.
- The Fund enables micro-donations as a result of which a large number of people will be able to contribute with the smallest of denominations.
- The Fund will strengthen disaster management capacities and encourage research on protecting citizens.

## Public authority

- As per Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, "public authority" means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted
  - by or under the Constitution;
  - by any other law made by Parliament;
  - by any other law made by State Legislature;
  - by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government.
- includes bodies owned, controlled, or substantially financed by the government and non-governmental organizations financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.

## Implications of the move

- For a trust created and managed by 4 ministers of the cabinet in their ex-officio capacities, **denying the status of 'public authority' is a major blow to transparency, not to mention our democratic values.**
- The name, trust composition, power, usage of the emblem, government domain name all indicate it is a public authority. The government has built walls of secrecy around it by simply ruling that it is not a public authority and denying the application of the RTI Act.

## Government's stand

- The argument against conferring the status of a "public account" on PM CARES seems to be that it is a fund based on individuals' and organisations' voluntary contributions, and as such beyond the CAG's full scrutiny.

## Way forward

- The very object of providing a separate public account of India under Article 266(2), as opposed to India's Consolidated Fund [Article 266(1)] and India's Contingency Fund (Article 267), is to cover transactions that do not fall under any of these two funds.
- Likewise, since PM CARES is a "public account" and because large amounts of money have been raised at the behest of the Indian government, enabling the CAG to audit it would be a step towards accountability and instilling public trust in the Fund.

## Additional Information-Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

- To assist displaced persons from Pakistan the fund was Instituted in 1948 by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

## Notes

- The fund is currently used primarily to tackle natural calamities like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes.
- The fund is also used to help with medical treatment like kidney transplantation, cancer treatment, and acid attack.
- The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support.
- It accepts voluntary contributions from Individuals, Organizations, Trusts, Companies, and Institutions, etc.
- Features
  - Disbursements are made with the **approval of the Prime Minister.**
  - **PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament.**
  - The fund is recognized as a Trust under the Income Tax Act and the same is managed by Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes.
  - **PMNRF is exempt under the Income Tax Act.**

# Hindi as Official Court Language in Haryana

#UPSC #IAS

in English

by Joicy joy



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || Polity || Constitutional Bodies || GAG

## Title

Hindi as Official Court Language in Haryana - know all about it

## Why in news?

- Recently, the Supreme Court challenged the Haryana Government's decision to impose Hindi use in all courts and tribunals across the state.
- A petition to challenge the new Section 3A introduced in the Haryana Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2020 has been filed.
- Petitioners argue that the amendment was made on the premise that everyone who practices law in Haryana not only knows Hindi but is fluent in it as well.

## The Haryana Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2020

- The Haryana Official Languages Act, 1969, was amended and introduced a new section of 3A.
- Designated Hindi as the sole official language to be used in all civil courts and criminal courts in Haryana, subordinate to the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, to all income courts and rent tribunals, or any other court or tribunal constituted by the Government of the State.
- The amendment also states that, within six months of the enactment of the amended Act, the State Government shall provide the necessary facilities, translators, and training for staff.

## Petitioner's Arguments

- **Unconstitutional and Arbitrary**-Five lawyers have challenged the validity of Act, terming it
  - "arbitrary" on the ground that it created an unreasonable classification between Hindi and non-Hindi speaking advocates.

- The imposition of Hindi as the sole language would result in an unreasonable classification between lawyers who are fluent in Hindi and those who are not
- **Violation of the Fundamental Right to equality (Article 14) freedom to pursue a profession of choice, (Article 19 dignity and livelihood and personal liberty (Article 21).**

## ➤ Use of English in the Courts

- English is commonly used by lawyers and advocates in local courts and lower courts.
- Enforcing Hindi would cause challenges for lawyers to practice as the degree of fluency and expertise needed to argue a matter in Hindi was much higher than just a simple understanding of the language.

## ➤ The state as a centre of industry

- There are a small number of lawyers who will not be able to thoroughly argue their cases in Hindi because the majority of cases relate to Industry sectors.

## Government's argument

- In 1966, Haryana was linguistically separated from the former state of Punjab, because Hindi is the primarily spoken language in the region.
  - In 1969 Hindi was made an official Haryana language and is primarily spoken in Haryana state.
- Punjab subsequently incorporated Punjabi into both civil and criminal tribunals.
- Different regional languages are increasingly replacing English as a means of instruction and official State function.
- The State has argued that many times the witnesses don't know what has been recorded in his or her statement in the court if the same is recorded in English. Hence, Hindi is practically necessary.
- Every person in a democracy should get justice in his or her language quickly and should not stay speechless throughout the proceedings.
- Earlier, many of Haryana's MLAs, Advocate General, and hundreds of activists advocated Hindi language use in the courts so that Haryana's people could understand the whole cycle of justice in their language and could conveniently bring their views before the Courts.

## Hindi as an Official Language

- The Hindi language is the single largest spoken language (43.63% of people in India).



## Notes

- The Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi written in Devnagari Script along with English as the official language of the country on 14th September 1949, under Article 343 (1).

**'Official Languages Act' 1963**

- **The imposition of Hindi was contested in many non-Hindi states, especially in the southern state of Tamil Nadu and it led to violent protests in southern India.**
- The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the 'Official Languages Act' in 1963.
  - Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, provides that the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for purpose of judgments, etc. made by the High Court for that State.
  - The 'Official Languages Act' was amended in 1967 to guarantee a 'virtual permanent bilingualism scheme' for all of the Union's official purposes.
- Ensured the continuity of English alongside Hindi as the Union of India's official language.
- The 1965 anti-Hindi riots marked a significant turning point in India's stance on official languages.
- Given India's linguistic diversity, there is no national language, because all states are free to select their official languages.

**Constitutional Provisions- Articles 343 to 351**

- **Article 343 (1)**
  - States that the Official Language of the Union government shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.
- **Article 348,**
  - language to be used in the Supreme Court and high courts and for bills, acts, etc will be in the English language until Parliament by law provides otherwise.
- **Article 351**
  - Gives power to the Union Government to issue a directive for the development of the Hindi language.
- The Hindi language is one of the 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

# Petition to rename 'India' as 'Bharat'

by Ankit Agrawal

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || Polity || Judiciary || Supreme Court

## Title

Petition to rename INDIA as BHARAT, What is Supreme Court's stand on it?

## Why in news?

The Supreme Court ordered that a plea to change India's name exclusively to 'Bharat' be converted into a representation and forwarded to the Union government for an appropriate decision.

## What is the concept of name?

- "What's in a name," -William Shakespeare But most people wouldn't agree with Shakespeare in their daily lives.
- For, a name is the **most prominent identity of a person, a family, a caste, a religion or a country**. Every name has a history. This was hotly debated in the constituent assembly when India got Independence from British rule. The British called India "India".
- Before them, the Mughals, the biggest empire in India, called it Hindustan.
- After an intense debate, the Constitution adopted two names for the country, India and Bharat.

## Petition in SC:

- Now, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking removal of 'India' as the name of the country and keeping just Bharat as the solitary identity of the nation.
- The petitioner, Namah - a resident of Delhi, has sought to amend Article 1 of the Constitution, which names the country and defines its territories.

## Petitioner's Argument:

- The petitioner says the name "India" is A "symbol of slavery"
- While seeking to recognise "Bharat" or "Hindustan" as the only name for the country.

## Constituent assembly debate

- The constituent assembly debated **Article 1** of the then draft constitution prepared under the chairmanship of BR Ambedkar.
- It was a heated debate that saw sharp exchanges among the members on November 18, 1949 -Just 8 days before the Constitution was adopted by "We, the people"

## H.V Kamath:

- The debate opened with HV Kamath, a constituent assembly member from the Central Province and Berar.
- Kamath objected to the Ambedkar committee's draft that had two names - India and Bharat.
- Kamath proposed amendments **to Article 1 putting Bharat or alternatively Hind** as the primary name for the country and pronouncing India only as the name in the English language.
- He went on at length in the constituent assembly to assert that the Namakaran (the naming ceremony) should be taken up more seriously.
- He enlisted names such as "**Hindustan, Hind and Bharatbhumi** or Bharatvarsh" to have been suggested by people.

## Seth Govind Das:

- "India, that is, Bharat" are not beautiful words for the name of a country.
- We should have put the words "Bharat known as India also in foreign countries."
- Das cited the Vedas, the Mahabharat, couple of Puranas and the writings of Chinese traveller Hiuen-Tsang to say that Bharat was the original name of the country.
- Hence India should not be put as the primary name in the **constitution post-independence**.
- He also invoked Mahatma Gandhi saying that the country fought the battle of freedom raising the slogan of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai"

- Asserting that Bharat could be the only plausible name for the country.
- Among others who supported India being named only as Bharat included MA Ayyangar of Madras KV Rao from Andhra Pradesh BM Gupta, Sriram Sahai, Kamalapati Tripathi and Har Govind Pant

### All amendments failed to pass:

- At the end, **when Rajendra Prasad put the amendments to vote**, all fell.
- **Article 1** remained intact as "India, that is Bharat".
- However, the debate has continued.

### Yogi Adityanath moved a private member's bill:

- In 2014, Yogi Adityanath - the incumbent chief minister of Uttar Pradesh - had moved a Private Member's Bill in the Lok Sabha,
- Seeking substitution of word "India" in the Constitution with "Hindustan" proposing "Bharat" as the primary name of the country.
- His bill proposed to amend the language of **Article 1** as, "**Bharat, that is Hindustan**, shall be a Union of States."

### The name Bharat is used at various places

1. Our National Anthem Jan gan man adhinayak jay he Bharat bhagya widhata
2. The word Bharatiya dand sanvidhan is used for the Indian Penal Code
3. The highest civil honour given in our country is "Bharatratna"
4. We say, "Bharat mata ki jay" and never "India mata ki jay."

### Changing the name of cities

- We are seeing identity changes in the country today like
- Bombay has become Mumbai, Calcutta has become Kolkata and Madras has become Chennai.
- Bangalore to Bengaluru
- Mysore to Mysuru



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Notes

# Reservation isn't a fundamental right: Supreme Court

by Dr Mahipal Rathore

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

## Relevance

GS 2 || Polity || Constitutional Framework || Fundamental Rights

## Title

Right to Reservation is not a Fundamental Right says Supreme Court

## Why in news?

Recently, the Supreme Court of India has said that reservation of seats provided to certain communities is not a fundamental right.

## What's the case?

- On 11 June 2020, the Supreme Court refused to entertain a batch of pleas by Political parties from Tamil Nadu, seeking to restrain the Centre from proceeding with all India counselling for UG and PG medical courses.
- A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Krishna Murari and S Ravindra Bhat dismissed the petitions

## What did the petitioners want?

- The petitions challenged the Centre's decision not to grant 50 per cent reservation to OBC candidates in medical seats surrendered by Tamil Nadu in all-India quota.
- Under **Articles 32**, they sought directions to the Centre to implement **50% OBC quota** in seats surrendered by the state in the all-India quota for undergraduate and post-graduate medical and dental courses for 2020-21.
- The bench observed that no case was made out for the petitioners to approach the top court directly under Article 32.

- "Whose fundamental rights are being violated? Article 32 is available only for violation of fundamental rights. We assume you are all interested in fundamental rights of the citizens of Tamil Nadu. But right to reservation is not a fundamental right,"
- In a ruling in February too, the SC had held there is no fundamental right to claim reservation in public jobs and no court can order a state to provide for reservation to SC/STs.
- Article 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) empower the State to make reservations

## Article 16 - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment

- There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.
- No citizen shall, on grounds only of **religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State.**
- Nothing in this **article shall prevent Parliament from making any law prescribing**, in regard to a class or classes of employment or appointment to an office under the Government of, or any local or other authority within, a State or Union territory, any requirement as to residence within that State or Union territory prior to such employment or appointment.
- Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.

## Reservation in Tamil nadu:

- In Tamil Nadu, there is **69% reservation** for **OBCs, SC and ST** and within this, **OBC reservations are about 50%.**
- The petitions said 50% of OBC candidates must get admissions in the medical colleges out of seats surrendered under the all India quota.



Main Category as per Government of Tamil Nadu	Sub Category as per Government of Tamil Nadu	Reservation Percentage for each Sub Category as per Government of Tamil Nadu	Reservation Percentage for each Main Category as per Government of Tamil Nadu	Category as per Government of India
Backward Class (BC)	Backward Class Non Muslims (BC) - General	26.5%	30%	Backward Class
	BC Muslims	3.5%		
Most Backward Class (MBC)	Most Backward Communities (MBC)		20%	
	Denotified Community (DNC)			
Scheduled Castes	Only Scheduled Castes	15%	18%	Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes
	only for Arunthathiyar	3%		
Scheduled Tribes		1% No Sub-Categories	1%	
Total Reservation Percentage			69%	

Notes

**Additional info:**

- The 103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2019, empowers both Centre and the states to provide 10% reservation to the **Economic Weaker Section category of society in government jobs** and education institutions.
- The Supreme Court under Article 32 and the High courts under **Article 226** of the Constitution can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo-warranto.
- A remedy under Article 32 is in itself a Fundamental Right and hence, the Supreme Court may not refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction. On the other hand, a remedy under Article 226 is discretionary and hence, a High court may refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction

**Mains oriented question:**

The Supreme Court of India has said that reservation of seats provided to certain communities is not a fundamental right.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

## Science & Technology

### What is Open Skies Treaty?

by Joicy Joy

#UPSC #IAS  
in English



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

#### Relevance

GS 2||Science & Technology||Space||Miscellaneous

#### Title

What is the Open Skies Treaty? Why the USA want to leave Open Skies Treaty?

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the United States of America (USA) has announced that it will exit the Open Skies Treaty (OST).
- Continuous violation of the treaty by Russia and changes in the security environment.
- It is expected to formally pull out of Open Skies in six months.

#### Open Skies Treaty

- Signed in 1992 and came into effect in 2002.
- The agreement that allows its 34 signatories countries to monitor arm development by conducting surveillance flights (unarmed) over each other's territories.
- Therefore, the treaty established an aerial surveillance system for its participants.
- Both US and Russia are signatories of the treaty.
- India is not a member of this treaty.

#### USA's Stand

- The USA has blamed Russia for restricting US flyovers in neighbour Georgia and its military enclave in Kaliningrad (Russia).
- Russia misused its flights over the US and Europe to identify critical infrastructure for the potential

attack in a time of war.

- Russia intends to annex the Crimean peninsula and has designated an Open Skies refueling airfield in the region.

- Yet, the USA has expressed willingness to make a new agreement.

#### Russia's Stand

- Denied the allegations.
- Warned that the withdrawal will affect the interests of all of 35 participating countries.
- Russia intended to fully follow all the rights and obligations under the treaty as long as the treaty is in force.

#### Other details

- The USA has used the treaty more intensively than Russia.
- Between 2002 and 2016, the U.S. flew 196 flights over Russia compared to the 71 flights flown by Russia.
- This move by the USA has further deepened doubts on the extension of the New START treaty, which expires in February 2021.
- Throughout its term, the Trump administration has been skeptical of arms control agreements.
- In 2019, the U.S. and Russia walked away from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

#### Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty

- It was a nuclear arms-control accord reached by the United States and the Soviet Union in 1987.
- The two nations agreed to eliminate their stocks of intermediate-range and shorter-range (or "medium-range") land-based missiles (which could carry nuclear warheads).
- It also covered all land-based missiles, including those carrying nuclear warheads but did not cover sea-launched missiles.
- The United States withdrew from the Treaty on 2nd August 2019.

#### New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START Treaty)

- **Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation.**
- On measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.
- It entered into force on 5th February 2011.
- **It is a successor to the START framework of 1991, that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.**
- The USA has been worried that extending New Start would negatively impact an arms deal with China and Russia.
- **It is concerned that China's nuclear stockpile could be doubled if the New Start Treaty continued as is, without including China.**
- The New Start Treaty also suffered from verification inadequacies and that the U.S. intended to establish a new arms control regime which would include China.



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

### Notes

## World's largest all-electric aircraft makes maiden flight

by Anirudh

#UPSC #IAS



(Click on the above image to watch the video)

### Relevance

GS 3 || Science & Technology || Miscellaneous

### Title

World's largest ALL ELECTRIC PLANE completes its maiden flight, Will the aviation sector become green?

### Why in news?

The planet's "largest all electric commercial aircraft" has completed its maiden flight, the latest example of a zero-emission form of transport taking to the skies. The Cessna Caravan, retrofitted with an electric engine, flew for 20-30 minutes over Washington State in the US. Largest all electric aircraft to make maiden flight

### The developments:

- The Cessna 208B Grand Caravan took off from an airport in Moses Lake, Washington, on Thursday and used a 750-horsepower all-electric motor developed by a Redmond-headquartered company called magniX.
- Work to convert the aircraft was undertaken by magniX and another firm called AeroTEC.

### Cessna Caravan:

- The plane selected, a **Cessna 208 Caravan**, is a popular utility aircraft around the world since the **1980s, with over 2,600 currently being operated** for commuter airlines, air cargo, VIP transport, flight training, and humanitarian missions.
- "This first flight of the eCaravan is yet another step on the road to operating these middle-mile aircraft at a fraction of the cost, with zero emissions, from and to smaller airports," statement was made

### Cessna Caravan



### Background of the development:

- Aviation was one of the **fastest growing sources of the carbon emissions** that are driving the climate emergency.
- According to the **World Wildlife Federation (WWF)**, unregulated carbon pollution from aviation is the
- fastest-growing source of **greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)**.
- If the entire sector is considered as a country, it would be among the 10 most polluting nations on the planet.
- By 2050, the aviation industry is expected to cater to 16 billion passengers, up **from 2.4 billion in 2010**. If the sector solely relies on **conventional technologies, emissions would triple by 2050**.

#### FACTS & FIGURES

**2%** The global aviation industry produces around 2% of all human-induced carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.

**12%** Aviation is responsible for 12% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all transports sources, compared to 74% from road transport.

**915 million tonnes**

Worldwide flights produced 915 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2019. Globally, humans produced over 43 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

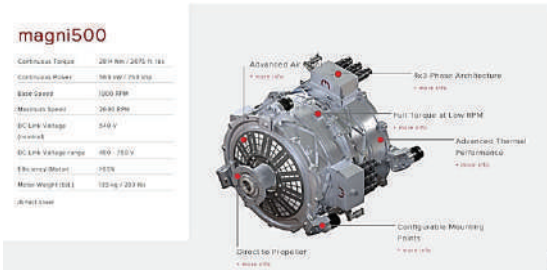
The nine-passenger e-Caravan plane is the collaboration between engine company magniX and aerospace firm AeroTEC



### About the e-Caravan plane:



- The plane can carry nine passengers but a test pilot will undertake the inaugural flight alone, cruising at a **speed of 114mph** (183km/h).
- The engine maker, magniX, hopes the aircraft could enter commercial service by the end of 2021 and have a range of **100 miles**.
- **Motor: The all-electric version will use a 750-horsepower (560kW) magni500 propulsion system:**



### Safety, Certification and Maintenance:

- The aviation industry is heavily regulated to ensure safety but magniX hopes that by retrofitting an existing plane the certification process can be accelerated.
- According to a CNBC report, such electric flights could require significantly less maintenance compared to fuel-based aircraft

### Roel Ganzarski, the CEO of magniX:

- Roel Ganzarski, the CEO of magniX, said current aeroplanes were both expensive to operate and very polluting.
- "Electric airplanes will be **40%-70% lower cost** to operate per flight hour,".
- He added "That means operators will be able to **fly more planes into smaller airports**, meaning a shorter and door-to-door experience, **with no harmful CO2 emissions.**"
- **Less Noise:** While it was flying up in the sky, spectators at the live stream launch reported that it did not make any noise.

### Limitations or Drawback:

- According to magniX, the company believed all flights of less than **1,000 miles** would be completely electric in 15 years' time.
- However for the large distance flight, the main problem is battery density while it is good for ultra-short flights of **100 miles** on a retrofit aircraft and **over 500 miles on a new design aircraft**.
- However, after the first commercial aircraft has flown all-electric, battery companies are starting to work more diligently on aerospace-ready battery solutions.

### Other Research in a row:

- Apart from MagniX, several companies are involved in making electric flights a reality.
- The ride-sharing company Uber has announced air taxis to fly as early as 2023.
- The German company Lilium is working on a **five-seater jet-powered electric air taxi**
- **Cranfield Aerospace Solutions (CAeS)** said, "It is working on developing the UK's first all-electric powered aircraft, with commercial flights coming as early as 2023.
- Major industry players such as Airbus and Rolls Royce, a number of startups, as well as the space agency NASA are involved in developing electric flight technologies.

### Conclusion:

Making the aviation sector eco-friendly is an important step for meeting the 2015 Paris Agreement's goal of limiting the increase in global temperatures to below 2 degree Celsius, and pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degree Celsius

### Mains oriented question:

What are the advantages and drawbacks or limitations of utility aircrafts? Recently Cessna Caravan, retrofitted with an electric engine, flew for 20-30 minutes over Washington State in the US. Largest all electric aircraft to make maiden flight how it is different from other utility aircraft, what are its limitations?



(Scan the QR code to watch the video)

## PRELIMS BITS

### Environment and Ecology

#### Band-tail Scorpionfish

- **Context:** Recently, researchers at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have found a rare Scorpionfish from Sethukarai coast in the Gulf of Mannar. This was the first time that the particular species was found alive in Indian waters.
- **About:** The band-tail scorpionfish (*Scorpaenopsis neglecta*) camouflages within the seagrass meadows.
  - It is well-known for its stinging venomous spines and ability to change colour.
  - Gulf of Mannar is the origin of Band-tail Scorpionfish

#### World Environment Day

- **Context:** World Environment Day is being observed on June 5, 2020.
- **About:** It was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 on the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.
  - It aims to spread awareness and encourage people to take steps to protect the environment.
  - It is hosted by Colombia in partnership with Germany.

### Economy

#### Social Stock Exchanges

- **Context:** A working group constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs) has recommended allowing non-profit organisations to directly list on such platforms.
- **About:** SSE is a platform which allows investors to buy shares in social enterprises vetted by an official exchange.
  - The SSE will function as a common platform where social enterprises can raise funds from the public.
  - It will function on the lines of major stock exchanges like BSE and NSE.
  - However, the purpose of the Social Stock Exchange will be different – not profit, but social welfare.
  - Under the regulatory ambit of SEBI, a listing of social enterprises and voluntary organizations will be undertaken so that they can raise capital as equity, debt or as units like a mutual fund.

### Art and Culture

#### Buddhist Rock Carvings of Gilgit-Baltistan

- **Context:** India has reacted strongly to reports of vandalism and defacement of ancient Buddhist rock carvings in Gilgit-Baltistan under Pakistan's control.
- **About:** The Sacred Rock of Hunza is carved rock as well as a cultural heritage site in Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.
  - The Sacred Rock is divided into two portions, an upper portion and a lower one.
  - The Buddhist sites in Hunza in Gilgit-Baltistan have been desecrated by Islamists, who painted Pakistani flags and slogans on the rock-cut art.
  - The Buddhist residents, who found the paintings to be fresh, said that the vandalism by the Islamists was in retaliation to the recent protests against the Diamer Bhasha dam project, a joint Pakistan-China project.

### Science and Technology

#### National AI Portal

- **Context:** Union Ministry for Electronics and IT, has launched India's national Artificial Intelligence Portal called [www.ai.gov.in](http://www.ai.gov.in).
- **About:** This portal has been jointly developed by the Ministry of Electronics and IT and IT Industry.
  - The National e-Governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM from the IT industry will jointly run this portal.
  - This portal shall work as a one stop digital platform for AI related developments in India, sharing of resources such

as articles, startups, investment funds in AI, resources, companies and educational institutions related to AI in India.

### G7 Artificial intelligence group

- **Context:** The US has joined G7 artificial intelligence group, an international panel for setting ethical guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence. The Trump administration had earlier dismissed the idea.
- **About:** This Global Partnership on AI setup by the Group of Seven will guide the responsible adoption of AI based on shared principles of "human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth."
  - G7-Global Partnership on AI launched recently through a virtual meeting between national technology ministers.

### Ebola virus disease (EVD)

- **Context:** Democratic Republic of Congo has declared a new Ebola epidemic in the western city of Mbandaka.
- **About:** EVD formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever is a severe often fatal illness in humans.
  - Ebola virus was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.
  - It is transmitted to people from wild animals and then spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission
    - There is no proven treatment for Ebola but interventions early on include rehydration with fluids and body salts and treatment of specific symptoms such as low blood pressure, vomiting, diarrhea and infections.
    - An investigational vaccine called rVSV-ZEBOV has shown to be safe and protective against the Ebola virus.

### Electronics incentive schemes

- **Context:** The government has launched three incentive schemes with a total outlay of about 48,000 crore to boost large-scale manufacturing of electronics in the country.
- **About:** It deals with Production Linked Incentive, Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECs) and Modified Electronics Manufacturing Cluster

### Global Vaccine Summit

- **Context:** Recently, the Prime Minister of India addressed the virtual Global Vaccine Summit.
- **About:** The Summit was hosted by the United Kingdom (UK).
  - Almost 50 countries including the business leaders, UN agencies, civil society, government ministers, Heads of State and country leaders participated in the Summit.
  - The Summit was intended to urge nations around the world to pledge funding for vaccinations to protect the world from future outbreaks of infectious diseases.
  - The Summit was aimed at raising USD 7.4 million to immunize a further 300 million children in the world's poorest countries by 2025.
  - India has pledged USD 15-million as India's contribution to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI).

## Security

### Missile Park 'AGNEEPRASTHA'

- **Context:** Foundation Stone for a Missile Park "AGNEEPRASTHA" was recently laid at INS Kalinga, Vizag.
- **About:** The Aim to capture glimpses of Missile History of INS Kalinga since 1981 till date.
  - The Missile Park has been set up with a replica of missiles and Ground Support Equipment (GSE) that showcase the evolution of missiles handled by the unit.
  - The main attraction is P-70 'Ametist', an underwater launched anti-ship missile from the arsenal of the old 'Chakra' (Charlie-I submarine) which was in service with IN during 1988-91.

### Malabar Naval Exercise to include Australia

- **Context:** Exercise Malabar is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners.
- **About:** Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, Japan became a permanent partner in 2015.
  - The annual Malabar series includes diverse activities, ranging from fighter combat operations from aircraft carriers through Maritime Interdiction Operations Exercises.

## International Relations

### Depsang Plain near LAC

- **Context:** Reports of a heavy Chinese presence at Depsang, an area at a crucial dip (called the Bulge) on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- **About:** The “Depsang Plain” is one of the few places in the Western Sector where light armour (vehicles) would have ease of manoeuvre, so any Chinese buildup there is a cause for concern.
  - The buildup invokes memories of both the 1962 war, when Chinese troops had occupied all of the Depsang plains.
  - India controls the western portion of the plains as part of Ladakh, whereas the eastern portion is part of the Aksai Chin region, which is controlled by China and claimed by India.
  - More recently in April 2013, the PLA crossed the LAC and pitched tents on the Indian side for three weeks, before they agreed to pull out.

### Kohala Hydropower Project

- **Context:** China under the multi-billion-dollar CPEC will set up a 1,124-megawatt power project in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir despite India's objection.
- **About:** China under the multi-billion-dollar CPEC will set up the Kohala hydropower project, a 1,124-megawatt power project in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.
  - A tripartite agreement has been finalised among China's Three Gorges Corporation, the authorities in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) to implement this project under the CPEC framework.
  - The project will be built on the Jhelum River and aims at annually providing more than five billion units of clean and low-cost electricity for consumers in Pakistan.
  - India had protested Pakistan's plans to build a dam in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying such projects in territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation were not proper.

### Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA)

- The government of Philippines has suspended plans to cancel the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), a deal that is important to Washington's moves to counter Beijing's rising regional power.
- A visiting forces agreement (VFA) is an agreement between a country and a foreign nation having military forces visiting that country.
- The VFA also affirms the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty as well as the 2014
- Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement — agreements that enable the U.S. military to conduct joint exercises and operations in the Philippines.
- The Philippine Senate ratified the VFA in 1999.

## Government scheme and Initiatives

### Herbal roads project

- **Context:** The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to develop 800 km roads as Herbal belt with medicinal and herbal trees along both sides of the road.
- **About:** These 800-kilometre roads will be along National and State highways passing through the state and the herbal garden along with them will keep airborne, bacterial and other diseases at bay.
  - PWD Department will also make arrangement for rainwater recharging system on these herbal roads

### PM Svanidhi

- **Context:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a micro-credit facility for street vendors under the Svanidhi Scheme.
- **About:** It is a special micro-credit facility scheme to enable more than 50 lakh urban/peri-urban & rural street vendors to restart their livelihoods affected due to the lockdown.
  - The loans are meant to help kick-start activity for vendors who have been left without any income since the lockdown was implemented on March 25.



### SWADES Initiative

- **Context:** The Government of India has launched a new initiative SWADES to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission.
- **About:** The objective of the Scheme is to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skill sets and experience and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
  - SWADES stands for Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support.
  - This is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs

### Jaya Jaitly Task Force

- **Context:** The Women and Child Development Ministry has constituted a task force to examine issues related to age of motherhood, lowering Maternal Mortality Rate and improvement of nutritional levels.
- **About:** The task force will be headed by Jaya Jaitly and it will submit its report by 31st July of next month.
  - This task force examine the issues related to Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate, Total Fertility Rate, and Sex Ratio at Birth, Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and any other issues pertaining to health and nutrition.
  - This task force suggests measures for promoting higher education among women. Suggest suitable legislation and amendments in existing laws and also chalk out a detailed roll-out plan with timelines to implement these recommendations.

### Miscellaneous

### Changpa Tribes

- **Context:** The Chinese Army's intrusion in Chumur and Demchok has left Ladakh's nomadic herding Changpa community cut off from large parts of summer pastures.
- **About:** The Changpa of Ladakh is high altitude pastoralists, raising mainly yaks and goats.
  - Among the Ladakh Changpa, those who are still nomadic are known as Phalpa, and they take their herds from in the Hanley Valley to the village of Lato.
  - The Changpa speak Changskhat, a dialect of Tibetan, and practice Tibetan Buddhism.

### Notes

## Environment and Ecology

### Environmental performance index

- **Context:** 12th edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020) has been released.
- **About:** The Index is released Yale and Columbia universities in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF).
  - The index is released biennially (once every two years).
  - The EPI measures the environmental performance of 180 countries.
  - It considers 32 indicators of environmental performance, giving a snapshot of the 10-year trends in environmental performance at the national and global levels.
  - Denmark was ranked first followed by Luxembourg and Switzerland.
  - India secured 168th rank. The country scored 27.6 out of 100 in the 2020 index.

### World Oceans Day

- **Context:** The United Nations celebrates World Oceans Day every year on 8 June
- **About:** Celebrated on June 8, 2020, theme was "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean."
  - The concept was originally proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit – UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
  - World Oceans Day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.

### Coral Triangle Day

- **Context:** The Coral Triangle Day 2020 was observed on June 9.
- **About:** The Coral Triangle Day is an annual event started by Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) since 2012 in conjunction with the World Oceans Day on June 8.
  - Aim of Coral triangle day is to celebrate and raise awareness of the ocean conservation and protection especially of the Coral Triangle.
  - It is a multilateral partnership of six countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste).

### Asiatic Lion

- **Context:** According to June 5, 2020 census, the number of Asiatic lions have now risen by 29% over five years to an estimated 674 in the Gir forest region and other revenue areas of coastal Saurashtra.
- **About:** At present Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is the only abode of the Asiatic lion. They live in a compact tract of dry deciduous forest and open grassy scrublands in southwestern part of Saurashtra region of Gujarat.
  - It is Listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of CITES and as Endangered on IUCN Red List.

## Economy

### Turant Customs

- **Context:** Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs launches its flagship programme 'Turant Customs' at Bengaluru & Chennai.
- **About:** It is a giant leap forward to leverage technology for faster Customs clearance of imported goods.
  - Importers will now get their goods cleared from Customs after a faceless assessment is done remotely by the Customs officers located outside the port of import.
  - Turant Customs is a mega reform for the ease of doing business
  - Turant Customs will benefit the importers by eliminating routine interface with the Customs officers and providing uniformity in assessment across the country.
  - Parent Organization is Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is a subsidiary of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.

### Border Adjustment tax

- **Context:** A NITI Aayog member has favoured imposing a border adjustment tax (BAT) on imports to provide a level-playing field to domestic industries.
- **About:** It is a duty that is proposed to be imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs levy that gets charged at the port of entry.
  - BAT is a fiscal measure that imposes a charge on goods or services in accordance with the destination principle of taxation.
  - The Indian industry has been complaining to the government about domestic taxes like electricity duty, duties on fuel, clean energy cess, mandi tax, royalties, biodiversity fees that get charged on domestically produced goods as these duties get embedded into the product.
  - But many imported goods do not get loaded with such levies in their respective country of origin and this gives such products price advantage in the Indian market.

## Art and Culture

### NAIMISHA 2020

- **Context:** The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi will organize online NAIMISHA 2020- Summer Art Program from 8th June 2020 to 3rd July 2020, to reach its audiences during the Covid-19 outbreak.
- **About:** It is an initiative to provide a chance to participants and art enthusiasts to create and learn from practicing artists.
  - The programme includes onlineworkshops sessions on painting, sculpture, printmaking and indrajaal (an interdisciplinary creative workshop).
  - The exhibition of selected artworks from the program will be displayed on So'ham, the cultural media platform of NGMA.
  - It is the first cultural media platform of India, under the banner of NGMA. The platform aims to develop a dialogue between NGMA, artists and art enthusiasts.

## History

### Aguada Fenix

- **Context:** Recently Scientists using an aerial remote-sensing (LiDAR) method have discovered the largest and oldest known structure built by the ancient Maya civilization.
- **About:** The temple site is called Aquada Fenix in Mexico. It is 4,600 feet long and up to 50 feet high, making it the ancient civilisation's oldest and largest monument.
  - It was built between 800 BC and 1,000 BC.
  - One of the most remarkable revelations from the find was the complete lack of stone sculptures related to rulers and elites, such as colossal heads and thrones, that are commonly seen in other Mayan temples.
  - This suggests that the people who built it were more egalitarian than later generations of Mayans.
  - An exciting new find in Tabasco, Mexico, has unearthed a massive land structure created by the Mayans 3,000 years ago.

## Polity

### Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC):

- **Context:** Senior lawmakers from eight democracies including the US have united to counter Communist China. They have launched the Inter Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC).
- **About:** IPAC is a new cross-parliamentary alliance to help counter what the threat posed by China's growing influence on global trade, security and human rights.
  - The participating nations include the US, Germany, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, as well as members of the European parliament.
  - It is an international cross-party group of legislators working towards reform on how democratic countries approach China.
  - Comprised of legislators from eight democracies it will be led by a group of co-chairs who are senior politicians dra-

wn from a representative cross-section of the world's major political parties.

- The group aims to “construct appropriate and coordinated responses, and to help craft a proactive and strategic approach on issues related to China.”

## Geography

### Vamsadhara River Water Dispute

- **Context:** Andhra Pradesh and Odisha CM recently held talks to iron out all differences with regard to the sharing of Vamsadhara River waters.
- **About:** River Vamsadhara is an important east-flowing river between Rushikulya and Godavari, in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
  - The river originates in the border of Thuamul Rampur in the Kalahandi district and Kalyansinghpur in Rayagada district of Odisha.
  - It is an east-flowing river which originates in Kalahandi district of Odisha, flows in Odisha, along its boundary with Andhra Pradesh and finally joins the Bay of Bengal at Kalingapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
  - It is the main river of north-eastern Andhra region and the Boddepalli Rajagopala Rao Project was constructed on it to meet the irrigation needs of the region.
  - Andhra Pradesh wants to build the Neradi bridge across the river which will be possible only after Odisha's consent.
  - Odisha argues that the flood flow canal would result in drying up the existing river bed and consequent shifting of the river affecting the groundwater table.

### Challenger Deep: the deepest spot in the ocean

- **Context:** Kathy Sullivan, known as the first American woman to walk in space has also become the first woman to reach a Challenger Deep.
- **About:** It is the deepest known point in the Earth's oceans with a depth of around 10,984m.
  - It is located in the Western Pacific Ocean at the southern end of the Mariana Trench near the Mariana Islands group.
  - Finding out about the deep ocean areas can potentially reveal new sources for medical drugs, food, energy resources and other products.
  - It can also help to predict earthquakes and tsunamis and help us understand how we are affecting and getting affected by the Earth's environment

## Science and Technology

### Aditya shortlisted for Gustave Trouvé Award

- **Context:** India's first solar-powered ferry 'Aditya' is among 12 such ferries around the globe that have been shortlisted for the Gustave Trouvé Award.
- **About:** The electric ferry boat is operated by the Kerala State Water Transport Department and built by Naval Solar and Electric Boats, Kochi.
  - Gustave Trouvé Award: The Gussies electric boat award is a global award instituted after Gustave Trouvé, a French electrical engineer and pioneer in electric cars and boats.
  - Gustave Trouvé was a prolific inventor with over 75 patents

### ANANYA

- **Context:** Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a Deemed University, Pune has developed a Nano-technology based disinfectant spray to combat COVID-19 by disinfecting all types of surfaces.
- **About:** It has been named “ANANYA”. This can be used by anyone, from a common man to a healthcare worker, for individual as well as large scale use.
  - This spray can be used on masks, PPEs, hospital linens, as well as other likely contaminated surfaces such as medical instruments, elevator buttons, door knobs, corridors and rooms.

### Nature Index, 2020

- **Context:** In the recently-released Nature Index table 2020, India is placed twelfth globally in science research output.
- **About:** The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an



independently selected group of 82 high quality science journals.

- The Nature Index is updated monthly and also releases annual tables of country.
- The database is compiled by Nature Research, a division of the international scientific publishing company Springer Nature that publishes academic journals.
- Nature Research's flagship publication is Nature, a weekly multidisciplinary journal first published in 1869.

## Security

### Operation Desert Chase

- **Context:** Under operation named Desert Chase, Rajasthan Police arrested two civil defence employees in Jaipur based on Military Intelligence (MI) inputs that they had been passing on sensitive information to Pakistan's spy agency ISI.
- **About:** The operation was jointly carried out by the Army, UP ATS, and Rajasthan Police, and was named Operation 'Desert Chase'.
  - The work on the "operation" began in August 2019, when the MI Lucknow, through its sleuths, learnt about an espionage agent near Sri Ganganagar who was passing military information to his handlers in Pakistan.

## International Relations

### Daulat Beg Oldie

- **Context:** In the reporting on the LAC stand-off, the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road has often appeared in news.
- **About:** The road from Darbuk traverses at an altitude of 14,000 feet and reaches Shyok, the last Indian village in the region, between Shyok and Karakoram Pass (that divides Ladakh from China's Xinjiang province) lies DBO, a plateau at an altitude of over 16,000 feet and the location of an Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) used by the air force to drop supplies.
  - The road will help manage the border and the areas adjoining Aksai Chin, Chip Chap River and Jiwan Nalla.
  - It will also ensure faster deployment of troops in the area. Before the laying of the road, the only way to reach the area was via the ALG, where heavy lift aircraft, such as the C-130J, can land.

## Miscellaneous

### India's Campaign Brochure for UNSC Seat

- **Context:** Recently, India has released a campaign brochure ahead of the vote for the non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in 2021-22.
- **About:** The UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.
  - Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions.
  - The Security Council consists of fifteen members. Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body's five permanent members.
  - The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms.

## Notes

## Environment and Ecology

### Malabar Gliding Frog:

- **Context:** Recently, a rare amphibian, Malabar Gliding Frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*) was spotted in Pullad, Kerala.
- **About:** It is endemic to the rain forests of Western Ghats. Scientific name is *Rhacophorus malabaricus*.
  - It is a green frog with slender body, webbed feet, and unusual body positions, very well camouflaged and gliding in the air.
  - IUCN Conservation status is Least Concern.
  - The Malabar gliding frog population is declining due to deforestation, climate change, developmental activities, and toxic chemicals.

## Economy

### P K Mohanty Committee

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a five-member Internal Working Group to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for 'Indian Private Sector Banks'.
- **About:** RBI Central Board Director P K Mohanty will head the committee, which will submit its report by 30th September, 2020.
  - Terms of Reference of the Committee are to review the extant licensing guidelines and regulations relating to ownership and control in Indian private sector banks and suggest appropriate norms;
  - To examine and review the eligibility criteria for individuals/entities to apply for banking license;
  - To study the current regulations on holding of financial subsidiaries through non-operative financial holding company (NOFHC) and suggest the manner of migrating all banks to a uniform regulation in the matter; and
  - To examine the norms for promoter shareholding at the initial/licensing stage and subsequently, along with the timelines for dilution of the shareholding.

## Art and Culture

### Raja Parba Festival

- **Context:** The Prime Minister has extended his greetings to the people of Odisha for the unique Raja Parba festival.
- **About:** Raja Parba is Odisha's three-day unique festival celebrating the onset of monsoon and the earth's womanhood.
  - It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation.
  - As a mark of respect towards the earth during her menstruation days, all agricultural works, like ploughing, sowing are suspended for the three days.

## History

### Kodumanal Excavation

- **Context** The excavations at Kodumanal village have thrown light on burial rituals and the concept of afterlife in megalithic culture.
- **About:** The researchers have identified 250 cairn-circles at the village in Erode district.
  - Earlier excavations revealed that the site served as a trade-cum-industrial centre from 5th century BCE to 1st century BCE.
  - The researchers have identified 250 cairn-circles at the village in Erode district.
  - Earlier excavations revealed that the site served as a trade-cum-industrial centre from 5th century BCE to 1st century BCE.
  - It is a village located in the Erode district in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
  - The place is an important archaeological site.
  - It is located on the northern banks of Noyyal River, a tributary of the Cauvery.

## Polity

### Civil Services Board

- **Context:** The Punjab government, last week, constituted a three-member civil services board to decide on IAS transfers and postings in the state.
- **About:** To insulate the bureaucracy from political interference and to put an end to frequent transfers of civil servants by political bosses, the Supreme Court had in 2013 directed the Centre and the states to set up a civil services board to consider transfers and postings of bureaucrats among others.
  - As per rules, all states should have a civil services board to decide on transfers and postings of the bureaucrats.
  - The board is mandated to decide on the transfer of a civil servant before completion of his or her fixed tenure.
  - The rules mandate the civil services board to submit an annual report on January 1 to the central government about the date of the meetings held by them.
  - The civil services board is headed by chief secretary of a state.
  - It has senior most additional chief secretary or chairman, Board of Revenue,
  - Financial Commissioner or an officer of equivalent rank and status as member.
  - In addition, it will have Principal Secretary or Secretary, Department of Personnel in the state government as member secretary.

## Geography

### Sharavathi Monkey Park

- **Context:** Karnataka government has decided to develop a monkey park in Shivamogga district.
- **About:** The monkey park will be established on the uninhabited islands in the Sharavathi backwaters region.
  - The park will be the first such in the state and will be set up on 100 acres of land at the Nagavalli forest in Hosanagara taluk, Shivamogga district.
  - The idea came up following a spike in the cases of monkeys raiding agricultural and plantation crops in Malnad region in recent times and several protests by farmers.

### Ukai Dam

- **Context:** Recently, the water level of Ukai Dam has stood at 319.86 feet after 46 years.
- **About:** It is the second-largest reservoir in Gujarat after Sardar Sarovar Dam which is built on Tapi River.
  - It is also known as Vallabh Sagar.
  - It is an earth-cum-masonry dam which was constructed in 1972.
  - It is one of the three peninsular Rivers in India that flow in an east to the west itinerary and the other two rivers are the Mahi River and Narmada River.

### Arctic Sea

- **Context:** The National Centre of Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) found the largest decline in the Arctic Sea ice in the last 41 years due to global warming.
- **About:** According to recent observations in the last 40 years (1979-2018), the sea ice has been declining at 4.7% per decade, while the current declining rate was found to be 13% in July 2019.
  - Thus, it has been noted that the volume of ice formation during winters is unable to keep pace with the volume of ice loss during summers.
  - It has been predicted that if this trend continues, there would be no ice left in the Arctic Sea by 2050

### Socotra Island

- **Context:** Southern separatists have seized control of Yemen's island of Socotra in the Arabian Sea, deposing its governor and driving out forces of the Saudi-backed government.
- **About:** Socotra or Soqatra, located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea, is the largest of four islands in the Socotra Archipelago.
  - The island of Socotra constitutes around 95% of the landmass of the Socotra archipelago
  - The territory is officially part of It sits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aden and lies some 240 kilometres east of the coast of Somalia and 380 kilometres south of the Arabian Peninsula.

- In 2008 Socotra was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

## Science and Technology

### AarogyaPath

- **Context:** AarogyaPath, a CSIR National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal that aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies has been launched.
- **About:** It is an integrated public platform that provides single-point availability of key healthcare goods such as medical equipment, drugs, apparel, etc.
  - Hospitals, Pathology laboratories, Research institutes, Medical colleges and Individual patients. It will also create opportunities for business expansion due to an expanded network of buyers and visibility of new requirements for products.
  - It comes under the Ministry of Science & Technology.
 It has been ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index-2020.

### NASA's Gateway Lunar Orbit outpost

- **Context:** NASA has finalised the contract for the initial crew module called habitation and logistics (HALO) support for Gateway lunar orbiting outpost.
- **About:** It refers to the pressurised living quarters where astronauts will spend their time while visiting the Gateway lunar orbiting outpost.
  - These quarters will be about the size of a small apartment and will provide augmented life support in tandem with NASA's Orion spacecraft.

## Security

### Naval liaisons at RMIFC and EMASOH

- **Context:**
  - **Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC)**
  - India is looking to post Navy Liaison Officers at the RMIFC in Madagascar and also at the European maritime surveillance initiative in the Strait of Hormuz for improved MDA.
- **About:** It functions under the aegis of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and is based in
  - Madagascar.
  - It is designed to deepen maritime domain awareness by monitoring maritime activities and promoting information sharing and exchange.
  - The European maritime surveillance initiative in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH)
  - It is composed of Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands and French officers and based at the French naval base in Abu Dhabi.
  - The aim is to monitor maritime activity and guarantee freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

## International Relations

### Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE) Mission

- **Context:** Japan and India will be launching a joint lunar mission called the Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE).
- **About:** The mission aims to put a lander and rover on Moon's surface.
  - Japanese space agency JAXA would be building the overall landing module and the rover, while ISRO would develop the lander system.
  - The mission will be launched from Japan, and the designated launch vehicle is the H3 rocket, manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.
  - Observational data suggests the existence of water in the polar regions of Moon. The mission intends to obtain data on the quantity and forms of water resources present, in order to determine the feasibility of utilizing such resources for sustainable space exploration activities in the future.

## Government scheme and Initiative



### Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan

- **Context:** The Government of India has decided to launch a massive rural public works scheme named 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan'.
- **About:** Aim is to empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens.
  - It will be implemented across 116 districts in the six States namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.
  - This campaign will work in mission mode for 125 days with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore.
  - It will involve 25 different types of works to provide employment to the migrant workers on one hand and create infrastructure in the rural regions of the country on the other hand.
  - It will be operationalised through the Common Service Centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

### SATYABHAMA Portal

- **Context:** Union Minister for Mines has launched SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Atma Nirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal.
- **About:** The portal has been designed, developed and will be implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division.
  - Purpose is to promote research and development in the mining and minerals sector by providing online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the same and utilisation of funds.
  - The portal has also been integrated with the NITI Aayog portal- NGO Darpan.

## Miscellaneous

### FSSAI Food Safety Index for 2019-20

- **Context:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently released its Food Safety report for 2019-20.
- **About:** This is the second index on food safety, which FSSAI released on the occasion of World Food Safety Day with the theme "Food Safety is everyone's business".
  - It was dedicated to those in the supply chain who have ensured the uninterrupted availability of safe food during this COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The FSSAI is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
  - It has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
  - It is headed by a non-executive Chairperson, appointed by the Central Government, either holding or has held the position of not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

### World Investment Report

- **Context:** The World Investment Report 2020 has been released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- **About:** The World Investment Report has been published annually since 1991.
  - It covers the latest trends in foreign direct investment around the world.
  - UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
  - It is part of the UN Secretariat.
  - It reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, but has its own membership, leadership, and budget.
  - It is also a part of the United Nations Development Group.

### Indian officials attend virtual EAG plenary meet

- **Context:** Indian officials have attended the virtual 32nd plenary meeting of Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG).
- **About:** It is a regional body established in 2004. Currently, it is an associate member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
  - It comprises nine countries namely India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbek-

kistan and Belarus.

- Purpose is to ensure cooperation and integration of EAG member-states into the international system of anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism in accordance with the recommendations of FATF.

Notes

## Economy

### Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund:

- **Context:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its nod to set up a Rs.15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund.
- **About:** Aim is to facilitate incentivisation of investments in the establishment of infrastructure in the animal husbandry sector.
  - The fund had been proposed as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
  - Beneficiaries will be Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies and individual entrepreneurs with minimum 10% margin money contribution by them.
  - The balance 90% would be the loan component to be made available by scheduled banks.

## History

### Syama Prasad Mukherjee

- **Context:** Prime Minister has paid tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee on his Punya Tithi.
- **About:** Syama Prasad Mukherjee was an Indian politician, barrister and academician, who served as the Minister for Industry and Supply in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.
  - He became a member of the Bengal Legislative Council in 1929, and was the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta from 1934 to 1938.
  - Mukherjee was also a member of the Constituent Assembly.
  - He fully supported the satyagraha of the Praja Parishad, which aimed to make J&K an integral part of India and he raised a strong slogan: "Two flags in one country, two legislations in one country, two heads in one country, unacceptable, unacceptable".

## Polity

### Rule of Law Index

- **Context:** The Supreme Court has asked the government to decide on the plea for setting up expert panels to boost India's prospects in the Rule of Law Index.
- **About:** It is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.
  - World Justice Project is an independent Organisation.
  - Parameters of the law It measures rule of law performance across eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice and Criminal Justice.
  - The index has been topped by Denmark followed by Norway and Finland.
  - India has been ranked at 69. India has never been ranked among the top 50 in the Index.

### Secret Ballot

- **Context:** The Supreme Court has held in a judgment that Secrecy of ballot is the cornerstone of free and fair elections.
- **About:** The secret ballot, also known as Australian ballot, is a voting method in which a voter's choices in an election or a referendum are anonymous.
  - It aims for forestalling attempts to influence the voter by intimidation, blackmailing, and potential vote-buying.
  - The system is one means of achieving the goal of political privacy.
  - Justice Khanna, who wrote the judgment, referred to Section 94 of the Representation of People Act, which upholds the privilege of the voter to maintain confidentiality about her choice of vote.

### Justice G. Rohini commission

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet has approved a six-month extension to the commission as it needs more time as its work has been affected by the pandemic.

► **About:** The commission is headed by Justice (Retd.) G Rohini.

- It had been constituted to complete the task of sub-categorising 5000- odd castes in the central OBC list so as to ensure more equitable distribution of opportunities in central government jobs and educational institutions.
- It was constituted under Article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of the President on 2nd October 2017.
- Article 340 deals with the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes. It shall investigate the matters referred them and present a report to the President. The President shall cause a copy of the report so presented together with a memorandum explaining the action taken thereon to be laid before each House of Parliament.

## Geography

### Senkaku Islands

► **Context:** Japan has approved a plan to change the name of the area covering the Tokyo-controlled Senkaku Islands — known by Taiwan and China as the Diaoyus — from “Tonoshiro” to “Tonoshiro Senkaku”.

► **About:** The Senkaku Islands are a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

- They are located east of Mainland China, northeast of Taiwan, west of Okinawa Island, and north of the southwestern end of the Ryukyu Islands.
- The islands are the focus of a territorial dispute between Japan and China and between Japan and Taiwan.
- Japan administers and controls the Senkaku islands as part of the city of Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture.

### Athirappally Waterfalls

► **Context:** The Kerala government recently gave the go-ahead for the proposed 163-megawatt (MW) Athirappally Hydroelectric Project.

► **About:** The famous Athirappally Waterfalls is located on the Chalakudy River in Thrissur district of Kerala

- It is the largest waterfall in Kerala, which stands tall at 80 feet and is nicknamed “The Niagara of India”.
- Controversy about a state-proposed hydroelectric dam on the Chalakudy River above the waterfalls began in the 1990s and continued through 2021.

## Science and Technology

### IN-SPACe

► **Context:** Union Government has given approval to Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).

► **About:** It will be the nodal national entity under the Department of Space.

- It is expected to be functional within six months, will assess the needs and demands of private players, including educational and research institutions, and, explore ways to accommodate these requirements in consultation with ISRO.
- Existing ISRO infrastructure, both ground- and space-based, scientific and technical resources, and even data are planned to be made accessible to interested parties to enable them to carry out their space-related activities.

### Beidou Navigation Satellite System

► **Context:** China launched the final satellite in its Beidou constellation on board Long March-3 rocket.

► **About:** It is a Chinese satellite navigation system.

- The full constellation scheduled to comprise 35 satellites.

## International Relations

### United Nations (UN) Arms Trade Treaty

► **Context:** China has decided to join the United Nations (UN) Arms Trade Treaty that has been rejected by the United States.

► **About:** The UN Arms Trade Treaty entered into force in 2014.

- To regulate the international trade in conventional arms (from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships).
- It requires member countries to keep records of international transfers of weapons and to prohibit cross-border sh-



ipments that can be used in human rights violations or attacks on civilians.

- It establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade.
- The treaty does not regulate the domestic sale or use of weapons in any country.
- 105 states have ratified the treaty and a further 32 states have signed but not ratified it.
- India has not signed the treaty as it has said that it has strong and effective national export controls on military hardware to ensure they don't fall into the wrong hands.

## Government scheme and Initiative

### International Yoga Day 2020

- **Context:** International Yoga Day 2020 is being celebrated on June 21.
- **About:** It has been celebrated annually since 2015 following its inception in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014.
  - The World Health Organization mentions yoga as a means to improve health in its Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018–2030: More active people for a healthier world.
  - Yoga is inscribed in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of India in 2016.

### Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

- **Context:** Recently, a study by the Ministry of Rural Development has observed that the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) has not been able to achieve the desired objectives and failed to make a significant impact.
- **About:** SAGY is a village development project which was launched on 11th October, 2014 on the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan.
  - Under the Yojana, Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024.
  - To substantially improve the standard of living and quality of life of all sections of the population through Improved basic amenities, higher productivity and better livelihood opportunities.

### 'Decarbonizing Transport in India (DTI)' Project

- **Context:** NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Transport Forum (ITF) will launch the "Decarbonising Transport in India".
- **About:** It is a tailor-made transport emissions assessment framework for India.
  - It will provide the government with a detailed understanding of current and future transport activity and the related CO2 emissions as a basis for their decision making.

### Compressed Bio-Gas

- **Context:** Union Government is in the process of including Compressed Bio-Gas under Priority Sector Lending.
- **About:** Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme on Compressed Bio Gas was launched in 2018.
  - It envisages targeting production of 15 MMT of CBG from 5000 plants by 2023.
  - Oil Marketing Companies have offered long term pricing on CBG to make projects bankable and have agreed to execute long term agreements on CBG.

## Miscellaneous

### Global Education Monitoring Report 2020

- **Context:** UNESCO has released a report titled "Global Education Monitoring Report 2020".
- **About:** The theme is "Inclusion and education: All means all".
  - To monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on education as well as other education-related points in the SDG Agenda.

## PRELIMS CAPSULE

**Ques-1) Consider the following international agreements:**

- 1. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**
- 2. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**
- 3. The World Heritage Convention**

Which of the above has / have a bearing on the biodiversity?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Ques -2) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Animal Welfare Board of India is established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- 2. National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body.**
- 3. National Ganga River Basin Authority is chaired by the Prime Minister.**

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Ques -3) The Government of India is to conduct SWADES initiative under Vande Bharat Mission. What is it related to?**

- A. Increasing the number of flights that can bring back Indians stranded outside
- B. Extending support services to Indians that are currently situated in other countries
- C. A skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens from other countries
- D. None of the above

**Ques -4) To foster the inclusion of LGBTQAI+ employees, the company has unveiled a five-year plan which aims at hiring queer people and extending benefits to same-sex partners**

Which company has revealed this plan?

- A. Google India
- B. Facebook India
- C. Tata Trust
- D. Mahindra Logistics

**Ques -5) The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) predicts that there would be a 24% increase in the expansion of Amery Ice Shelf (AIS) boundaries by 2021 and another 24% expansion by 2026 from its 2016 positions**

Where is the Amery Ice Shelf located?

- A. Antarctica
- B. Greenland
- C. Russian Arctic
- D. Canada

**Ques -6) The government of the Philippines has suspended its plan to abrogate the bilateral Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the United States What does Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) relate to?**

- A. An agreement between a country and a foreign nation having military forces visiting in that country
- B. Team of tax experts that help ease out paperwork and formalities associated with bilateral trade
- C. Team of cultural performers that aim at raising the cultural diversity between countries
- D. Precursor towards establishment of free trade agreement

**Ques -7) The organization will adopt a new twin-summit format for its next annual Davos meeting in January 2021, by bringing together leaders from across the globe for in-person as well as virtual dialogues with a theme of 'The Great Reset' Who will be holding this summit?**

- A Asia Development Bank
- B World Economic Forum
- C IMF
- D Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**Ques -8) A national awareness campaign in India on Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways was launched that underlined the need for generating awareness and education for the masses at large towards reducing or eliminating mortality on the roads.**

Who launched the campaign?

- A. Ministry of environment, forest and climate change
- B. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- C. The Animal Welfare Board of India
- D. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India

**Ques -9) Who has launched the information booklet- 'Safe online learning in the times of COVID-19' to ensure timely action in cases of cyber bullying?**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Human Resource Development
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. Ministry of External Affairs

**Ques -10) Recently, Tripoli has been in the news with news around taking over Tripoli from the militias of Haftar Tripoli is the capital of which of the following:**

- A. Syria
- B. Libya
- C. Eritrea
- D. Jordan

**Ques -11) Recently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, and All India Council for Technical Education(AICTE) have jointly launched an online portal called The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP).**

What does it relate to?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Human Resource Development
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. Ministry of External Affairs

**Ques -12) West Bengal resumed bilateral trade with neighboring Bangladesh through the integrated check-post. This is the only land port in south Bengal?**

What is the name of this landport?

- A. Jogbani
- B. Petrapole
- C. Dawk
- D. Sunauli

**Ques -13) Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT) will be utilised for the evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude areas, isolated and remote places. Who has indigenously developed it?**

- A. DRDO
- B. Indian Air Force
- C. ISRO
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

**Ques -14) The Government has included "indulging in Tablighi activities" as a specific visa violation that will attract a penalty of \$500 fine. It has added a new category—"restriction on engaging in Tabligh activities" in the "general policy guidelines relating to Indian visa." Who made the above move?**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of External Affairs
- C. Ministry of Tourism
- D. Ministry of Defence

**Ques -15) The government has announced implementation of the Nagar Van Scheme under which it aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years. Who launched the scheme?**

- A) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- D) Niti Aayog

**Ques -16) The Ambarnaya River in Siberia is recently in news inviting global attention from all parts of the world. What is the issue around the river?**

- A. Issues of demarcation of border leading to bilateral disputes and heated escalations between bordering countries
- B. Massive fuel spill creating an environment havoc
- C. Speculation regarding nuclear installation being setup by Russia under water
- D. None of the above

**Ques -17) The Central government has set up a task force to examine matters related to the age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering the maternal mortality rate (MMR) and improvement of nutritional levels and related issues**

Who is heading this task force?

- A. Rekha Sharma
- B. Jaya Jaitly
- C. Durga Shakti Nagpal
- D. Aruna Sundararajan



**Ques -18) The state government has launched the Spandan Campaign to contain incidents of suicide and fratricide involving police personnel. The campaign will also make arrangements for yoga classes for the police personnel at all the district head quarters**

Which state is implementing this?

- A. Chhatisgarh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat

**Ques -19) The oil and gas well in Upper Assam's Baghjan that has been leaking for about a fortnight caught fire on June 9 2020 afternoon even as experts were trying to seal in the discharge. The fire is at an aerial distance of 900 metres from a National Park which is also among the 18 biosphere reserves in India.**

Identify this national park which is also a biosphere reserve?

- A. Manas
- B. Dibru-Saikhowa
- C. Kaziranga
- D. Orang

**Ques -20) The two nations have signed an agreement demarcating their maritime boundaries, amid tension in the Mediterranean region over rights to natural resources helping in tackling an issue that had been pending for 40 years Which are the countries involved?**

- A. Morocco and Spain
- B. Tunisia and Libya
- C. Spain and France
- D. Greece and Italy

**Ques -21) North Korea said that it would cut off all communication lines with this country, including military hotlines, start treating country as an "enemy."? Which country is this?**

- A. United States of America
- B. South Korea
- C. China
- D. Russia

**Ques -22) Ministry of culture is organizing ONLINE NAIMISHA 2020 Program**

What is it related to?

- A. To provide a chance to its participants to create and learn from practicing artists without compromising their health
- B. Providing a chance to female artists to showcase their talent on a Pan India scale
- C. Platform for tribal artisans to popularize their work and not let their work erode even during COVID pandemic
- D. None of the above

**Ques -23) The country has launched an online network to facilitate plasma exchange between recovered patients of COVID-19 and those undergoing treatment for Corona infection in the country.**

Which country is this?

- A. India
- B. New Zealand
- C. Bangladesh
- D. United Kingdom

**Ques -24) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC launched its flagship programme Turant Customs, at Bengaluru and Chennai. What will be the benefit of Turant Customs?**

- A. It will enable the customs office at these 2 places to be the sole point of receiving imports coming into South Indian states
- B. The goods imported at Chennai may be assessed by the Customs officers located at Bengaluru and vice versa
- C. Initiative involves complete paperless work at both the locations
- D. None of the above

**Ques -25) The state observed Green Day recently with distribution and planting trees and taking the pledge to work for the improvement of environment and maintaining ecological balance.**

Which state is this?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Mizoram
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Kerala

**Ques -26) The deepest part of the ocean refers to the maximum depth of a point that can be accessed or defined. Every such deepest part of the ocean is referred to as deep trenches. Astronaut Kathy Sullivan has become the first woman to dive into the Deepest Point in Ocean, the Challenger Deep. She created history by going to which trench?**

- A. Tonga Trench
- B. Kuril- Kamchatka Trench
- C. Japan Trench
- D. None of the above

**Ques -27) The International Religious Freedom describes the status of religious freedom, government policies violating religious belief and practices of groups, religious denominations and individuals and gives a survey of the state of religious freedom across the world. The report has expressed concern about situation in India**

Who releases the report?

- A. Pakistan
- B. United States of America
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Australia

**Ques -28) Ministry of Tourism brings through its 30th webinar under Dekho Apna Desh series showcased Karkabhat - Megalithic burial site**

**Dipadih - Temple complex dating back to the 7th Century**

**Ghotul - It is both an ancient tribal system of education as well as the campus with its own system of hierarchs.**

These are hidden treasures of which Indian state?

- A. Chhatisgarh
- B. Bihar
- C. West Bengal
- D. Madhya Pradesh

**Ques -29) The Centre recently issued an advisory on reclaiming landfill sites, to treat and dispose of solid waste through an environment-friendly bioremediation process**

Which ministry released the advisories?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. None of the above

**Ques -30) The project management workflow of this construction sector has been transformed from manual to online portal. With social distancing being one of the key methods to prevent COVID-19 infection, the online platform will help their employees to continue their works without physical contact.**

Who has achieved this feat

- A. NHAI
- B. DMRC
- C. AAI
- D. Indian Railways

**Ques -32) Recently, Union Agriculture Minister launched Sahakar Mitra scheme. What does the scheme relate to?**

- A. Encouraging farmers and eventually consumers to adopt habit of vegetarian diet
- B. Skill development by large farmers as a gratitude towards smaller farmers
- C. Helping cooperative institutions benefit from young professionals while giving internship opportunities simultaneously
- D. None of the above

**Ques -33) Consider the following statements**

**Assertion (A): Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an internal working group headed by RBI executive director P.K. Mohanty.**

**Reason (R): The group will review the existing guidelines on ownership and corporate structure of public sector banks**

In the context of the above, which of these is correct?

- A. A is correct, and R is an appropriate explanation of A
- B. A is correct, but R is not an appropriate explanation of A
- C. A is correct, but R is incorrect
- D. A is incorrect, but R is correct

**Ques -34) A 500-year-old ancient Gopinath Dev temple that was submerged sometime in 19th century due to change of course of the river, has resurfaced after 15 years. An archaeological survey team from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage that visited the village said the top of the Gopinath Dev temple was visible due to the reduction in the water-level of the river.**

Which river witnessed the historic event?

- A. Mahanadi
- B. Krishna
- C. Kaveri
- D. Ganga

**Ques -35) Recently, the World Investment Report, 2020 was released. According to the report, India is the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019: Who released the report?**

- A. The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies
- B. World Trade Organization
- C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- D. World Economic Forum

**Ques -36) Recently, The NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) scientists in the International Space Station unveiled the first results of BoseEinstein condensate experiments Which of the following best describes Bose-Einstein Condensates (BEC)?**

- A. The BEC is a state of matter that is typically formed when a gas of bosons is cooled to temperatures close to absolute zero
- B. The BEC is a state of matter that is typically formed when a gas of Helium is cooled to temperatures close to absolute zero
- C. The BEC is a state of matter that is typically formed when a gas of bosons is heated to temperatures close to 100 degrees
- D. The BEC is a state of matter that is typically formed when a gas of Helium is heated to temperatures close to 100 degrees

**Ques -37) India will be sending a tri-service military contingent for the first time to participate in which nation's Victory Day in June 2020?**

- A. United Kingdom
- B. France
- C. Israel
- D. Russia

**Ques -38) Raja Parba is a three-day-long festival dedicated to Mother Earth (Bhuma Devi) and womanhood at large. The festivities begin a day before Mithuna Sankranti and conclude two days after that.**

Which state celebrates this festival?

- A. Punjab
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

**Ques -39) India continues to remain ranked 43rd on an annual World Competitiveness Index, while Singapore has retained its top position?**

- A. Institute for Management Development
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. World Bank
- D. United Nations

**Ques -40) The traditional art of 'talamaddale', has gone virtual in times of COVID-19 with a performance even being streamed live on social media. Under it, the artists sit across in a place without any costumes and engage in testing their oratory skills based on the episode chosen. Talamaddale is a variant of which theatre?**

- A. Koodiyattam
- B. Yakshagana
- C. Swang
- D. Bhand Pather



**Ques -41) The Supreme Court (SC) recently issued notice to Goa Speaker after complaints that a decision on the disqualification of 10 party members of the legislative assembly (MLAs), who had defected been kept pending for a long time.**

Which schedule of the constitution deals with anti-defection

- A. Eighth Schedule
- B. Ninth Schedule
- C. Tenth Schedule
- D. Eleventh Schedule

**Ques -42) A portal named SATYABHAMA was launched by Union government emphasizing the need for promoting the role of digital technology**

Which sector does SATYABHAMA relate to?

- A. Solar Power
- B. Railways
- C. Mining sector
- D. Education sector

**Ques -43) 'NavRakshak' are expected to be available in the Indian market as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved it earlier this week for mass production and use in the country What is NavRakshak?**

- A. User-friendly Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kit
- B. Protective gear designed for fisherman keeping in mind the vast coastline of the country
- C. Gears designed to protective against damaging UV rays for street vendors
- D. None of the above

**Ques -44) The region of Depsang has been in news recently. What does it relate to?**

- A. Border skirmishes with Pakistan in Kashmir
- B. Reports of a heavy Chinese presence across Line of Control
- C. Issue of demarcation of border with Myanmar
- D. None of the above

**Ques -45) Kohala hydropower project has been in the news recently. What does it relate to?**

- A. Joint hydel power project between India and Nepal
- B. India supplying clean electricity from this plant to Bhutan which will further strengthen our bilateral ties
- C. Dispute over water with China that is affecting hydel projects in the North East of our country
- D. Hydropower project that will be built on the Jhelum River part of CPEC

**Ques -46) 'Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene Expo 2020' (VH&H Expo 2020) - is being hailed as India's first International virtual exhibition Who is organizing the exhibition?**

- A. Niti Aayog
- B. FICCI
- C. CII
- D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Ques -47) Kerala government is planning to modify specific laws that govern the plantation sector to allow the management to intercrop food crops with cash crops Which of the following best describes Inter-cropping?**

- A. Practice involving growing of crops and the raising of livestock on the agricultural land
- B. Two or more crops are cultivated simultaneously in the same piece of land
- C. Two or more crops are grown one after the other in the same piece of land
- D. None of the above

**Ques -48) "Lone wolf" has been a term that has been in the news for quite some time. Which of the following best describes it?**

- A. Individuals having suicidal tendencies
- B. Individuals undertaking violent acts of terrorism outside a command structure
- C. Public servants coming together for unethical activities
- D. None of the above

**Ques -49) The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) developed a unit called Ultra Swachh Which of the following describes it most appropriately?**

- A. Unit provides quick and cost effective solution towards cleaning public urinals
- B. To disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items etc
- C. Robotic device providing ultra clean vision even in dense forests as seen in many of the bordering regions
- D. None of the above

**Ques -50) THAAD is Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, an anti-ballistic missile system of a country, has been in the news with a country objecting to it.**

Which 2 countries are involved?

- A. Israel and Palestine
- B. Iran and Iraq
- C. USA and China
- D. North Korea and South Korea

## SOLUTIONS

### 1) Solution: (D)

#### Past year UPSC question (2014)

- These conventions and several others are often asked by UPSC • First two options seem obvious
- Third Option: Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. World Heritage properties are the most outstanding places on the planet and constitute a significant subset of the protected area system, critical for conservation of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. The World Heritage Convention ensures global commitment for the conservation of these exceptional places, while respecting their cultural and local connections <https://whc.unesco.org/en/biodiversity>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

### 2) Solution: (B)

Past year UPSC (2014) • Plant, Animal as well as environment protection bodies – both domestic and global are crucial from the point of view of exam

- National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA): The authority is chaired by the Prime Minister. The NGRBA is fully operational and is also supported by the state level State Ganga River Conservation Authorities (SGRCAs) in five Ganga basin States which are chaired by the Chief Ministers of the respective States. <https://nmcg.nic.in/ngrbaread.aspx>
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 [https://projecttiger.nic.in/content/111\\_1\\_Introduction.aspx](https://projecttiger.nic.in/content/111_1_Introduction.aspx) • The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country. Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 <http://www.awbi.in/about.html>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

### 3) Solution: (C)

- With the aim of making the best of our skilled workforce returning to the country due to the ongoing pandemic, the Government of India has launched a new initiative SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission. • This is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs which aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience to tap into and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies. • PIB Release : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628976>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

### 4) Solution: (D)

Use such examples in both your Ethics paper as well as Essay to get the edge and give context to your answers

- ii. To foster the inclusion of LGBTQAI+ employees, Mahindra Logistics Ltd. (MLL) has unveiled a five-year plan which aims at hiring queer people and extending benefits to same-sex partners.
- iii. Commemorating the start of the American Pride month, the company's diversity policy includes adoption leave for queer workers. Same-sex partners shall be eligible for 12-week adoption leave, starting from the date of the adoption. Benefits under the existing medical insurance shall be extended to same-sex partners on declaration of their partner's details.
- iv. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mahindra-logistics-launches-queer-inclusion-policy/article31743540.ece>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**5) Solution: (A)**

Context: Places in news which are often asked by UPSC

- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has predicted an increase in the expansion of Amery Ice Shelf (AIS) boundaries from its 2016 positions. The AIS is one of the largest glacier drainage basins in the world, located on the east coast of Antarctica
- The prediction made by NCPOR is based on a 16-year-long satellite-based observation that covered an area of 60,000 sq. km across the AIS. Scientists feel that this study would help understand the ongoing changes in the ocean and atmospheric forces better.
- Read more: <https://www.thehansindia.com/editors-desk/scientists-have-done-usproud-626309> • Next question will be on: National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**6) Solution: (A)**

Terminating the VFA would leave the U.S. military without any legal or operational standing in the Philippines – and that's a problem for the alliance. Without a VFA, the U.S. military would not be able to support any defense agreements.

- But the VFA plays a fundamental role in normal military activities within the confines of the alliance. Without a VFA, the temporary presence of U.S. forces in the Philippines would be impossible.
- Read more: <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/06/cc81c57feaa8-update2-philippines-suspends-move-to-scrap-visiting-forces-accord-with-us.html>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**7) Solution: (B)**

During the year 1971, Klaus Schwab invited 444 executives from Western European firms to attend the first European Management Symposium that was held in the Davos Congress Centre.

- This meeting was held under the European Commission and European industrial associations with an aim to introduce the European firms to American management practices.
- Later, Klaus Schwab founded the World Economic Fund as a nonprofit organization and conducted the annual meetings each January to draw European business leaders to Davos. This annual meeting gave the political leaders a platform to promote their interests.
- News: <https://www.weforum.org/press/2020/06/the-great-reboot-a-unique-twin-summit-to-begin-2021/>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**8) Solution: (B)**

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways has underlined the need for generating awareness and education for the masses at large towards reducing or eliminating mortality on the roads of both human beings and animals.

- Launching the national awareness campaign on 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways' via video conference on the occasion of World Environment Day, the Minister stated that ethics, economy and ecology are the three most important pillars of our country.
- PIB release: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629599> • <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=National-awareness-campaign-on-Prevention-of-Human-Animal-Mortality-on-Highways-launched&id=390509> • Use such initiatives in Ethics answers

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs



**9) Solution: (B)**

- Such initiatives are often asked and any form of guesswork should be done very smartly as UPSC will often give correct seeming options which are often incorrect
- Human Resource Development Minister, launched the information booklet titled 'Safe online learning in the times of COVID-19' to raise awareness in students and teachers.
- HRD Ministry and NCERT are committed to ensure safe and secure online environment for children and teachers. NCERT and UNESCO have jointly developed this booklet which will facilitate in raising awareness of our students and teachers as well as ensure timely action in cases of cyber bullying.
- <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/hrd-minister-launches-information-booklet-safe-online-learning-times-covid-19>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**10) Solution: (B)**

Tripoli is the capital city and the largest city of Libya. (Such places being in news are always under the radar of UPSC – a map based question can also be asked and students must be ready to answer them)

B. Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) has regained full control of Tripoli after recapturing the capital's airport. Gen Khalifa Haftar's forces have been besieging the city since April 2019.

C. Read more: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-52920373>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**11) Solution: (B)**

Concept: TULIP has been conceived pursuant to the Budget 2020-21 announcement under the theme 'Aspirational India' which laid emphasis on changing the approach of education from 'doing by learning,' to 'learning by doing'.

- Area of Work: The internship opportunities will be provided for 'Smart City' projects which range from positions in urban planning, water supply, waste management, slum improvement and digital governance among others.
- Eligibility: Applicants must be Indian citizens who have completed their final year of college within the last 18 months and have a degree of B. Tech, B planning, B. Arch, BA, BSc, BCom, LLB.
- The TULIP portal has been developed by AICTE. Under the internship programme students will get to work for 100 smart cities under ministry of housing and urban development. According to the TULIP portal, there are a total of 295,200 internships under 23,970 companies.
- "We expect that around 25,000 fresh graduates will be enrolled in its first year. This will help curb the unemployment as well. The interns will be selected for a period of one year," said housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Pur

i • PIB release: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629314>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**12) Solution: (B)**

Petrapole: It is the Indian side of Petrapole-Benapole border checkpoint between India and Benapole of Bangladesh, on the Bangladesh-India border, near Bongaon in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

II. Petrapole border is the only land port in south Bengal. It is also the largest land customs station in Asia.

III. The landport alone accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.

IV. PIB document gives list of Integrated check posts: <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1562924>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**13) Solution: (B)**

The Indian Air Force has designed, developed and inducted an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT). This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places

- PIB release: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630268>

Source: **Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**14) Solution: (A)**

- The MHA had blacklisted 960 foreigners who participated in the Tablighi Jamaat event in March at Nizamuddin markaz (centre) in Delhi in early March.

- Till June 2, a total of 2,600 Tablighi foreigners have been blacklisted from entering India for 10 years under "Category A" of the Visa Manual 2018, a senior government official said.

- In a clear attempt to create hurdles for any foreign member of the Tablighi Jamaat (TJ) wanting to enter India from now on, even on a tourist visa, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has specifically inserted "engaging in Tablighi work" as one of the norms for visa violation in India's general visa policy guidelines. • <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tablighi-activity-a-specific-visa-violation-says-mha/article31749582.ece>

Source: **Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**15) Solution: (A)**

The Nagar Van (Urban Forests) aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years. (Use such examples in Mains answers)

- Warje Urban Forest in Pune (Maharashtra) will be considered as a role model for the Scheme
- The Scheme enforces people's participation and collaboration between the Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates and local citizens. • These urban forests will primarily be on the existing forest land in the City or any other vacant land offered by local urban local bodies
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has also released a brochure on the best practices on Urban Forests
- PIB release: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629563>

Source: **Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**16) Solution: (D)**

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a state of emergency on June 4, 2020 after a massive fuel spill in the Arctic Circle. At least 20,000 tonnes of diesel leaked from a power plant in Norilsk last week and spilled into the Ambarnaya River in Siberia, making it turn red.

II. Russia has imposed a state of emergency in the region, as emergency workers and maritime clean-up specialists are putting in intensive efforts to clean up the fuel spill

III. Environmental impact: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/what-does-the-russia-oil-spill-mean-for-permafrost-71573>

Source: **Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**17) Solution: (B)**

- Such task forces and commissions are often mentioned as one of the statements in questions and must be memorised

- I always remind you to use findings and recommendations of these commissions to enrich your answers and get that edge in mains answer writing

- News : <https://swachhindia.ndtv.com/centre-sets-up-taskforce-to-examine-age-of-motherhood-imperatives-of-lowering-maternal-mortality-rate-45699/>

Source: **Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**18) Solution: (A)**

- Such initiatives can be used in both GS papers and also for Public administration optional students while answering questions related to police administration
- The Chhattisgarh government launched the Spandan Campaign to contain incidents of suicide and fratricide involving police personnel, and instructions were issued to senior officers to strictly adhere to guidelines in this regard.
- Chhattisgarh's director general of police DM Awasthi issued an order to all superintendents of police and commandants of armed police forces, saying they should strictly follow instructions to curb suicides and incidents of fratricide
- Read more: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/chhattisgarh-govt-launches-spandan-campaign-to-check-suicide-and-fratricide/storykER1z478TQp1j3va7WGHEJ.html>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**19) Solution: (B)**

- About Dibru-Saikhowa National Park: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/things-to-do/10-reasons-why-dibru-saikhowa-national-park-makes-for-a-good-forest-holiday/as52552462.cms>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**20) Solution: (D)**

Greece and Italy signed an agreement demarcating their maritime boundaries, amid tension in the Mediterranean region over rights to natural resources.

- The agreement signed at the foreign ministry during a visit to Athens by Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, tackled an issue that had been pending for 40 years, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said in a statement.
- It demarcates the exclusive economic zone – the maritime area in which a nation has the right of energy exploration and use of marine resources – between the two neighbors, as well as settling fishing rights, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias said after signing the deal with Di Maio.

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**21) Solution: (B)**

North Korea said that it would cut off all communication lines with South Korea, including military hotlines, as it vowed to reverse a recent détente on the Korean Peninsula and start treating the South as an “enemy.”

- The officials “stressed that the work toward the South should thoroughly turn into one against the enemy,” the North Korean news agency reported on Tuesday. “We have reached a conclusion that there is no need to sit face to face with the South Korean authorities, and there is no issue to discuss with them, as they have only aroused our dismay.”
- Context: Countries in news and such statements have a chance of being picked by UPSC to surprise aspirants. Lookout for such global developments
- News item: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-52974061>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**22) Solution: (A)**

It is not directly done by Ministry of Culture, But it is being done by National Gallery of Modern Art (<http://ngmaindia.gov.in/history.asp>) which comes under Ministry of Culture

II. National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi has announced ONLINE NAIMISHA 2020- Summer Art Program from 8th June 2020 to 3rd July 2020.

III. The month-long ONLINE summer program aims to provide a chance to its participants to create and learn from practicing artists without compromising their health. Four inclusive workshops have been planned by NGMA to engage and increase engagement virtually.

IV. In the online NAIMISH 2020 program, four workshops will be organized entitled Painting workshop, Sculpture workshop, Printmaking and Indrajala - The Magic of Art (Interdisciplinary creative workshop to understand Freedom) from 8th June 2020 to 3rd July 2020.

V. Read more: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630020>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**23) Solution: (C)**

Named 'Shohojodha', the initiative has been launched by the ICT division of the government of Bangladesh in collaboration with Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a2i innovation lab and eGeneration to facilitate collection and distribution of plasma from patients who have recovered from Coronavirus.

B. News: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Bangladesh-launches-plasma-net-work-for-COVID-19-treatment&id=390928>

C. Watch out for such global level news that can possibly be asked

**Source: Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**24) Solution: (B)**

- Always mention such initiatives in your mains answer (I repeatedly give this instruction to help you get the edge in Mains)

- In a statement, CBIC said, this is a giant leap forward to leverage technology for faster Customs clearance of imported goods. Importers will now get their goods cleared from Customs after a faceless assessment is done remotely by the Customs officers located outside the port of import

- Now, the goods imported at Chennai may be assessed by the Customs officers located at Bengaluru and vice versa, as assigned by the Customs' automated system.

- Turant Customs is a mega reform for the ease of doing business.

- <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=CBIC-launches-its-flagship-programme-%26%2339%3BTurant-Customs%26%2339%3B-at-Bengaluru-%26-Chennai&id=390791>

**Source: Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**25) Solution: (B)**

- Green Mizoram Day was observed throughout the state on June 11, 2020 with distribution and planting trees and taking the pledge to work for the improvement of environment and maintaining ecological balance. The state has been observing the day for the last 20 years since 1999

- Mizoram chief minister Lal Thanhawla who also holds the environment, forest and climate change portfolio said that planting of tree saplings across the state had started in 1999 and so far 37 lakhs tree saplings had been planted

- Tip: cite these examples and come up with innovative solutions in both ethics case studies as well as Essay conclusions - they can be a big booster to your final score

**Source: Study IQ daily current Affairs**

**26) Solution: (D)**

- On June 7, astronaut and oceanographer Kathy Sullivan, who was the first American woman to walk in space in 1984, became the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the deepest known spot in the world's oceans, called the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, which is seven miles below the surface of the Pacific Ocean

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/challenger-deep-kathy-sullivan-ocean-expedition-explained-6451533/>

- The deepest trench in the world, the Mariana Trench located near the Mariana Islands, is 1,580 miles long and averages just 43 miles wide. It is home to the Challenger Deep, which, at 10,911 meters (35,797 feet), is the deepest part of the ocean. The Tonga, Kuril-Kamatcha, Philippine, and Kermadec Trenches all contain depths greater than 10,000 meters (33,000 feet).

- Link on the deepest trenches of the world: <https://www.marineinsight.com/know-more/10-deepest-parts-of-the-ocean/>

**Source: Study IQ daily current Affairs**



**27) Solution: (B)**

- India rejected the US State Department's annual International Religious Freedom Report for 2019, which has a detailed account of the Centre's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens
- The Ministry of External Affairs said Washington has no locus standi to comment on the matters. "The report is published annually by the US State Department as part of the legal requirement to the US Congress," foreign ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said. "It is an internal document of the US government. India's vibrant democratic traditions and practices are evident to the world. The people and the government of India are proud of our country's democratic traditions. We have a robust public discourse."
- <https://scroll.in/latest/964478/india-rejects-us-religious-freedom-report-that-takes-note-of-caa-nrc-and-article-370>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**28) Solution: (A)**

- To make viewers virtually explore the unexplored destination, create awareness about the hidden destinations in Chhattisgarh, unique culture, tribal heritage and festivals, the Ministry of Tourism's celebrated Dekho Apna Desh webinar series showcased the "HIDDEN TREASURES OF CHHATTISGARH" on 09.06.2020. Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme.

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**29) Solution: (B)**

- Waste management guidelines have been asked previously by UPSC and remains an important topic for asking questions
- Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri has launched three advisories on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- These advisories are Advisory on Material Recovery Facilities for Municipal Solid Waste, Advisory on Land-fill Reclamation and A Draft advisory on On-site and Off-site Sewage Management Practices

Source: <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=390502>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**30) Solution: (D)**

Context: Places in news that needs to be covered for the exam

- As part of Mission Sagar, Indian Naval Ship Kesari reached Port Victoria in Seychelles today for handing over COVID related essential medicines. Under Mission Sagar, Indian government is providing assistance to friendly foreign countries in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- <http://newsonair.com/News?title=%26%2339%3BKesari%26%2339%3BReaches-Port-Victoria-in-Seychellesto-hand-over-COVID-relatedessential-medicines-under-%26%2339%3BMission-Sagar%26%2339%3B&id=390701>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**31) Solution: (A)**

As one of the biggest reform, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has gone 'Fully Digital', with the launch of unique cloud based and Artificial Intelligence powered Big Data Analytics platform - Data Lake and Project Management Software.

- The entire project management work flow of NHAI is transformed from manual to online portal based, wherein the complete project execution operations including 'workflow with time lines' and 'alert mechanism' have been configured. All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through portal only.
- Use such initiatives when talking about Digital India D. PIB release:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1631119>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**32) Solution: (C)**

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has launched a Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP) i.e. Sahakar Mitra.

- It is an initiative by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for young professionals. It is expected to be beneficial for both i.e. cooperatives as well as for the young professionals.
- The Sahakar Mitra scheme will help cooperative institutions access new and innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns will gain experience of working in the field to be self-reliant.
- It will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives as a paid intern.
- PIB release: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1631125>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**33) Solution: (C)**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has constituted an internal working group to review the existing guidelines on ownership and corporate structure of private sector banks. The group will be headed by RBI executive director P.K. Mohanty.
- The group will examine the existing licensing guidelines and regulations on ownership and control of private sector banks. It will also suggest appropriate norms, keeping in mind the issue of excessive concentration of ownership and control. Besides, it will examine and review the eligibility criteria for individuals or entities to apply for a banking licence, and review the promoter shareholding norms at the initial licensing stage
- <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/rbi-sets-up-internal-group-to-review-ownership-structure-of-private-banks-11591972361594.html>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**34) Solution: (A)**

- UPSC can give these bouncers by asking such questions
- An ancient temple, submerged in river Mahanadi, has re-appeared after 11 years in Nayagarh district.
- An archaeology survey team of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) stumbled upon 'mastaka' of the temple submerged in Mahanadi waters at Padmabati village under Bhapur tehsil.
- Project assistant Deepak Kumar Nayak, who had documented the site with help of a local heritage enthusiast Rabindra Kumar Rana, said the temple was dedicated to Gopinath Deba, a form of Lord Krishna
- All the above highlighted points can be used to frame questions
- <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2020/jun/09/500-yr-oldtemple-rises-from-mahanadi-water-2154161.html>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**35) Solution: (C)**

- India received USD 51 billion in foreign investment in 2019 and was the world's 9th largest recipient of foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2019, according to a report by the UN's trade body.
- The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report that a lower but positive economic growth in India in the postCOVID19 pandemic period and India's large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments to the country
- Read more: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/jun/16/india-9thlargest-recipient-of-fdi-in-2019-will-continue-to-attract-investmentsun-2157355.html>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**36) Solution: (A)**

Bose-Einstein Condensates were predicted by Indian Mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose and Albert Einstein almost a century ago. The BEC is a state of matter that is typically formed when a gas of bosons is cooled to temperatures close to absolute zero.

- Scientists have observed the fifth state of matter in space for the first time, offering unprecedented insight that could help solve some of the quantum universe's most intractable conundrums
- In a BEC, matter stops behaving as independent particles, and collapses into a single quantum state that can be described with a single, uniform wavefunction
- <https://www.ndtv.com/science/bose-einstein-quantum-fifth-state-of-matter-seen-for-1st-time-in-space-2244587>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**37) Solution: (D)**

I. India would be sending a tri-service military contingent to participate in the Russian Victory Day Parade on June 24, 2020. The Russian parade was supposed to be held on Victory Day on May 9 but got delayed because of COVID-19.

II. India had participated in the Russian Parade for the first time in 2015. However, only the Indian army had participated then. This time, all three services will be participating

III. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-send-tri-service-contingent-for-russian-military-parade/articleshow/76376310.cms>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**38) Solution: (C)**

The Raja Parba of Odisha is one of most popular festivals of the state. Dedicated to Bhuma Devi, the consort of Lord Vishnu, Raja Parba celebrates womanhood

- There's a story associated with this festival. Goddess Earth (Bhuma Devi), the consort of Lord Vishnu, undergoes her menstrual cycle during this period. Interestingly, the word 'Raja' in Odia means menstruation, and it is derived from Rajaswala, meaning a menstruating woman. Surprisingly, it is a festival that celebrates this aspect of womanhood which makes the feminine entity unique. Menstruation is considered as a sign of fertility, and therefore, it celebrates femininity and her ability to give birth to another life.

• Read more: <https://www.timesnownews.com/spiritual/religion/article/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-raja-parba-festival-of-odisha/606499> Festivals celebrated in specific states are often asked by both UPSC as well as state specific exams

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**39) Solution: (A)**

Global Competitiveness Index is compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum – don't get confused with the names

- An annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) has ranked India at the 43rd position. The International Business School mentioned on June 16 that the continued low ranking is due to the traditional weaknesses such as insufficient education investment and poor infrastructure

• News item: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-ranked-43rd-on-imds-world-competitiveness-index-singapore-ontop/articleshow/76404222.cms>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**40) Solution: (B)**

- I. The traditional art of 'talamaddale', a variant of Yakshagana theatre, too has gone virtual in times of COVID-19. A performance was streamed live on social media on June 13 and more such are in store.
- II. Unlike the Yakshagana performance, in the conventional 'talamaddale,' the artists sit across in a place without any costumes and engage in testing their oratory skills based on the episode chosen
- III. If music is common for both Yakshagana performance and 'talamaddale', the latter has only spoken word without any dance or costumes.
- IV. Hence it is an art form minus dance, costumes and stage conventions

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**41) Solution: (C) 1324**

- Context: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sc-notice-to-go-a-speaker-on-cong-s-disqualification-pleas/storyIBcQFZh6QkYgRly4YmJU1K.html>
- This is a very basic and an easy question. But the real motive to ask this question is to ensure aspirants don't go wrong if any question on schedule of the constitution is asked - UPSC has a habit of asking questions based on some very basic yet essential components of the Indian Constitution
- There are 12 Schedules in the Constitution of India.
- In the coming days - I will ask question specific to tenth schedule in more detail

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**42) Solution: (C)**

- I. Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines on 15th June 2020
- II. SATYABHAMA Portal allows online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the projects and utilization of funds / grants.
- III. The researchers can also submit progress reports and Final Technical Reports of the projects in the electronic format in the portal.
- IV. A User Manual is also available on the Portal where the stepwise procedures for submission of project proposals have been highlighted. The Portal is integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog
- V. PIB : <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1632668>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**43) Solution: (A)**

- The commercial production of user-friendly PPE named NavRakshak will begin within a month. The concept of the breath-easy equipment with no mend or lamination was developed by a naval doctor
- Read more: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/user-friendly-ppes-to-hit-market-soon/article31875052.ece>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**44) Solution: (D)**

- This is another question which will test how carefully you read questions as these small things can affect your scores
- Reports of a heavy Chinese presence at Depsang, an area at a crucial dip (called the Bulge) on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have increased tensions between Indian and Chinese troops, sources aware of the month-long standoff at various points in Ladakh and Sikkim said.
- The "Depsang plain" is one of the few places in the Western Sector where light armour (vehicles) would have ease of manoeuvre, so any Chinese buildup there is a cause for concern.

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs



**45) Solution: (D)**

- China under the multi-billion-dollar CPEC will set up a 1,124-megawatt power project in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir despite India's objection to it, according to a media report.
- The details of the Kohala hydropower project was presented in the 127th meeting of the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) chaired by Energy Minister Omar Ayub
- News: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/china-to-construct-1-124-megawatt-power-project-in-pok-under-cpec/story000wlsdDYL42gguWiqOdeJ.html>
- will cover CPEC in more detail later.

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**46) Solution: (B)**

- Minister of State for Shipping (Independent charge) and Chemicals & Fertilisers inaugurated India's one the largest 1st Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020 . The Expo has been organised by FICCI.
- The event was inaugurated virtually which will be live daily from 22nd to 26th June, 2020. Anurag Sharma, M.P., Jhansi and Chairman, FICCI, AYUSH Committee, Dr. Sangita Reddy, President FICCI, P.V. Sindhu, eminent sports personality, Badhri Iyengar, Chairman, FICCI Medical Devices Forum and other representatives from the industries attended the Virtual EXPO.
- This is the first ever largest virtual exhibition in India making a new beginning. This is the new norm, wherein business will happen virtually as Digital India is now making a way forward.
- Read more: • <http://ddnews.gov.in/health/indias-one-largest-1st-virtual-healthcare-hygiene-expo-2020-inaugurated> • <http://www.ficci.in/pressrelease-page.asp?nid=3700>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**47) Solution: (B)**

Intercropping is the growing of two or more crops together in proximity on the same land. As a result, two or more crops are managed at the same time. It differs from crop rotation in which two or more crops are grown one after the other.

More about Intercropping: [https://www.agrocrops.com/blog\\_detail/18/intercropping-and-crop-rotation](https://www.agrocrops.com/blog_detail/18/intercropping-and-crop-rotation)

B. Mixed farming involves the growing of food or cash crops, feed crops, and livestock on the same farm

C. Current news: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on June 21 said the government would seek the mandate to modify specific laws that govern the plantation sector to allow the management to intercrop food crops with cash crops such as tea, coffee, cardamom and rubber.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-land-laws-to-be-amended-to-allow-intercropping-in-plantations/article31882066.ece>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**48) Solution: (B)**

• Context: The knife attack at a park in Reading, a town west of London, which killed three people and injured three others, is yet another reminder of the threat of lone wolf attacks the U.K. is facing.

• A lone actor, lone-actor terrorist, or lone wolf is someone who prepares and commits violent acts alone, outside of any command structure and without material assistance from any group. They may be influenced or motivated by the ideology and beliefs of an external group and may act in support of such a group.

• Lone wolf attacks, in which extremist individuals translate their beliefs into violent actions, are hard to detect and prevent. In coordinated terror attacks, the chances of competent intelligence agencies detecting the perpetrators are much higher.

• Read news article: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-lone-wolf-threat-on-isolated-terror-attack-in-london/article31893294.ece>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**49) Solution: (B)**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit named Ultra Swachh to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics, etc.
- The system uses an advanced oxidative process comprising of multiple barrier disruption approach using Ozonated Space Technology for disinfection.
- • The system is double layered with specialised Ozone sealant technology assuring trapping of ozone for the necessary disinfection cycle. It also has catalytic converter to ensure environment friendly exhaust i.e. only oxygen and water
- PIB Release: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628355>
- Next question will be on Ozone

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

**50) Solution: (C)**

- According to some observers of East Asia, China believes the US exerts influence over South Korea and Japan and may interfere with Beijing's long-term military, diplomatic and economic interests in the region
- China has issued a statement reiterating its long-standing objections to the presence of the US THAAD missile defence system in South Korea
- Such a question can be framed using assertion reasoning model - hence it is important to understand the issue:  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/thaad-missile-defence-systemsouth-korea-us-china-6434536/>

**Source:** Study IQ daily current Affairs

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