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MONTHLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2021



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2021

National Policy on rare Disease

(GS PAPER-3, Inclusive Growth and issues Arising from it Source - pib)

CONTEXT:

Recently the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced a policy on rare disease after Multiple consultation with various stakeholders of this field.

WHAT IS RARE DISEASE:

WHO define rare disease as a lifelong Disease or disorder with the prevalence of one per thousand

OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY:

- To cut down the cost of the treatment of the rare disease
- To promote research With the help of national consortium which was made under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- To increase the production of lower cost medicine
- To create National hospital based registry for rare disease
- The policy also focuses on Early screening and prevention through primary and secondary Healthcare infrastructure and Wellness Centre
- Screening will also be done by Nidan Kendra which was set up under department of biotechnology

CHALLENGES RELATED TO RARE DISEASES

- There is a sort of medicine And available medicines have very high cost so so the people who are belonging from the lowest strata of society Are Compelled to die
- There is the lack of indigenous Research Centre related to rare diseases
- Since the penetration of Rare disease is very low therefore it has Never been an agenda for the political parties to work on it
- There is lack of awareness among the people about rare diseases

GOVERNMENT APPROACH:

- Government of India is providing a sum of rupees 20 lakh under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi For the treatment of rare diseases
- Policy also proposes the crowd funding mechanism to encourage Individual and private stakeholders to work for the rare diseases



-Khyati Khare

Positron Excess

(GS PAPER-3, Science and Technology- Developments and their Applications and Effects in Everyday Life Source - Science Monitor)

CONTEXT:

Study has shown that Cosmic Rays propagating Through The Milky Way interact with matter producing excess positron.

KEY POINTS:

- High energy particles are generally lower in the number in the cosmic universe but it is seen that there has been an accessed number of high-energy particles of the antimatter counterpart of the electrons called positrons.
- over the years astronomers have observed an excess of positron having an energy of more than 10 giga electron volts or 10 GeV
- positron with energy more than 300 GeV however are lower in comparison to what astronomers expect
- this behaviour of positron between 10 and 300 GeV is what astronomers called the positron excess
- researchers from the Raman Research Institute Bengaluru and autonomous Institute of the Department of Science and Technology have resolved this mystery

- Cosmic Rays while propagating Through The Milky Way galaxy interact with matter producing other Cosmic Rays primarily electrons and positron

ROLE OF MILKY WAY GALAXY:

- The Milky Way consists of giant clouds of molecular hydrogen, they are the seeds of the formation of new stars and can be a message as 10 million times the sun's mass
- they can extend up to 600 light years the distance that would take light 600 years to travel
- Cosmic Rays produced in supernova explosion propagate through these clouds before they reach the earth
- Cosmic Rays interact with molecular hydrogen and can give rise to another cosmic wave
- as they propagate through these clouds their decay from their original forms and intermix lose their energy by energising the clouds and may also get re-energised



Khayti Khare

A 'One Health' Approach that Targets People, Animals (GS-2,3 The Hindu editorial)

CONTEXT:

Recent corona outbreak shows that there is no boundary between human vaccine and animal vaccine, i.e. zoonotic disease must be cured.

- There are many examples, such as Nipah virus, Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Avian Influenza, which shows that diseases are transmitted from animal to human.

HOW INDIA IS TACKLING THIS ISSUE:

- India's 'One Health' vision
 - ◆ agreement between the tripartite-plus alliance
 - ◆ FAO+ the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) + the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- India established a National Standing Committee on Zoonoses
- setting up a 'Centre for One Health' at Nagpur. Further, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)
- National Animal Disease Control Programme
- Foot and Mouth disease and Brucellosis control.\
- focus on capacity building for veterinarians
- upgrading the animal health diagnostic system
- WHO estimates that rabies costs the global economy approximately \$6 billion annually.
 - ◆ 90% of it is in india

WAY FORWARD:

- there must be timely detection.
- address challenges
 - ◆ pertaining to veterinary manpower shortages
 - ◆ the lack of information sharing between human and animal health institutions
 - ◆ inadequate coordination on food safety at slaughter, distribution, and retail facilities
- consolidating existing animal health and disease surveillance systems
- National Animal Disease Reporting System
- Capacity Building
- awareness generation
- increased investments toward meeting 'One Health'

Swarn singh

A Transient High (GS-3, economy, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

GST collection hit all time high since inception, but the bumpy road ahead due to covid can't be underestimated.

WHAT IS GST COUNCIL AND GST?

- GST is an indirect tax which has subsumed many indirect taxes.
 - ◆ Under-> Article 279A GST council shall consist of the following members:-

- the Union Finance Minister..... Chairperson;
- the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance..... Member
- the Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other
- Minister nominated by each State Government..... Members.

WHY GST COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD TAKES PLACE:

- Pandemic is grappling the economy.
- Slabs must rationalize as according to states.
- Must rethink about revival of demand as demand will sink due to pandemic.
- Cooperative federalism is the way forward.

Swarn Singh

Hospital Fires (GS PAPER-3, Infrastructure Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Recent fires in Hospital at Gujarat, a suburb of Mumbai and Mumbai near Thane kill at least 37 people

KEY POINTS:

- over the past year there have been deadly fires in hospital building including those meeting covid-19 patient
- the national crime record Bureau said 330 people died in commercial building fires in 2019 while facilities for residential or dwelling buildings were much higher at 6329
- Electric faults are cited as the leading cause of fires but state governments are widely criticized for being lax with building safety laws and for failing to equip building with modern technologies
- hospitals ICUs are a great fire risk because they are oxygen confused and need to meet high standards

NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF INDIA

- at the centre of all standard setting is the National Building Code of India Part 4 of the code deals with fire and life safety
- the document provides specifications and guidelines for design and materials that reduce the threat of destructive fire
- under the code all existing and new buildings are classified by nature of use such as residential educational institution assembly e-business mercantile industrial storage and hazardous
- According to the union home ministry is directorate-general for fire services States have been asked to incorporate NBC into their local building by-laws making the recommendation a mandatory requirement
- evidently fire safety rules exist in every state but the provisions of the code are ignored in practice and even mandatory certification do not reflect compliance

WAY FORWARD

- in December last year the supreme court directed all states to carry out fire safety audits of dedicated covid-19 hospitals

- it has become evident that States force lack the man power to inspect and ensure compliance the safety course including the NBC where it is mandatory



-Khyati Khare

Aahar Kranti

(GS PAPER, 3 Storage, Transport and Marketing of Agricultural Produce and Issues SOURCE- THE HINDU)

CONTEXT:

The Ministry of Science and Technology launched a new mission called a Aahar Kranti

ABOUT AAHAR KRANTI:

- The Scheme is launched by Vigyan Bharati and global Indian scientist and Technocrat forum
- the aim of the scheme Is to spread the message of the need for nutritionally balanced diet and to understand the importance of access to all local fruits and vegetables
- CSIR Pravasi Bhartiya academic and scientific Sampark is collaborating and various Central and state government ministers are in the pipeline to join the mission as it proceeds

OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME:

- the movement proposes to address the current situation of Hunger in abundance by walking to arouse the people to the values of India's traditional diet to the healing powers of local fruits and vegetables and to the miracles of a balanced diet
- it will renew the focus of nutritionally Balanced diet create in locally source fruits and vegetables
- the program will focus on creating teachers who in turn will pass on the message to the multitudes of students and through them to their family and finally the society at large

NEED OF THE AAHAR KRANTI MOVEMENT

- studies estimate that India produces as much as two times of the amount of calories that it consumes but still Indians are considered as malnourished
- the root cause of this strange phenomena is lack of nutritional awareness in all sections of our society
- there is a need for a nutritionally balanced diet also in the context of the current covid-19 pandemic
- a healthy body would be able to handle the exception much better with greater immunity and higher resilience

Khyati Khare

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Khyati Khare

A COVID blot on India's Foreign Policy Canvas (International relation, GS-2 the hindu)

CONTEXT:

Covid has forced India to accept foreign aid after a gap of 17 years. This has bound to have far-reaching strategic implications for India.

COVID 2.0 has quickened the demise of India's regional primacy. India's traditional primacy in the region was built on a mix of material aid, political influence and historical ties.

WHY INDIA WILL HAVE A FRAGMENTED AND A CONCILIATORY FOREIGN POLICY:

- Covid-2.0 mismanagement led to India diminishing material capability, shrinking military spending and a continuous political rhetoric shaken international confidence in India as a leading power.
- Countries in the Indo-Pacific will have their policy towards China as India will not be able to fulfill their ambition.
- Upcoming elections in the states such as U.P. will somehow increase the political violence and will pull India's ambition as a leading power because of its limited resources.
- Depressed economy with increased unemployment will increase the protest and decrease the demand.

- Countries which were likely against china are now getting onboard e.g Australian gave the port for 99 year to chinese.

WHAT SHOULD INDIA DO IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES?

- Focus on youth for employment
- Focus on management of COVID-2.0 crises.
- A all party focus on society and economy.
- Political consensus on COVID management.
- A calibrated policy towards friendly countries.



Swarn Singh

An Issue of lives versus Livelihoods' (GS-2,3 Economy, Social Justice, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

A bleak future, with job losses, loss of rented accommodations, a lack of sustainable income and savings to ensure food, transportation back to villages or any other emergency including falling victim to COVID-19.

THIS CAN ACT AS A CASE STUDY FOR ETHICS PAPER-4

Life Vs Livelihood:- On one hand we are saving life from the COVID-2.0 by curfew and Lockdown and on other hand people are losing their livelihood which can also act as a killer to them. This is the endless journey.

WHAT THE MOST PROMINENT QUESTIONS IN FRONT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

- How to save life and livelihood simultaneously.
- Are governments really caring for people, i.e. in this distressed times daily wage workers are the most vulnerable because they don't have minimum wage guarantee, so how governments are taking care of them.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE NOW?

- Life is the paramount importance but livelihood holds no less.
- Government should support the most vulnerable financially or materially.
- Minimum needs must be fulfilled.
- A federal cooperation with people coordination is the way forward.
- Issue of migrants must be at the heart of.
- Enforcement of law and order.



Swarn Singh

International Monetary and Financial Committee Gs Paper-3, Economy Source- Hindustan Times

- The IMFC has 24 members, drawn from the pool of 187 governors. Its structure mirrors that of the Executive Board and its 24 constituencies. As such, the IMFC represents all the member countries of the Fund.
- Functions: The IMFC meets twice a year, during the Spring and Annual Meetings. The Committee discusses matters of common concern affecting the global economy and also advises the IMF on the direction of its work.
- At the end of the Meetings, the Committee issues a joint communiqué summarizing its views.



SIGNIFICANCE:

- The IMFC advises and reports to the IMF Board of Governors on the supervision and management of the international monetary and financial system, including on responses to unfolding events that may disrupt the system.
- It also considers proposals by the Executive Board to amend the Articles of Agreement and advises on any other matters that may be referred to it by the Board of Governors.
- Although the IMFC has no formal decision-making powers, in practice, it has become a key instrument for providing strategic

-Khyati Khare

Balance of Payment Gs Paper-3, Economy Source- Hindustan Times

- The outcome of the total transactions of an economy with the outside world in one year is known as the balance of payment (BoP) of the economy.
- Basically, it is the net outcome of the current and capital accounts of an economy.
- It might be favourable or unfavourable for the economy, However, negativity of the BoP does not mean it is unfavourable.
- A negative BoP is unfavourable for an economy if only the economy lacks the means to fill the gap of negativity.
- The BoP of an economy is calculated on the principles of accountancy (double-entry bookkeeping) and looks like the balance sheet of a company—every entry shown either as credit (inflow) or debit (outflow).

- If there is a positive outcome at the end of the year, the money is automatically transferred to the foreign exchange reserves of the economy and if there is any negative outcome, the same foreign exchange is drawn from the country's forex reserves.
- If the forex reserves are not capable of fulfilling the negativity created by the BoP, it is known as a BoP crisis and the economy tries different means to solve the crisis in which going for forex help from the IMF is the last resort.
- The balance of payments (BoP) records the transactions in goods, services, and assets between residents of a country with the rest of the world for a specified time period typically a year.

-Khyati Khare

Against Excess (The Hindu, GS-2 Polity)

CONTEXT:

Maharashtra government has given Maratha reservation in educational institutions and in the public services. High court of Bombay has upheld the validity based on the state social and economic backward class commission i.e. M.G. Gaikwad commission. But Supreme Court has struck down the validity of this act.

WHAT ARE THE JUDGMENT AND COMMISSIONS REGARDING RESERVATION:

- Article 15 of constitution takes about positive discrimination and article 16 takes about special privileges to sc/st and other backward class.
- Mandal commission report which specifically talked about 27% reservations to backward class.
- Indira sawney judgment-> 50% ceiling on reservation.
- Nagrajan case which upheld the Indira sawney judgment.

WHY THERE IS DEMAND OF RESERVATION NOW A DAYS.

- Depression in agriculture which is detaching the youth from this profession.
- Dip in the economy which increases the unemployment.
- Recession in the private sector.
- Private sectors jobs are concentrated in the few states.
- Increase in the working population and decrease the jobs avenues.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE WAY FORWARD:

- Encourage the private sector and its distribution.
- Investment opportunities.
- Ceiling on reservation like in OBC.

Swarn Singh

Workers' Income Fell by 17%, Says Report (The Hindu, Economy, GS-3)

CONTEXT:

Due to Covid-19 and Covid-2.0 led to income decrease by 17% in overall sectors.

EFFECTS OF COVID-19:

- In-formalization of employments
- Increase in the unemployment.
- Decrease in the demand
- 100 million jobs were lost nationwide during the April-May 2020 lockdown
- Education, health and professional services saw the highest exodus of workers
- Women and younger workers were more affected by the pandemic-related measures
- Increase in the domestic violence.



How We can Cop-up Now

- Priority should be the life with state support to livelihood.
- Support to small business such as theliwala, auto-rikshaw drives.
- Must enhance the capability of human capital.
- Increase in the health workers will have a win-win situation.
- For village people MGNREGA is the way forward.

- state-center cooperative federalism.
- a comprehensive study of after effects so that sector wise, state wise and profession wise government can target the affected people.

Swarn Singh

New Assessment System for Class 10th Gs Paper-2, Education Source - The Hindu

CONTEXT:

The Central Board of Secondary Education has released its objective Criterion on the basis of class 10th will be assessed following the cancellation of board examination for students of this grade

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Around 21.5 class 10 subjected to A new system of assessment
- This system is largely drawn on assessment conducted throughout the course of the Year
- The board has had to account for large scale variation in the situation of different school and students
- With many schools likely to not have been able to conduct All the cycles of assessment throughout the year
- Many students likeliness have not appeared in those conducted
- There may be difference in terms of the mode of examination that is online or offline

ASSESSMENT PATTERN:

- The basic breakup of marks provided by the board is as follows:
 1. 20 marks based on the internal assessment which had already been conducted by most school with marks already uploaded
 2. 10 marks for unit test
- the basic breakup of marks by the board is as follows:
 1. 30 marks for half yearly examination
 2. 40 marks for pre board examination
- At the Centre of the assessment process this time are different committee that are to be formed in every school
- this committee will comprise
 1. the principal
 2. five features from mathematics social and two language
- At the Centre of the assessment process is time are that committee that are to be formed in school
- it has been left to this committee to draw a criteria of 80 marks to a rationale document for in case where all tests have not been conducted or their students have not appeared for the assessment

STANDARDIZED MECHANISM:

- The board has prescribed a system of internal modulation by all school

- It is based on the historical performance of a school taking the best performance in the last three years board examination as the reference year
- According to the board policy the subject wise marks by the school for 2021 obtained by the school for 2021 should be within a range of two marks obtained by the school in the reference period

POLICY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT WAKE THE QUALIFYING MARK

- The board has stated that it will apply its policy of awarding Grace Mark to those who do not meet the criteria
- If a child is still not able to meet the criteria after Grace Mark they will be placed in compartment category
- The compartment exam will be held by the school as an objective type online or offline exam based on use sample question papers provided by the CBSE and not at a centralised exam as is usually held
- The child may be allowed to continue in class 9th till the compartment results are released

-Khyati Khare

Trifood Schemes Gs Paper-3, Welfare Schemes Source - Pib

CONCERNED MINISTRY

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Ministry of food processing and industries

OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME

- It aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilisation of and value addition to the minor product collected by the tribal forest gatherers
- As a start, minor forest produce processing units will be set up in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- The unit in Maharashtra that will be used for value addition to Mahua Amla custard apple and Jamun and will produce Mahua drink Amla juice Candy Jamun juice and custard apple pulp

FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

The multi-commodity processing centre in Jagdalpur Chhattisgarh will be used for the processing of commodities like Mahua Amla Honey cashew ginger garlic and other fruit and vegetables

IMPLEMENTATION

- The scheme will be implemented by TRIFED
- The minor forest produce Processing Unit are in which has to be professionally operated by repeated food processor who will operate the facilities for a limited period of time under the overall administrative control of TRIFED
- About 25% of total raw material is expected to be sourced locally from the identified Van dhan Kendra consistently for a period of 5 years

COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME

- The units will be set up under the scheme for creation of backward and forward linkages Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana
- The fully processed product will be sold across the country in Tribes India outlets and franchise stores.

-Khyati Khare

Social Murder and the Missing State (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance)

CONTEXT:

This Pandemic has led to death of millions in india and worse about economy, and government has said that they are not responsible for the destruction caused by the pandemic has a long term consequences on democracy.

During 1840's Engel's government in England allowed the state murder of working class by not taking action in the pandemic back then. Same can be seen in india.

WHY THIS IS A STATE LED MURDER.

- Prime minister has not addressed a single press conference till now when death tolls are close to 4000 daily.
- Swedish prime minister was enquired by the constitutional committee on the issue of tackling the covid crises but that constitutional mechanism is not available in India.
- Central Government skillfully denied it's negligence and state governments are pathetic towards the issue.
- Allocation of oxygen to the state is not the required amount.
- Government supporters are not even asking to government about the issue but criticizing the media.
- According to weber current state of India is a patrimonial state, i.e. a traditional form of state where accountability is firstly compromised.
- Holding the FIR against those who are asking for the oxygen cylinder shows the fallacy of the regime.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE:

- Turning towards the active democracy rather passive democracy.
- Accountability mechanism for government holding accountable.
- Government should always pursue good governance.

People must be the end in Itself.

Swarn Singh

In Ireland's Complex Troubles, lessons for India (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance)

CONTEXT:

The communal clashes of April in Northern Ireland caught the media attention of many countries, but not in India. The clash was between Protestant and catholic Christian.

WHY:

- complex mix of change
- resistance to change
- Ingrained political and social inertia.
- lack of social and economic opportunities
- poverty

Same things can be projected for india. In india too poverty is the bigger enemy, a traditional society, a unprofessional outlook.

HOW WE CAN CURB THE ISSUE:

- Employment must be the focus
- A forward outlook of society.
- needs leadership that takes responsibility for peoples' social and economic problems
- needs to be aware that creating religious tensions between communities
- addressing communal issues with vigilance, tolerance and compromise

Swarn Singh

Why the Taiwan Covid Model Works (International relations, Ethics, Indian Express)

CONTEXT:

Taiwan's strategy and her learning from the SARS outbreak shows how country can learn from the history.

- nationwide infectious disease healthcare network
 - legal authority for transferring patients with highly contagious diseases
- By acting early and effectively
- Taiwan implemented flexible adjustments for related quarantine measures
- public trust and cooperation with the government's response
- principles of reasonable response
- Taiwan's longstanding contributions to the international community
 - in public health
 - disease prevention
 - the human right to health
 - and to include Taiwan in WHO.
- What India can learn
 - An effective political response.
 - A central disease surveillance system.
 - A cooperation among center and states.
 - An effective quarantine mechanism
 - Peoples response.



Swarn Singh

We need Temporary Reconciliation, a National Action Plan. PM must take lead (Indian Express, GS-2, Governance)

CONTEXT:

COVID-19's 2nd wave rendered India in a devastated state with fragile economy and social chaos.

WHAT PM MUST DO ACCORDING THE AUTHOR:

- national action plan must be made and owned by all the state chief ministers and the central government
 - ◆ A national strategy is a consensus document.
- rationing of vaccine and other medical supplies be done fairly.
- collective decisions-> the more confidence in their fairness.
- activation of parliamentary select committees as tools of accountability
- depoliticise the bureaucracy
- No part of India can win unless the whole of India wins.

Swarn Singh

Patent Waiver on Vaccine (Gs Paper, 3 Diseases Source- Science Reporter)

CONTEXT:

The US supports waving patents on covid-19 nothing because doing away with intellectual property rights will pave the way for a cheaper version of the vaccine to enter the market and scale-up production.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHEME

- India has been leading a push from lower and middle income countries at the world trade organisation to do away patents on vaccine against COVID
- WHO in March 2021 called for vaccine patent rights to be waived until the end of pandemic stating that these unprecedented times warrant the move
- The demand had also been raised by human right bodies and global advocacy group
- However the open call issued by WHO health authority very little expression of interest from the owners of vaccine technology and intellectual property rights



SIGNIFICANCE OF PATENTS ON WAVING PATENTS ON VACCINES:

- Allow the recipes to be shared and there will longer be an embargo – basically any company which possesses the required technology and infrastructure can produce vaccine
- This will lead to cheaper and more generic versions of COVID vaccines
- As many people across India are struggling to get vaccines and shortages are being reported from many states there is need to scale up production and equitable distribution of the vaccine doses available

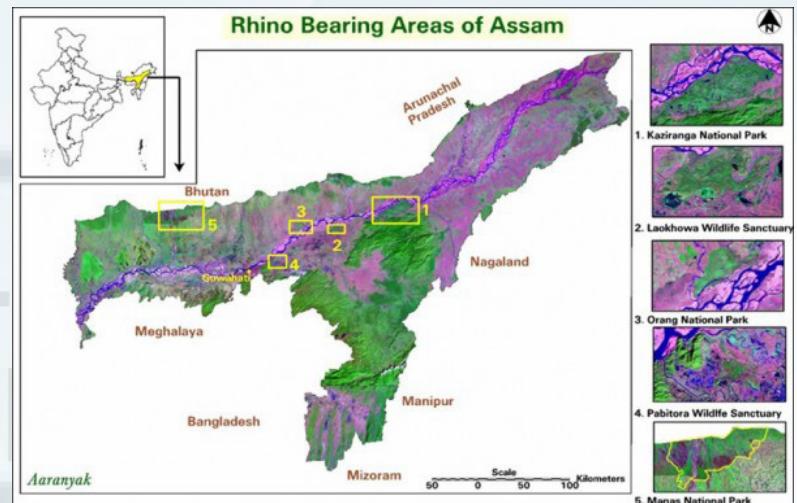
- Inequitable distribution of vaccines have opened upgrading gap between developing and developed countries with poor relations that continue to pay shortages and have overburdened Healthcare system and hundreds dying daily
- Unless we vaccinate the world we leave the playing field open to more and more mutations which would turn out variant that could read our current vaccines and required booster shots to deal with them

-Khyati Khare

India Rhino Vision 2020 (Gs Paper-3, Ecology and Environment Source - Livemint)

CONTEXT:

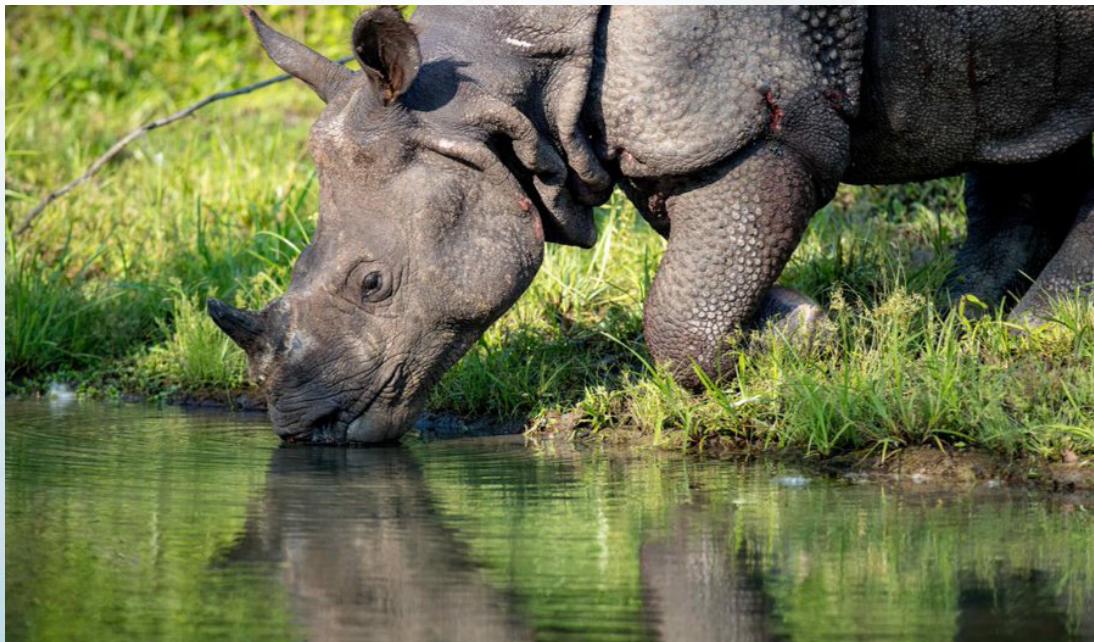
- Recently two adult one horned Rhinos translocated from Pobitora wildlife sanctuary to Manas National Park, under the aegis of Indian rhino vision 2020.
- The two Rhinos were transported to the release site at Bansbari range, Manas National Park after covering a distance of 181 km from Pobitora wildlife sanctuary.
- The translocation of rhinos to Manas National Park is an important conservation measures to help conserve the species
- Two sub-adult Rhinos were trans located from the Bagori range of Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park in March 2020.
- With this last leg of wild to wild translocation under Indian rhino vision 2020 a total of 22 Rhinos have been transmitted from Pobitora Wildlife sanctuary and Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park
- Currently Manas have 40 rhinos



INDIAN RHINO VISION 2020

- The vision was launched in 2005
- An ambitious effort to attend a wildlife population of at least 3000 greater one horned rhino spread over 7 protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020
- Seven protected areas are-
 1. Kaziranga
 2. Pobitora
 3. Orang National Park
 4. Manas National Park

- 5. Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary
- 6. Bura Chapori wildlife sanctuary
- 7. Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary
- It is a collaborative effort between various organisation including-
 1. The international rhino Foundation
 2. Assam Forest Department
 3. Bodoland territorial Council
 4. World Wide Fund
 5. The US fish and wildlife service



-Khyati Khare

Child and Forced Labour (GS Paper-2, Policy Source- Livemint)

CONTEXT:

A recent study I have raised the issue of ambiguity about definitions of child labour and forced labour in India especially for sugarcane producing states of Bihar Karnataka Maharashtra Punjab and up the study was commissioned by United Nation development programme and The Coca-Cola Company

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STUDY:

- Authorities discounted under age child labour as child helping parents in the field
- similarly conclusion was about the advance payment to migrant workers and associated risk of forced or bonded labour
- Most of the intervention in the sugarcane sector either by government authorities or by the corporate social responsibility arms of companies were focused just on improving farming techniques to ensure the increase in cane productivity

CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED LABOUR MEANING

Child Labour: work that children of their childhood their potential and their dignity and that is harmful to physical and mental development

Forced Labour: all work or service which is exempted from any person under the millions of any penalty and for which the said person have not offered himself voluntarily



LEGAL SAFEGUARD FOR CHILD:

Provisions of child labour prohibition and regulation Amendment Act 2016

- employment of children below the age of 14 years in any enterprise is illegal
- the employment of adolescent in occupation that deals with headers working conditions such as chemical plants and mines
- children can only work after school hours or during holidays and that children are allowed to work in family owned secure sectors

CRITICISMS

- allows child labour in family or family Enterprise
- allows in child to be an artist in an audio visual entertainment industry
- Does not define the art of work



-Khyati Khare

National Income

Gs Paper3, Economy Source- The Hindu

INTRODUCTION:

National income refers to a money value of a final goods and services produced within a country during a financial year. Whereas income level is the mostly used tool to determine the wellness & happiness of a nation and their citizens.

REASONS FOR ITS CALCULATION:

- To calculate the living standards of individuals.
- To implement better policies for welfare of citizens & growth of an economy.
- It will help to increase the foreign investment in the money market.

THREE MAIN METHODS:

1. **Product/Value Added Method:** This method is also known as output method, in this method, the total gross value of all final goods and services in different sectors (industry, agriculture,service) are added to know the total production made in a specific year.
2. **Factor income method:** In this method, national income is measured as the total sum of factor payment received in a certain period.
It includes land, labour, capital, entrepreneurship. Individuals who provide this factor services get payment in the form of rent, wages/ salaries.. etc, respectively, sum of total received by these individuals comprise the national income.
3. **Expenditure method:** The expenditure method measures the national income as the sum total of expenditure made by individuals in the form of personal consumption, firm investment and government authorities on government purchase.



Since income from production is the result of expenditure made by entities on the production of goods and services within the economy, the result of expenditure method should be the same total as the product method.

Khyati Khare

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2021

A TRIPS Waiver is useful but not a Magic Pill (The Hindu, GS-2, International Relations, Economy)

CONTEXT:

Innovation and invention during this tough time to fight against corona, on one hand we have to protect the people from the onslaught and on the other hand we must ensure that innovators must get it due in terms of intellectual property rights. In this context, The United States has finally relented and declared its support for a temporary waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement.

WHAT IS TRIPS AGREEMENT:

- Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the “TRIPS Agreement”) of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization of 15 April 1994, which entered into force on 1 January 1995.
- The TRIPS Agreement builds on the existing multilateral systems for the protection of the various intellectual property rights covered by it, and many substantive provisions of the main international instruments for the protection of intellectual property are included in the Agreement.

India and other developing countries are demanding waiver in the TRIPS agreement so that they can fight against COVID-19

ISSUE:

USA gave the waiver, and CANADA and other developed countries are opposing this move, they are demanding no waiver.

BUT WHY CONCERNED:

- USA gave waiver only on the COVID-19 vaccine, but not on the technology, other therapeutic medicine as demanded by india.
- TRIPS agreement is a comprehensive document so it may have some legal repercussions such as country want to transfer technology but a private company doesn't want so in that case matter will go to court.
 - Solution
- India must prepare a team of legal consultant who will study TRIPS in detail and then advice to government
- How we can fight against COVID when TRIPS waiver is in force.
 - address the non-IP bottlenecks

- such as technology transfer
- production constraints
- other logistical challenges such as
- inadequacy of supply chains
- unavailability of raw materials to manufacture vaccines and medicines.



Swarn Singh

IAS Outreach and Overreach (GS-2, Polity, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Judicial intervention in response to the health crisis ineffectively tackled by center has reached its apotheosis. Supreme Court order forming a 12-member national task force for the effective and transparent allocation of medical oxygen to the States and Union Territories.

- Court has also mandated the task force to review and suggest measures:
 - for ensuring the availability of essential drugs
 - remedial measures to meet future emergencies during the pandemic.

ISSUE:

Is about encroaching the domain of executive by judiciary.

- Judiciary is taking on distribution of oxygen supply to the state i.e. the quota of state. So indeed this is the executive domain but judiciary's role is also that the people must get the justice i.e. right to life.
 - What are the previous occasions where judicial overreach was there
- Ban of liquor on the highways.
- Ban on Tiktok.
- Micromanagement such as playing national anthem before the movie.

WHY JUDICIAL OVERREACH IS NOT GOOD:

- Indian constitution works on the principle of synthesis rather than on the principle of confrontation.
- Judicial activism and overreach has a thin line and if both organs start encroaching each other's sphere then it may downgrade democracy.
- It may lead to judicial overburden.
- It will hamper people's trust in the judiciary.
- India is a democracy where people are supreme and theory governed by the people sent by them.
- Judiciary don't have the requisite expertise.



Swarn Singh

National Financial Reporting Authority (Gs Paper-3, Institutions Source - Economic Times)

CONTEXT:

National financial reporting authority has prepared a provisional database of companies and auditors

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Establishment of this database involves following critical steps.
- Identification and verification of the primary data source
- reconciliation of data such as company identification number which is dynamic from different sources
- In this regard the national financial reporting authority has been engaging with the corporate data management division of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and three recognized stock exchange in India

- Provisional database of companies and their auditors as of 31st March 2019 has been compiled by the NFRA which have been published on the website of NFRA

ABOUT NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AUTHORITY

- The national financial reporting authority is a regulatory body set up under section 132 of the Companies Act 2013 to oversee compliance with accounting and auditing standard by the companies that can be described as Public Interest entities
- This group includes all listed companies and large and listed companies
- The discipline to constituted the national financial reporting authority was taken after the role of auditors And The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India came under the scanner for alleged lapses in various corporate scams including that at the Punjab National Bank
- Its account is monitored by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- its headquarter is in New Delhi

COMPOSITION:

- It consists of a chairperson who shall be a person of eminence and having expertise in accountancy auditing appointed by the central government and such other members not exceeding 15
- The chairperson and members who are in full time employment with National financial reporting authority shall not be associated with any audit form during the course of their appointment and two years after ceasing to hold such an appointment



-Khyati Khare

Foreign Exchange Rate (GS PAPER-3, Economy Source- rbi.org)

WHAT IS FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE:

- Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies, which can include bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.
- It needs to be noted that most foreign exchange reserves are held in U.S. dollars.

- These assets serve many purposes but are most significantly held to ensure that the central bank has backup funds if the national currency rapidly devalues or becomes altogether insolvent.
- Forex reserves are external assets in the form of gold, SDRs (special drawing rights of the IMF) and foreign currency assets (capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings) accumulated by India and controlled by the Reserve Bank of India.

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES INCLUDE:

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold
3. Special Drawing Rights

Reserves will provide a level of confidence to markets that a country can meet its external obligations, demonstrate the backing of domestic currency by external assets, assist the government in meeting its foreign exchange needs and external debt obligations and maintain a reserve for national disasters or emergencies.



Khayti Khare

Decoding Inequality in a Digital World (The Hindu, GS-2,3 Science and tech, economy, Governance)

CONTEXT:

Technological changes in education and health are worsening inequities.

- Covid-19 pandemic led to increased use of digital technologies in services, especially healthcare and education. This also led to inaccessibility to these most important services.

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY HAS INCREASED:

- super-rich have even become richer
- The major Indian population is suffering a huge economic setback
- widespread job losses and income shocks
- education and health are getting rejigged in ways that make access more inequitable

DATA:

- National Sample Survey data from 2017, only 6% rural households and 25% urban households have a computer.

- 17% in rural areas and 42% in urban areas have access to internet.
- Oxfam suggest that between 27% and 60% could not access online classes

WHY:

- lack of devices
- Lack of shared devices
- inability to buy “data packs”, etc.
- lack of stable connectivity.
- many lack a learning environment at home:
 - privileged are getting ahead because of the privileges they enjoy.
 - health care.
- public spending on health (barely 1% of GDP)
- ‘out of pocket’ (OOP) health expenditure (of total health spending) in India was over 60% in 2018.
- private health sector in India is poorly regulated in practice
- Digital “solutions” create additional bureaucracy such as mandatory ADHAR card
- use of CoWIN to book a slot makes it that much harder to access
- website is only available in English
- Issue is that government is making a Health data base in the form of providing health services but lack of data privacy law can end up this data in the private companies hand and these companies may deny the services to the poor or may increase their charges to them.

SOLUTION:

- health expenditure on basic health services (ward staff, nurses, doctors, laboratory technicians, medicines, beds, oxygen, ventilators) is to be increased



- laws against medical malpractices are enforced strictly
- digital solutions will obfuscate and distract us from the real problem.
- We need political, not technocratic, solutions.

Swarn Singh

Vaccine Skirmishes (The Hindu, Economy, GS-3)

CONTEXT:

Developing countries are asking the intellectual property right waiver for COVID-19 vaccine.

- Why IPR waiver on COVID vaccines is needed.
- Developing countries are the ones who are at the edge, neither they have expertise to tackle, nor they have resources and nor they have money to R&D
- This will decrease the poor's hardship.
- Will help in saving the loved one's
- But there are some challenges in the IPR waiver



- the grant of a waiver would have to be accompanied by a "tech transfer."
- how any vaccine then produced by these generic manufacturers would pass the tests of safety, immunogenicity and protective efficacy.
- The impact on global supply chains for vaccine production should be examined in order to avoid disruptions.
- alternative options to urgently address vaccine shortfalls should be considered.

- These challenges must be addressed simultaneously in order to provide relief to the COVID affected population
 - Read my previous day article

LINK

- <https://plutusias.com/a-trips-waiver-is-useful-but-not-a-magic-pill-the-hindu-gs-2-international-relations-economy/>

Swarn Singh

Groundwater Depletion (Gs Paper-3 Infrastructure) (Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Groundwater depletion the cropping intensity are the amount of land planted in the winter season may decrease up to 20% by 2025 noted by a report

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT:

- India is the second largest producer of Wheat in the world with over 30 million hectares in the country, dedicated to producing this crop.



- Some of the important winter crops are wheat, Barley, mustard and peas

- The International team is studied India's three main season types on winter cropped areas dug wells, tube wells, canals and also analysed the groundwater data from the central ground water board
- study finds 13% of the village in which farmers plant winter crop are located in critically water depleted regions
- The villages may Lose 68% of their crop area in future if access to all ground water irrigation is lost
- The results suggest that these losses will largely occur in north west and Central India

NATURE OF GROUNDWATER DEPLETION IN INDIA:

- India is the world's largest user of groundwater groundwater contribute to more than 50% of the country's irrigation resources
- In India nearly two third area are rain fed
- Therefore in order to provide farmers with adequate irrigation facilities the government provides power to the agriculture sector at highly subsidised rate this accounts for the over extraction of groundwater
- Over extractions of groundwater is non renewable recharge rates are less than extraction rate and replenishing this resource can take thousands of years

-Khyati Khare

Brics: A New Alternate Gs Paper 2, Institutions Source- Livemint

INTRODUCTION:

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa are the members of BRICS. BRICS countries together account for 42% of the world's population, a third of the global GDP and around 17% share of world trade. BRICS countries' sizable contribution to global growth, trade and investment makes it an important pillar of global order.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BRICS CAN BE SEEN IN FOLLOWING POINTS:

- Various institutions introduced by BRICS like New Development Bank, BRICS Contingency Reserve etc are providing viable alternatives in global economic governance.
- With the withdrawal of US from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and Iran deal has posed a great security threat to global peace, In this context BRICS can play a vital role to fill the gap
- The BRICS contribution to world poverty reduction has been sizeable
- It provides a platform for the major developing countries to arrive at workable solutions to achieve sustainable development and counter the harmful impacts of global warming.



WAY FORWARD:

as the success achieved by BRICS in a short span of time it is seen that BRICS can contribute significantly in maintaining international stability, ensuring global economic growth and becoming a united centre of the multi-polar world

Khyati khare

COVID Mishandling Foretold in the Budget (The Hindu, Governance, GS-2 Bit Political in Nature, one can skip)

CONTEXT:

Author tries to find out the loopholes in the governance of the Modi government, the vaccination programme and the fight against black money.

- Finance minister, though, boasted that India's health expenditure has increased this year but in terms of GDP it has stagnated.
- There was no explicit expenditure to fight against COVID.
- Government was having myopia on the effect of COVID.

GOVERNMENT VACCINATION:

- There is a discrimination among centre and state by the centre. vaccine prices are less for the centre and more for the state.
- Centre don't have a coherent vaccination policy.
- Don't have explicit money to spend on vaccination.
- Government has left fight against COVID to the states, but state also don't have money
- Central Government mismanagement has led to death and suffering of millions.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD:

- An all india vaccination policy.
- State must get the vaccine on the rate at which centre gets.
- Import of vaccine
- Must enhance the age spectrum
- State must get the flexibility in vaccination.
- Lockdown can't be a way forward but essential medics care is.

Swarn Singh

Evaluate the Ladakh crisis, keep China at bay (The Hindu, International relations, GS-2)

CONTEXT: the stand-off between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh shows no signs of resolution. recent study published by the Lowy Institute shows three lesson learnt from their ladakh crises.

- Military strategies based on denial are more useful than strategies based on punishment.
 - i. India was on the denial mode and then India retaliated against China in ladakh.
 - ii. India need military modernisation
 - iii. Increase capability in the indian ocean
 - iv. Appropriate action on all front, i.e economy, internationally etc.
- China is more likely to be deterred or coerced with the threat of political costs, rather than material costs.
 - i. India should take all these things into the international arena and condemn the chinese act.
 - ii. More pressure politically.
- India should consider accepting more risk on the LAC in exchange for long-term leverage and influence in the Indian Ocean Region.
 - A. A comprehensive strategy to manage the chinese in the eastern and northern border.
 - B. Increase access and connectivity.
 - C. Boost to indigenous manufacturing of military items.
 - D. Indian ocean region's security should not be seen in the silos rather in connection.

Swarn Singh

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Swarn Singh

Not all Crises are Opportunities for Reforms (GS-3, Economy, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

30 years of the landmark economic reforms aka LPG reforms came in the time of economic crises. This time too in 2021 we are facing the economic crises but with the bigger magnitude.

WHY CRISES ACTS AS A FORERUNNER OF REFORMS:

- It changes the behaviour of the people i.e. product people relationship.
- It creates a vacuum which sets the stage for the reforms.
- Crises shakes the foundation of existing building i.e. it shows that current rules and regulations can't be worked on.

BUT IN THIS TIME GOVERNMENT CAN'T TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES WHY?

- Because the magnitude of crises is way larger than 1990 one.
- It can have repercussions.
- 1990's crisis was due to the endogenous problems but this crises is due to the exogenous problems
- Even if large measures are taken, they are highly unlikely because Indian economy depends on the global.

WHAT WE SHOULD DO TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY:

- Rural economy based on MGNREGA.

- Some relief measures one this pandemic weaken.
- People must think that we have to live with this virus.
- State government proactiveness in the economy.
- Government increased spending on infrastructure.
- Vaccination programme for whole population



Swarn Singh

National Income Gs Paper - 3 Economy Source - The Hindu

- National Income is the total amount of goods and services produced within the nation during the given period say, 1 year. It is the total of factor income i.e. wages, interest, rent, profit, received by factors of production i.e. labour, capital, land and entrepreneurship of a nation.
- National Income (NI) is also known as National Income at factor cost which means total income earned by resources for their contribution of land, labour, capital and organisational ability. Hence, the sum of the income received by factors of production in the form of rent, wages, interest and profit is called National Income.
- National Income is Net National Product at factor cost.
- $\text{NNP at factor cost} = \text{National Income (NI)} = \text{NNP at market prices} - (\text{Indirect taxes} - \text{Subsidies})$.



Khyati Khare

Liberalization

Liberation is simply the removal of bureaucratic control on the private sector. It involved the following steps:

- **De-licensing:** It means the removal of Licence Raj. For opening almost any business the entrepreneur required a licence permit from the government. This opened up scope for a lot of corruption.
- **De-reservation:** There are many industrial sectors that were reserved for only the government agency. Private sector was not allowed to invest or start a business in those sectors. In 1991 most of the sectors were open for the private sector except for certain critical areas like atomic energy, space, railways, rare minerals, etc.
- **De-regulation:** It involves reducing the government regulations and interference in the industry and businesses.
- **Privatisation:** Involvement of private sector in public sector companies happens in either form of disinvestment or privatisation.



Khyati Khare

The Science Teaching and Rationality India Needs (The Hindu, GS-2,3, Science and tech, Human resource, governance)

CONTEXT:

People and their neglect of mask and putting things on to the faith shows we somewhere lacked in the education. Education would have created an informed mind but we as a system has failed in this.

- Most people think that corona virus will enter into the body and we can't do anything about it.
- People neglect it because of their neglect of science.

WHY THIS IS HAPPENING:

- We as an education system didn't make an informed mind.
- In education, students know about the benefits of boiling water but only for gaining mass not for applying it in real life.
- After the passing of class, the knowledge gained in that class is hardly used in life.
- Curiosity level is below the average.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

- Empowering the student and creating the scientific temper in them.
- Practical based education, for example a student knows about pathogen in higher secondary but hardly he saw it because labs don't have that required instruments.
 - Telling science and studying the science and applying the science are the different things so we must recognise it.
 - a rational social environment is needed.
 - dissent and debate are encouraged.

Swarn Singh

Protecting Prisoners (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance)

CONTEXT:

In India according to some reports, jail occupancy is 139% and more than 65% prisoners are undertrial. Due to COVID-19 spread the situation is becoming more grim and the supreme court took a stand and asked government to provide Bail or parole to those who are eligible for the specified period so that they can be saved.

WHY THIS SITUATION:

- State and central government spend very less money on jail reforms.
- Pathetic situation of Jails as they been in continuation since colonial era.
- Colonial era's laws are still in the force which are curative rather than reformatory.

SITUATION IN JUDICIARY IS NOT GOOD

- Number of judges is less.
- Investigating team is either not professional or has inadequate resources so they always buy time from the judiciary.
- Higher judiciary unnecessary intervention.
- Lack of court management system.
- Lack of proper infrastructure.
- Flaws in the criminal justice system as lightened by the malimath committee.
- Enforcement agencies don't do their duty properly i.e. corruption in the police.

- Lack of judiciary and police accountability.
- Problems with the Bail system

WHY WE MUST PROTECT THE PRISONER?

- They have the right to life according to the article 21.
- It is the state duty that it must provide life joying conditions to each and everyone.
- Jail is a reformative step so that a person again can be socialise.
- Reformation rather elimination.



WHAT WE MUST DO:

- Follow the malimath committee recommendation.
- norms it had laid down in Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014)
- Jail Manual 2016.
- Increase the judge and population ration.
- Revisit the colonial laws.
- Educate the people about their right and provide the legal aid as in the DPSP.

Swarn Singh

Development In Horticulture Sector (Gs Paper-3, Economy Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Union agriculture ministry has allocated rupees 2250 crore for realising the huge potential of the Horticulture sector in 2021-22

HIGHLIGHTS

- For holistic growth of the Horticulture capital in the country Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare the located 2250 crore rupees for mission for integrated development of horticulture
- The allocation is significantly higher than the previous year allocation
- Allocation has been communicated to the state for preparing annual Action Plan

MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE:

- This scheme is for the holistic growth and development of the Indian horticulture
- Agriculture ministry is implementing this centrally sponsored scheme

- The objective is to realize the potential of the Horticulture after covering fruit, vegetable and Tuber crop, mushroom, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut Cashew and cocoa



-Khyati Khare

Arctic Science Ministerial Conference (Gs Paper-2 Polity Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Recently India participated in the third Arctic science ministerial conference and shared plans for Research and long-term cooperation in the Arctic Region
The first two meeting were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018 respectively

KEY POINTS:

- It was jointly organised by Iceland and Japan
- It was the first ministerial meeting being held in Asia
- The objective is to provide opportunities to various stakeholders including academia, indigenous communities, government policy makers to have a collective understanding of the Arctic region and emphasise and engage in constant monitoring and strengthen observations

INDIA'S STAND:

- To contribute of observing system in the Arctic both in- situ and by Remote Sensing
- India would deploy open ocean mooring in the Arctic for long-term monitoring of upper Ocean variables and meteorological parameter
- The launch of NISAR satellite mission in collaboration with the USA is under way

-Khyati Khare

Quinary Activities

Gs Paper-3, Economy Source: Rbi.Org

- Quinary activities are services that focus on the creation, re-arrangement and interpretation of new and existing ideas; data interpretation and the use and evaluation of new technologies
- Often referred to as 'gold collar' professions, they represent another subdivision of the tertiary sector representing special and highly paid skills of senior business executives, government officials, research scientists, financial and legal consultants, etc.
- Their importance in the structure of advanced economies far outweighs their numbers. The highest level of decision-makers or policymakers performs quinary activities.

Khyati Khare

The Crime of Enforced Disappearances must end (The Hindu,GS-2 international relation, governance)

CONTEXT:

United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has received reports of enforced disappearances from the people of disappeared families. This game is going on in ASIA which was started in 1970's,80's from argentina.

A LARGER VIEW:

- In China enforced disappearances of Uighur muslims on the pretext of educating them so that terrorism and extremism can be curbed.
- In Pakistan, Hindu's as well as muslims are being disappeared by the state. The most tragic one is baloch's enforced disappearances.
- In sri-lanka too on the pretext of changing history.

- Recent coup in Myanmar and the mammoth injury inflicted on their democratic institution further enforced disappearance are the black chapter.

WHY SUCH ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES:

- State's excessive zeal to suppress the common voices.
- Military rule.
- Snatching the freedom of speech and expression.
- Leader can do anything to retain power.

IT'S EFFECT:

- No freedom of speech and expression.
- No right to life.
- Forceful prohibition of religion.

REMEDIAL MEASURES:

- Under the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (1992), the Working Group works to assist families of disappeared persons
- assistance of the secretariat members based in Geneva
- Working Group monitors states' compliance, and documented cases of enforced disappearance
- The WGEID also presses states to offer remedies, including compensation and a guarantee of non-recurrence of the violations.
- Working Group has serious concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on enforced disappearances
- International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2006, which became effective in 2010. Only 63 countries are members.

Swarn Singh

Temporary Respite (The Hindu, GS-3, Economy)

CONTEXT:

According to a recent estimate of NSO, the headline inflation is three month low i.e. 4.29% provides some relief to the government as well as people.

WHAT IS INFLATION:

It is the general rise in price level of goods and services in the economy in a specific period. Little inflation is good for the economy as it provides more jobs and thereby consumption. But too much inflation hurts the economy such as hyper inflation, galloping inflation etc.

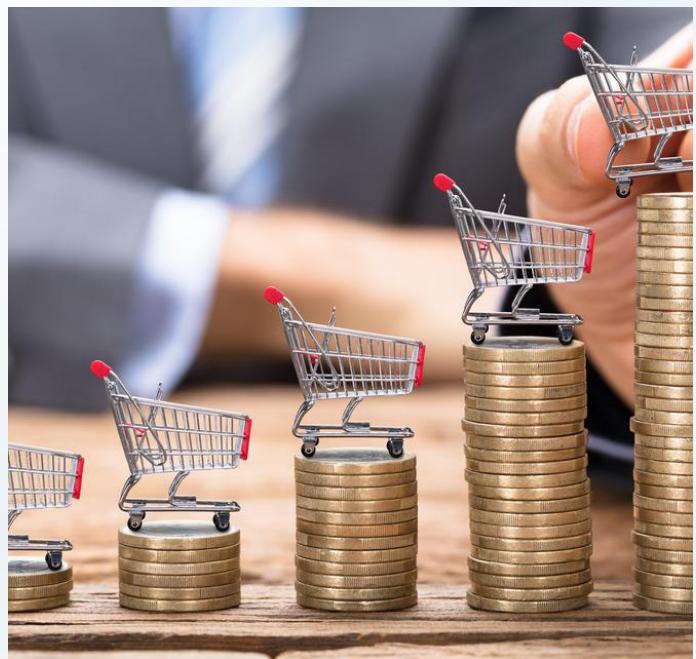
HOW DO WE MEASURE THE INFLATION:

- compilation of Consumer price index, wholesale price index, index of industrial production are some of the index which provides overview of prices. But Indian government and Reserve Bank of India measure the inflation in the economy by the CPI (ALL)

- According to the RBI act there is 6 member monetary policy committee which hits the inflation target of between 2-6%.

WHAT WERE THE REASONS OF HIGH INFLATION IN INDIA IN THE RECENT PAST?

- Due to COVID-19, there was a lockdown in the economy which lead to squeezing of production.
- Consumption, though decreases but the food and other essential items remains same, but production dented.
- Loss of jobs and increase in unemployment.
- A recession in the economy.
- A downward trajectory of the world economy.
- India's economy has some inherited issues such as labor law issues etc.
- Read about Philip curve, read about the indexes for UPSC prelims.



Swarn Singh

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (GS Paper III, Indian Economy) (Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

- The Union government announced that 5 Kg food grains would be provided to 80 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY) in the month of May and June as many states are undergoing curfew due to surge in cases related to Covid-19.

ABOUT THE SCHEME:

- It is considered as the world's largest food security scheme.
- It was launched last year as a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat relief package.
- It aims at ensuring sufficient food for the poor and needy sections of the society.
- It will be provided to all the beneficiaries covered under Targeted Public Distribution System, Antyodaya Anna Yojna and Priority household ration card holders.

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME:

- It will boost the food distribution programme of the government and hence ensure food security.
- It will be helpful in eliminating hunger and malnutrition.
- It will ensure the constitutional obligations enshrined in DPSP towards vulnerable sections of the society.
- It will remove the extra burden from vulnerable sections during pandemic.

CHALLENGES:

- It requires a coordinated effort between centre and state which is in a transition phase during pandemic.
- Government machineries are busy in handling pandemic and elections which may impact the timely delivery of services.
- Distribution of grains will also depend upon the storage and procurement of grains by the government.

SOLUTION:

- Effective communication between centre and state would channelise the distribution of food grains.
- Targeted PDS would be helpful in providing services
- One Nation One Ration Card will play a supportive role in getting grains anywhere in the country.
- Procurement of grains from farmers at MSP would help the government as well as the farmers.



-Khyati Khare

Coal Gasification used for the Production of Urea (GS Paper III, Economy, Environment) (Source- The India Express)

CONTEXT:

- Talcher Fertilizer Limited would help in the formation of urea by using coal gasification.
- Decision has been taken to reduce the greenhouse gas emission to fulfill the target set under Cop-21, Paris climate deal

ABOUT COAL GASIFICATION:

- Coal gasification is the process of converting coal into synthesis gas (Syngas) that is a mixture of Hydrogen, Carbon Monoxide and Carbon Dioxide.
- Syngas can be used in the production of electricity and making fertilisers.

IMPACT OF THIS MOVE:

- Fertilizer is currently produced by using both domestic natural gas and imported Liquified Natural Gas (LNG). Uses of coal which is present in India in abundance would reduce the import of LNG that will help in managing Current Account Deficit.
- This move would be helpful in generating direct and indirect employment as fertilizer would be produced domestically. Hence it will increase the GDP thus contributing to the economic development of the country.
- It would help the government to fulfill its target decided under the Paris climate Deal, hence strengthening India's position in the international arena that would increase India's soft diplomacy.



ABOUT TALCHER FERTILIZER LIMITED:

- Talcher Fertilizers Ltd. (TFL) is a Joint Venture Company of four PSUs namely Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL), Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) which was incorporated on 13th November, 2015.

-Khyati Khare

Inclusive Development Index GS paper- 3, Economy Source- Livemint

- The Inclusive Development Index (IDI) compiled by the World Economic Forum.
- (WEF), India ranked 62nd out of 74 emerging countries and was among the least inclusive countries in Group of 20 (G-20) countries.
- The IDI is based on the idea that most people base their country's growth not on GDP but by their own standard of living.
- It gives a measure of inequality based on three parameters:
 - 1.Growth and development
 - 2.Inclusion
 - 3.Inter-generational equity and sustainability.
- India also did not make it to the top 10 most inclusive emerging and developing economies, where its neighbours Nepal, China and Sri Lanka made a mark.
- India performed its best in terms of “intergenerational equity and sustainability”, ranking 44 , for which credit can be attributed to its demographic dividend.

Khyati Khare

In COVID Storm, the key Principles Driven Home (GS-2, Governance, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Pandemic situation in India has worsened the lives of the poor people. People without health coverage, without hospitals and without the bread are about to perish as we have seen from the reports. In this background we are analysing the pertaining issues in the Indian state.

HEALTH CARE, NOT COVERAGE:

In 1946, from UK the concept of universal health care came where access to health care equally without any ceiling on the income was floated.

- Let's talk about India
- Ayushman Bharat Scheme which is a grand idea of current day government floats on the insurance. Planning commission's comprehensive document in 2011 nowhere talks about the idea of insurance rather talks about increasing the capacity of public health. Even Ayushman Bharat scheme applied all over India despite this we need to increase our public health.
- The Best example of Public health system is Kerala, it ramped up its capacity since 1950's when it was poor but now it is getting the dividend in terms of human capital, economy etc.
- So we must ramped up the public health capacity by increasing the expenditure from centre as well as state.

PRINCIPLE FAITH ON SCIENCE:

- At many places this government seems distant from the science, during Indian Science Congress many speakers talked about unscientific claims of Indian origin of science i.g. Stem cell science was invented in India. Our prime minister while inaugurating the plastic surgery hospital said it is India's invention and 1st plastic surgery was done on Lord Ganesha.
- On these foot marks current government is going when using unscientific principle such as lightning, thali banging to remove corona etc.

DATA INTEGRITY:

- Number of deaths are less reported, number of doctors who died due to the corona infection are less reported.
- Shortage of oxygen, ventilator are less reported.
- This less reporting is somewhere making the fight against corona weak.
- We have eliminated smallpox, polio not because of under reporting but because we had a data and due to this data we made a research and made an effective policy.

EFFECT ON ECONOMY AND POOR:

- The latest report by the Azim Premji University talks of 230 million Indians slipping below the breadline during the pandemic
- India's obsession with being Vishwaguru, egged on by misleading analysts deriding "Povertarianism", talking of "freebies" cannot be a replacement to sound welfarism

WHAT IS THE WAY OUT NOW:

- Government must understand data integrity.
- Accurate reporting of the tragedy unleashed by the virus.
- Spending public health
- A sound research system.

Swarn Singh

Lend a Helping hand to Children the Right Way (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance)

CONTEXT:

The wrath unleashed by the pandemic led to many children orphan, destitute and more vulnerable. Social media is flooded with the request to adopt such child and forward Many NGO and people came forward to adopt and help

ISSUE:

There are law and rules enforced regarding the adoption which one must put in mind before the move.

HOW TO MANAGE:

- **To help children we do:**
 - toll free Childline number 1098 which is an emergency phone outreach service
 - taking note of the whereabouts of the child, the helpline reaches out immediately and takes charge of the child
 - intimate the district protection officer concerned
 - details can be found on the National Tracking System for Missing and Vulnerable Children portal
 - approach the nearest police station or its child welfare police officer who is specially trained to exclusively deal with children either as victims or juvenile delinquents
 - dial the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)
 - The non-reporting of such children is also a punishable offence under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- **Supreme court direction in such matter.**
 - Sampurna Behrua vs Union of India (2018):- all child care institutions are registered
 - any voluntary or NGO which is not registered with the government as per the rules under the JJA cannot house children in need of care and protection.
- **Court directives to police**
 - Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs Union of India
 - Directors General of Police,in May 2013, to register a first information report as a case of trafficking or abduction in every case of a missing child.
 - each district mustto have its special juvenile police unit

- **Current**
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) recently wrote if any children orphan or else is in the problem then NCPCR need to be informed

WHY WE MUST LOOK INTO THIS MATTER ON URGENT BASIS:

- Children are nation's asset.
- They are future of India
- Children welfare is mandated under DPSP.
- Right to dignified life.

ABOUT JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015

- It defines orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children; and petty, serious and heinous offences committed by children.
- Special Provisions for Age 16-18 years:
 - o To tackle child offenders committing heinous offences
- Mandatory Constitution of the JJ Board:
 - o setting up Juvenile Justice Boards + Child Welfare Committees in every district.
 - o These institutions must have at least one woman member each.
- Adoption Related Clauses:
 - o Separate chapter on adoption
 - o Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) was granted the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function for adoption.
- Child Care Institutions (CCI)

Swarn Singh

Cease the Fire (World History, GS-1, International relation, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

Israel has bombarded Philistines on the pretext that from GAZA, Israel was bombarded. Israel, according to some reports, has also bombarded civilians of Philistines.

HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND PHILISTINE DISPUTE:

- roots in 957 BC when King Solomon built the first temple in the Israelite kingdom.
- This temple was destroyed by Nebuchadrezzar II of Babylonia in 587/586 BC.
- Jews were sacked from the middle east when Islam was spreading during the Ottoman Empire.
- In 1896 Jews formed world Zionist organization to support the Israeli people home in the middle east.
- During the 1st world war Ottoman Empire was defeated and disintegrated by the British, thereby paving the way for Israel.
- British rulers failed to establish peace between the Palestinian Muslims and Israeli Jews and thus, declared the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

- Since the creation Israel she was threaten by the ARAB countries on the pretext of religion.
- This has led to arab israeli war, six days war etc. in all these wars Israel became victorious.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE NOW:

- Issue is HMAS which support the palestine has fired more than 1000 rockets on Israel and israel retaliated with full force there by destruction of civilians too.
- Israeli armed forces storming Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque
- Israel is witnessing twin crises simultaneously
 - One is on the border with HAMAS and 2nd with in where israelis right wings is in clash with the arabs so the situation of riots in many cities.

SOLUTION OF THIS CRISES:

- Israel has right to defend it's sovereignty, integrity there by right to retaliate.
- 2 state nation theory which is accepted by the israel but not by the ARABS.
- Recent ABRAHAM accord between UAE and Israel shows ARAB countries are ready to go with the israel on the main objective of peace.
- International community must come forward and follow the peace.

Swarn Singh

Protecting Prisoners (Gs Paper 3, Social Issues) Source- The Hindu

CONTEXT:

The supreme court in order directed The interim relief of eligible Prisoners in order to issue the address of of overcrowding of prisons in view of the uncontrolled second surge in the raging pandemic

KEY POINTS:

- in 2020 the court had passed such an order to protect prisoners from first wave of covid
- the court had then order all states to take preventive steps as well as constituted high powered committee to determine the class of prisoner who could be released on bail for parole for a specified period
- The court continues its trend of seeking to protect prisoners as well as those guiding them from getting infected
- Recently supreme court also directed the high powered committee to consider release of fresh prisoners by adopting the guidelines of national legal service authority on the issue
- There has been significant initiative to prevent any uncontrollable spread within the congested jails, ranging from stopping the practice of transporting remand prisoners to court for period periodical explanation of custody and hearing to asking authorities to prepare readiness and response plan

PRISON STATISTICS IN INDIA:

- the prison statistics India 2015 published by National crime record Bureau in 2019 highlight the plight of prisoners in India

- India under trial population remains among the highest in the world
- The report highlights that at the end of 2016 there were four lakh people in prison and 68% for under trial

-Khyati Khare

Iron Dome Air Defence System (Gs Paper-3 , Science And Technology) (Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

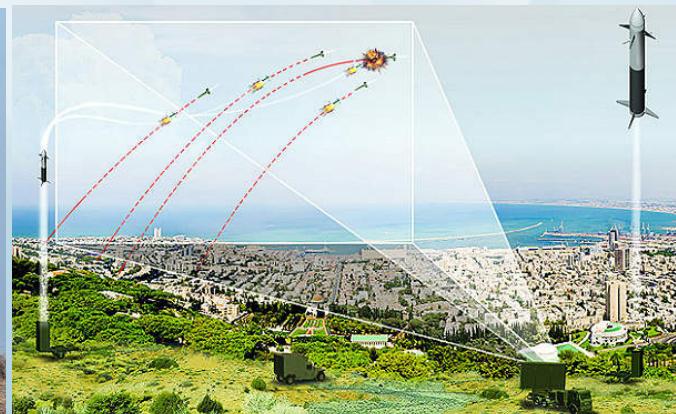
Israel much vaunted Iron Dome missile defence system is intercepting a Barrage of rocket fired by Hamas and other palestine's militants from Gaza as tensions escalate between Israel and Palestine

GENESIS OF IRON DOME

- It goes back to the 2006 Israel Lebanon when hezbollah fired thousands of rocket into Israel
- Soon after Israel announced that its state Run Aircraft advance system would come up with a new Air defence system to protect its cities and people
- Iron Dome came into being developed by Rafael advanced defence system and Israel Aerospace industries financial and technical support from the United States

ABOUT IRON DOME

- it was deployed in 2011
- it is a short-range ground to air defence system that includes a radar and interceptor missile
- it track and neutralize any rocket or missile aimed at Israeli targets
- it is used for countering rocket artillery and water as well as aircraft Helicopter and unmanned aerial vehicle



Khyati Khare

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2021

The Road from Ladakh is Paved with Disruptions (The Hindu, GS-2, International Relation)

CONTEXT:

Ingress by Chinese army into Indian territory, further escalation led to death of soilders from both the sides. this escalation is currently not on the backfoot rather silently brewing.situation at Galwan was resolved a few weeks after the deadly clash and it was an agreement from both the sides that after complete disengagement from pangong tso lake with in 48 hours.

- After this now on april 9, chinese army commander refused to discuss the any remaining issue on this matter.
- India has lost it's only leverage on the kailash range, for the shake of disengagement from some points but not all.
- India's approach of piecemeal disengagement has backfired.
- Even on the north bank of Pangong, a new status quo has been created where the patrolling rights are yet to be restored.
- COVID-19 and geopolitics
 - ◆ India said it will provide billions of vaccine by the end of 2022 to indo-pacific to deal with this pandemic, but india is taking vaccine from the other countries shows india's inability to provide substitute of china.
 - ◆ India's inefficient dealing with the pandemic, further infused by the shortage of vaccine and oxygen downgrade india's bet of indo-pacific champion.
 - ◆ under GAVI's COVAX scheme, the proposal now seems to be on a weak footing.
 - ◆ A weaker India is not only less attractive as a partner globally, it makes New Delhi more dependent on the United States to deal with China.
 - ◆ India-Pakistan talks have been resumed with UAE a moderator.
 - ◆ China has been supplying the drug ingredients to india but price fluctuating.
 - ◆ India-china talks are on the tackling of pandemic, Chinese premier has sent's his condolences about the death in india because of pandemic and Chinese media is showing china helping india in this pandemic
 - ◆ India whose ambition is to take seat in UNSC, being a net security provider in the south east Asia, providing the substitute to china and countering the terrorism in all the forms have been on the backfoot because of inability of government to tackle this pandemic.



Swarn Singh

It is Getting from bad to Worse for Women Workers (The hindu, GS-3, Economy, Women's issue)

CONTEXT:

COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed millions of livelihoods and led to a sudden and large increase in poverty. Womens are much more affected than anyone else. they are on the back seat of the family and on the front seat of the pandemic thereby the worse affected.

A LARGE EMPLOYMENT GAP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

- Only 18% of working-age women were employed as compared to 75% of men.
- Why
 - ◆ lack of good jobs
 - ◆ restrictive social norms
 - ◆ the burden of household work.

Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.

- 61% of male workers were unaffected during the lockdown while only 19% of women experienced this kind of security.

- 47% of employed women who had lost jobs during the lockdown
- Men who did lose work were able to regain it, even if it was at the cost of increased precarity or lower earnings
- Nearly half of the women workers withdrew from the employment.
- women workers had poorer options compared to men
- They are the worse affected irrespective of the sector for e.x. share of women in job losses in education was three times their share in that industry.
- Growing domestic work
 - ◆ burden of care may be a reason for poor employment recovery incase of women even if they are employed, massive increase in the burden of household work.

The following measures are needed now for women reemployment.

- MGNREGA for rural
- urban employment guarantee targeted to women
- co-ordinated efforts by States to facilitate employment of women

SETTING UP OF COMMUNITY KITCHEN

- prioritising the opening of schools and anganwadi centres
- engagement with self-help groups for the production of personal protective equipment kits
- COVID-19 hardship allowance of at least 5,000 per month for six months for 2.5 million ASHA and anganwari workers.
- systematically address the constraints around the participation of the women's workforce.
- adequate public investment in social infrastructure.
- expands public investments in health, education, child and elderly care.
- universal basic services programme.



Swarn Singh

Artless and Heartless (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance, GS-4, What is Good Governance)

CONTEXT:

clouds and concern regarding Government of India's Central Vista redevelopment project by the academicians and the opposition shows a thoughtless working of government in the pandemics.

- The project includes
- the construction of a new Parliament building
- New residences for the Prime Minister
- the Vice President.
- Why a new Parliament building is indeed required
- reorganising the existing offices of the central government
- Parliament seats will be reorganised in 2026.
- A new India's development strategy

WHY IT IS AN ISSUE

- On one hand this monumental spending and on other hand a brewing pandemic.
- Issue of misplaced notion of governance.
- Confrontation between good governance and ethics of governance.
- Bad governance
- Showmanship is above from statesmanship.
- On one hand people are dying on the other hand this monument on the grave of people.
- What is the need of the hour is grim.
- So according to people, Opposition and academicians this project should be suspended now and the money must be made available to fight against corona.

Swarn Singh

What Blinded the Government to the Devastating Second Wave of Covid? (GS-2, Governance, Indian Express)

CONTEXT:

Indian government's inability, inefficiency, misplaced notion of governance and a shortsightedness led to devastation of Indian society and economy.

- Why did the Modi government not anticipate the wave of COVID-2
- Concentration of power in the hands of few men and these men were busy in Bengal election
- Not listening to the warning of experts because these decision makers were prisoners of nationalism
- effect of hyper-nationalism is evident in proud references to Hindu traditional medicine

- endorsed Coronil as an effective medicine against Covid-19. In February 2021
- government endorsed many other pseudo-remedies
- Modi government believed India could “guide” the world out of the pandemic thanks to its vaccines

TWO-FOLD VACCINE DIPLOMACY.

- India became a key player of the UN-backed Covax programme
- When the second wave gained momentum, not only India had to stop its exports, but it had to accept aid from foreign countries

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD NOW

- Increase in the production capacity
- Invoking the compulsory licence on the covid vaccines
- Government to support its vaccination programme with NGO and other funds



Swarn Singh

Gandhi Peace Prize (Source: Moc.nic.in GS Paper-1 Personalities)

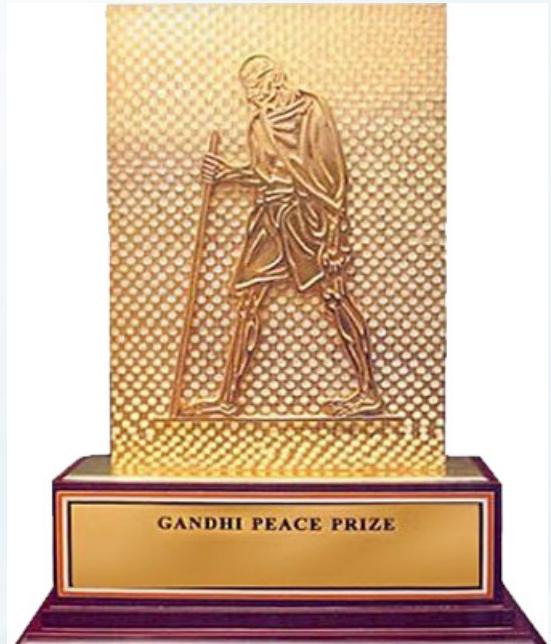
CONTEXT:

The Government of India has announced that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the late Sultan of Oman Qaboos Bin Said would be awarded the Gandhi Peace prize

KEY POINTS

- Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 in being conferred on Late his majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin said Al Oman

- He was a visionary leader whose twin policy of moderation and mediation in addressing International issues won him praise and respect across the globe
- He played an important role in supporting peace efforts in various regional disputes and conflicts
- Under his leadership India and Oman became strategic partners and our mutually beneficial comprehensive partnership strengthened and scaled newer Heights
- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on the father of the nation Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- The Prime Minister of India describe him as Bang Bandhu, he was a champion of human rights and freedom and hero to Indian as well
- The path shown by him has led a strong foundation for the partnership progress and prosperity of both countries over the last decade
- The prize is conferred to both the about in recognition for their outstanding contribution for social economic and political transformation to nonviolent and other Gandhian methods
- This is the first time Since Inception in 1995 that the provided are been awarded posthumously



ABOUT GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

- It is an annual award Institute by government of India since 1995, the 125th birth anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi
- It is awarded by the Ministry of culture
- The award is open to all persons and organisations regardless of nationality, race, language, class, Creed or sex

-Khyati Khare

E-Governance Gs Paper-3 , Economy Source- Pib

CONTEXT:

E-Governance is the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to the processes of government functioning in order to bring about 'Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent' (SMART) governance.

Following are the applications of e-governance which illustrate economic inclusiveness in bringing social transformation in Indian society:

- Digitization of land records via Bhoomi Rashi portal.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has helped improve productivity, and empowered farmers by using sustainable, economical and eco-friendly technology.
- PMGDISHA (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan) to make atleast one person per family digitally literate.

- Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) facilitates banking services and digital payment.
- Digital payment: Many innovative digital payment tools, namely BHIM-UPI, Bharat QR Code, National Electronic Toll Collections, etc, have been implemented.
- Digitization of EPFO records: access to view one's pension amounts and deposits, people feel more assured that their funds are safe and can monitor their fund status.
- National Scholarship Portal as a single online platform integrating multiple scholarship schemes to facilitate application submission, verification and disbursal of funds through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- SWAYAM – a massive online open courses (MOOCs) platform which offers more than 2000 programmes.
- MyGov portal facilitates participatory governance by providing a common digital platform, where citizens can share their views on government programmes and schemes.

WAY FORWARD:

The Digital India programme helped India harness digital technologies to bring about a positive change towards good governance. The aim of any e-Governance initiative should be to ensure citizen participation and empowerment with the technology that is transformative, affordable and sustainable. Thus, digital empowerment is necessary to achieve the motto of 'Maximum Governance, Minimum Government'.



-Khyati Khare

RBI and Inflation Targeting GS PAPER-3, ECONOMY SOURCE- rbi.org

CONTEXT:

RBI is the main decision maker for the country's financial system and is mandated with ensuring its stability. RBI currently uses inflation targeting as key to monetary policy. Monetary Policy Framework Agreement

2015 between RBI and the central government mandates RBI to contain Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) within 4% with a band of (+/-) 2%.

INFLATION TARGETING:

Limitations of dependence on monetary policy based on inflation targeting. Easy money policy is needed to increase economic activity during slowdown. This is done by keeping the interest rates low. Thus, RBI needs to balance inflation targeting and accelerated economic growth.

- For example, even though the current inflation rate is at around 3%, there is a slowdown in the economy and GDP growth was at a 6 year low of 5% in the April-June 2019 quarter.

However experts say that Inflation targeting cannot ensure stability in the economy.

For ex: It failed to detect financial crisis situations like IL&FS default and the NPA (Non Performing Assets) crisis in the banking industry.

Scholars argue that Inflation targeting in India has coincided with a substantial rise in the real policy rate. This has been accompanied by declining borrowing in the formal sector likely affecting investment and thereby growth.

- Inflation in developing markets such as India is very sensitive to exogenous shocks like global oil prices, a weaker rupee and a poor monsoon.
- The 2008 Global Financial crisis of 2008 showed that monetary policy defined by inflation targeting can no longer be treated as the centerpiece of macroeconomic policy.
- Fiscal policy should be the primary tool to stabilize the economy. Better policies targeted at efficient taxation and government spending should be used to influence the economy in the long run.

WAY FORWARD:

RBI not only needs functional independence, but it needs to follow a more pragmatic financial policy. In this scenario, RBI's role must now be redefined through a recalibrated monetary policy, which is in sync with changing economic conditions.

Khayti Khare

The Biden Push-button to West Asia's Diplomatic Resets (The Hindu, GS-2, International relations)

CONTEXT:

Unprecedented interactions among the major powers are leading to a significant diplomatic churn in the region. The upheaval in the middle east as the move of chess goes to here and there where removal of blockade on Qatar and other countries too making normal the ties.

WHAT IS IN FRONT OF BIDEN:

- Mr. Biden has signalled a fresh U.S. approach to West Asian affairs.
- tough line on Saudi Arabia where Biden is indicating a closer scrutiny of its human rights.
- Egypt too has concerns on the human rights issue
- now seems the U.S. could re-enter the nuclear agreement, but Iran has concerns about the limitations

- Turkey has built close ties with Russia on one hand and on the other hand threatening U.S. allies in Syria

ISSUES:

- widespread infections and death
- the viral epidemic has severely damaged regional economies
- oil prices remain in the doldrums
- creating uncertainties for the producer states.
- ongoing regional conflicts, in Syria, Yemen and Libya

REGIONAL SECURITY:

- Egypt remains unsecure about Turkey's ties with the muslim Brotherhood and its regional ambitions
- Saudi Arabia has similar concerns as Egypt

A ROLE FOR INDIA?

- third-party facilitators will be needed to promote mutual confidence and prepare the ground for a comprehensive regional security
- provisions for participating states to uphold regional peace and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in energy

Swarn Singh

Unwarranted Arrest (The Hindu, Governance, Polity, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

Arrest of K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju who is an MP from Andhra Pradesh has been charged with sedition. This is a grave misuse of power given to the executive to encounter extreme circumstances.

- Seditionon is defined under Section 124A IPC which is a colonial legacy.
- Continuing with this provision shows that current regime's thinking is no different than the colonial government's.

WHAT IS SEDITION:

- According to IPC124:- Refence from IPC 124
 - ◆ Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

REPORT AND FINDINGS:

- The NCRB report says 512 cases of total offences against the state were reported in 2014

- ◆ Out of this 176 offences were registered under Sec 121 A, 122,123 and 124 A IPC.Of these 47 were sedition cases.

WHY SEDITION LAW MUST CONTINUE

- It provides the state a check over the miscreants who wants india to be in the fragile state.
- To secure sovereignty and integrity of india
- To save the government from topple
- There is the thin line between criticising the government and creating the disaffection

WHY SEDITION LAW MUST BE REVOKED

- Data says this law is misused to silence the voices of people
- It is against freedom of speech.
- It restrains people from making the government accountable.

RECENT SOME CASES OF SEDITION

- Kanhiya kumar case
- Prashant bhushan case.

Swarn Singh

Design of a new Health System could Emerge from the Covid Crucible, for Universal Health Coverage (The Hindu, GS-2, Health, Social Sector)

CONTEXT:

Big cities which got crumbled from the COVID-19 now showing a bit recovery. This window of aftermath of the 2nd wave of pandemic provides an opportunity to the government so that next destruction can be saved.

- **Small cities followed by the rural india is under the most stress due to deficiency in:**
 - ◆ Infrastructure
 - ◆ health workforce
 - ◆ availability of drugs and other medical supplies
 - ◆ population health literacy
 - ◆ connectivity to higher levels of care
- **Why rural areas were not much affected in the COVID-19 1st wave**
 - ◆ Travel restriction even after lockdown
 - ◆ Open field and proper ventilating houses
 - ◆ Lowere density.
 - ◆ Less chronic disease such as hyper tension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease
- **Why now they are on the critical stage**
 - ◆ Kumbh mela leads to flood of devotees
 - ◆ Elections in 5 states and panchayat elections in Uttar pradesh

- **How we can make it in less critical or in a fine stage**
 - ◆ They cover surveillance, screening, isolation and referral
 - ◆ home and community-based isolation
 - ◆ monitoring of active cases in home isolation
 - ◆ health infrastructure (such as Covid Care Centre at sub-centre or PHC level and a Dedicated Covid Health Centre at CHC or sub-district level)
 - ◆ trained human resources
 - ◆ in-patient and out-patient services
 - ◆ clinical management
 - ◆ home care
 - ◆ post-Covid management
 - ◆ community mobilisation
 - ◆ risk and behaviour change communication.
 - ◆ some areas will need a fresh look or modification.
 - ◆ Use of RAT as RAT is easier to use than RT-PCR
 - ◆ primary healthcare teams must indeed conduct household visits for symptom surveillance
 - ◆ Engagement of the local community is vital
 - ◆ NSS and NCC resources can be drawn upon
 - ◆ Taking help from Community-based organisations, which have grassroots presence
 - ◆ commuting between urban and rural areas must be restricted to reduce the risk of transmission
 - ◆ Technology-enabled frontline health workers can catalyse the transformation of healthcare
 - ◆ Decentralised planning, delivery and monitoring are needed at the district level,
 - ◆ support from the police will be essential, public health system should not to be seen in silos.
 - ◆ Decentralised, data-driven decision making must be enabled by easily operable

Swarn Singh

Beijing, Dhaka and the Quad: How China's new diplomatic swagger is hitting India's neighbors (The Hindu, GS-2, International relations)

CONTEXT:

Chinese premier and his policies regarding south asia pacific shows the arrogance and upcoming the bumping road ahead of india's foreign policy.

- Silent wind for the QUAD, where India, USA, Australia and Japan are the leading democracy and they wants to move forward with the other country's shoulder.
- B'desh is one of the country which is showing the interest in the QUAD but china is upset about it.
- China always used tough language
- China follows the wolf warrior diplomacy

WHY BANGLADESH IS IMPORTANT:

- Bangladesh's impressive economic performance in recent years as well as its location at the top of the Bay of Bengal littoral lends a new strategic salience to Dhaka

WHAT IS ISSUE IN FRONT OF INDIA

- India goes towards QUAD, then China and Russia confront each other.
- India always faces heat on the northern front.
- India faces challenging roads in south-east asia.
- India seek a major challenge in the UNSC.
- India faces issue of Supply chain.

Swarn Singh

World Happiness Report 2021 (Gs Paper-3, Sustainable Development Source- Livemint)

CONTEXT:

India ranks 139 out of 149 countries in the world happiness report 2021, it was released by the United Nations sustainable development solutions network.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

neighboring countries performance:

- Pakistan ranked 105th
- China ranked 84th
- Sri Lanka ranked 129th
- Bangladesh ranked 101

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES:

- The other Nations that rank below India are Burundi, Yaman, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana and Zimbabwe.
- India is a new entrant to the bottom 15 group from the last three years
- India previously ranked at 144 out of 156 countries in the 2020 report and in 2019 India was ranked 140

TOP PERFORMERS:

- Finland is ranked as the world happiness nation for the fourth consecutive year
- Nordic nation is followed by Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland, Netherland, Sweden, Germany and Norway
- The United States ranks at 19th place for happiness despite being one of the richest countries in the world

WORST PERFORMERS:

- Afghanistan is on the bottom of the list of affected by violent conflict and extreme poverty followed by Zimbabwe

WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT:

The survey used the Gallup World Poll that asked people to vote on three indicators

- Life evaluation: the respondents rate their life on a ladder with step numbers from 0 at the bottom to 10 at the top
- Positive Emotions: People respond in binary on three major happiness, laugh and enjoyment
- negative emotions: conducted on three measures of very sadness and anger



-Khyati Khare

Christ Church Call to Action (GS PAPER-2, International Relations Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

The United States has announced that it will be joining Christ Church call to action against online extremism.

ABOUT:

Formation:

- Christchurch call to action was launched during the online extremism summit in Paris, France in 2019
- The Summit was co-chaired by New Zealand and France

- The call is named after the New Zealand city in Christchurch, 51 members of the Muslim community were murdered in a live stream terrorist attack in 2019.
- It is a global pledge by member governments and Technology partners
- 17 countries originally signed the agreement, Another 31 countries signed the agreement later
- India is one of the member country

SECTION:

- It is not binding, it consists of three sections or commitment, The government, online service provider and ways in which the earlier two can work together

MEASURES:

- The plan commit government, international organisation and internet company to perform a range of measures

-Khyati Khare

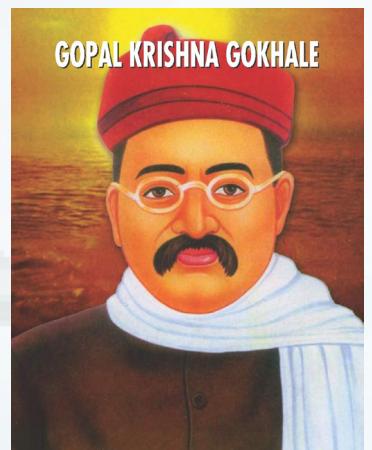
Gopal Krishna Gokhale (Gs Paper-3, Personalities Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary he was born on 9th May 1886

ABOUT:

- Gopal Krishna Gokhale became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1889 he was the leader of the moderate faction of the Congress Party
- In 1905 he was elected president of the Indian National Congress
- he played a leading role in bringing about Morley Minto reforms, the beginning of constitutional reforms in India
- In 1889 Gokhale was elected to the Bombay Legislative Council and in 1901 he was elected to the Imperial Council of the Governor General of India



SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY:

- It was found by him in Pune in 1905 to further the expansion of education in India
- The society organised mobile library, founded schools and provided night classes for factory workers
- In 1908 founded the Ranade Institution of Economics
- In his Autobiography Gandhi called Gokhale his mentor and guide
- In 1912 Gokhale visited South Africa at Gandhiji invitation
- He received personal guidance from Gokhale including knowledge and understanding of India and the issues confronting common Indian
- He launched the English weekly newspaper name the Hitvaad in 1911

-Khyati Khare

Tracking the Pandemic's Rural March (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance, Health)

CONTEXT:

Pandemic's initial wave led to a mass exodus of migrant laborers from cities towards rural India because rural areas will not let them sleep with empty stomachs.

WHY THIS TIME RURAL INDIA IS IN THE CRITICAL STAGE:

- only 29% of specialists were present in the community health centres in Uttar Pradesh
- Bihar reported the highest shortage in availability of sub centres, at 58%, followed by Jharkhand
- primary health care centres which is also known as PHCs, are 73% for Jharkhand, 58% for West Bengal, 53% for Bihar and 51% for Uttar Pradesh.
- Mass gathering in rural areas
- Issue of worst governance
- A feeling of neglect.
- steps were not taken to contain the spread along with augmenting the rural health infrastructure
- **West Bengal:-** Election time; no precautions such as social distancing in place



ISSUE OF MISS GOVERNANCE:

- When people are asking for their rights in the health sector, the government of Uttar Pradesh is threatening them with legal action.
- When allahabad high court intervene government of uttar pradesh went to supreme court shows arrogance of government
- Government is reporting less cases that show complacency.
- Rather than increasing in health infrastructure, government is talking about publicity.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD IN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES?

- A comprehensive testing with contract tracing
- Providing the health care to the neglected
- A control on exorbitant prices in the private hospitals
- People are the end in themselves.

Swarn Singh

The Czar of Brinkmanship Must Seek Peace (The Hindu, International Relations, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

The recent stand-off between Russia and Ukraine is again capturing headlines in the international news media. This time Russia is piling up the army in west Asia near to the Ukraine border, therefore Ukraine is apprehensive again about the conflict.



HISTORY

- Ukraine was the part of soviet, due to the disintegration ukraine became independent and in 2014 ukraine's black sea portion was annexed

NOW WHAT IS THE ISSUE:

- Issue is that russia is piling up forces on the western border, this is creating an apprehension in the ukraine
- Ukraine is not the member of NATO organisation but still ukraine was called for the security dialogue which further created a rift in ukraine and russia
- Russia thinks that she can be invaded by NATO forces and due to this she is flexing her muscles.

RIFT IN WEST ASIA

- Now Hamas strikes on Israel and Israel retaliates on it with full force.
- Iran seems to support hamas and USA seems to support israel.
- Russia inarguably will support to hamas.
- Turkey which is a bluffing partner is now with HAMAS and this is creating a new rift
- Turkey which is seems along with russia in the new adventure is on the side of UKRAINE.

Swarn Singh

Restructuring the Tribunal System (GS PAPER-2, TRIBUNALS Source- ivemint)

CONTEXT:

Tribunal reforms Ordinance 2021 promulgated by the president have been challenged in the supreme court.

KEY POINTS:

- Ordinance seeks to dissolve certain existing appellate bodies and transfer their functions to other existing judicial bodies

- It abolished several tribunals such as film certification appellate Tribunal without any stakeholder consultation
- Despite the supreme court direction in Roja Mathew versus South Indian Bank no judicial impact assessment was conducted prior to abolishing the tribunal through this ordinance
- The ordinance has also fixed a four year tenure for chairperson and members of tribunals
- It has disregarded the court direction for fixing a 5 year term for chairperson and members
- The Centre has also not constituted the National tribunal Commission as proposed by the supreme court

NATIONAL TRIBUNAL COMMISSION:

- The idea of a National Commission was first noted in L. Chandra Kumar versus Union of India case 1997

COMMISSION WILL ACT AS AN INDEPENDENT UMBRELLA BODY TO:

- To supervise the functioning of tribunals, appointment of and disciplinary proceedings against members
- Take care of Administrative and infrastructural needs of the Tribunals
- Providing support services to tribunal members, litigants and their lawyers

-Khyati Khare

Malerkotla Gs Paper-2, Governance Source- The Hindu

CONTEXT:

Punjab announced on Eid that only muslim dominated town and the former princely State of Punjab Malerkotla would be the 23rd district of the state

HISTORY OF MALERKOTLA:

- Malerkotla was founded by the 15th century sufi saint Sheikh Sadruddin Sadr i Jahan also known as Haider Sheikh.
- The initial beginning were humble with Maler which was bestowed by the Behlol Lodhi to the Sheikh whose lineage too was Afghan As was Lodhi and they were said to be distantly related
- Kotla meaning fortress was added later in the 17th century with a collection of villages which formed a Jagir which was awarded to the Baizaad e Khan a descendant of Haider Sheikh by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan

HOW ARE NEW DISTRICTS CARVED:

- The power to create new district or existing district rest with the state government
- The state government request is sent to other departments and agencies such as Ministry of earth sciences, Intelligence Bureau, department of post, Ministry of Railways for seeking clearance
- No obligation certificate may be issued after examining their replies

-Khyati Khare

Polycentric World Order And Brics Gs Paper- 2, International Relations Source- The Hindu

CONTEXT:

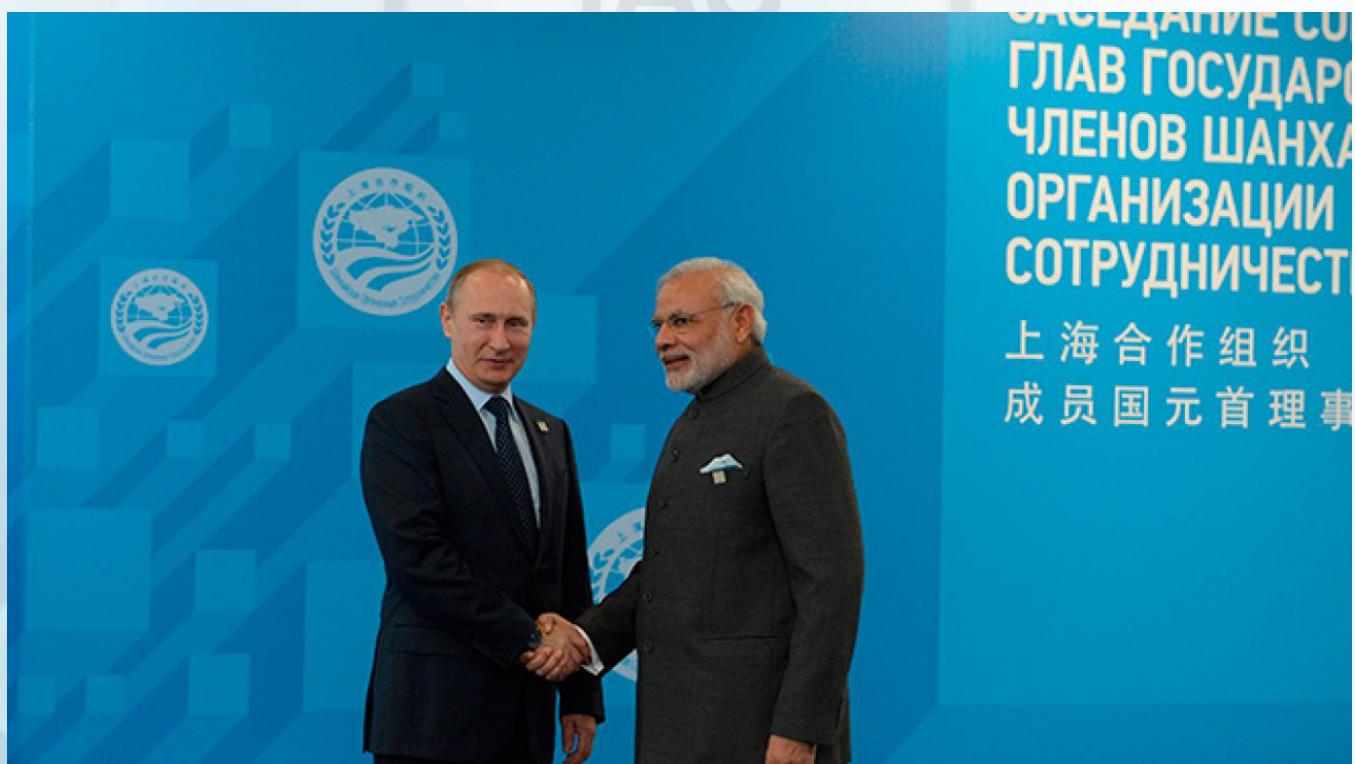
Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa are the members of BRICS. BRICS countries together account for 42% of the world's population, a third of the global GDP and around 17% share of world trade. BRICS countries' sizable contribution to global growth, trade and investment makes it an important pillar of global order.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BRICS CAN BE SEEN IN FOLLOWING POINTS:

- Various institutions introduced by BRICS like New Development Bank, BRICS Contingency Reserve etc are providing viable alternatives in global economic governance.
- With the withdrawal of US from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and Iran deal has posed a great security threat to global peace, In this context BRICS can play a vital role to fill the gap
- The BRICS contribution to world poverty reduction has been sizeable
- It provides a platform for the major developing countries to arrive at workable solutions to achieve sustainable development and counter the harmful impacts of global warming.

WAY FORWARD:

Hence, as the success achieved by BRICS in a short span of time it is seen that BRICS can contribute significantly in maintaining international stability, ensuring global economic growth and becoming a united centre of the multi-polar world



-Khyati Khare

Stormy Start (GS-3, Disaster management, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Disaster which is an extreme form of any crisis is going on the western coast of India, where tautake hit.

WHAT IS A CYCLONE

- A cyclone is any low-pressure area with a high pressure area around it and with winds spiralling inwards.
- It rotates anti-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and rotates clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.



TYPES OF CYCLONE:

- Tropical cyclone.
- Extratropical cyclones.
- Condition of formation:
 - Large sea surface with a temperature higher than 27° C.
 - Presence of the Coriolis force so that cyclones can be formed.
 - Small differences in the vertical wind speed to create speed.

- A pre-existing weak- low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.
- Why cyclone formation is so frequent now a days
 - ◆ Change in the weather pattern around the globe
 - ◆ Climate change
 - ◆ Increase in the sea surface temperature.
 - ◆ Frequent change in the land use pattern
 - ◆ Cause of clogging of drainage crises become a catastrophe.
- How India tackles the disaster
 - ◆ Disaster management act 2005
- It creates national and state level bodies with chairmen PM and CM
- it has people participatory approach.
- it operates on bottom up approach.
- it tackles, from the beginning and also focus on retrofitting.

Swarn Singh

The country is Paying for the Government's Unscientific Attitudes (Indian Express, GS-2, Polity, Government policy)

CONTEXT:

Government of India's apathy towards the public by ignoring the sign of rage of corona and indication plus warnings of scientists on the spread of corona were largely ignored. Government was celebrating Kumbh mela, election in West Bengal which created further havoc in the country. This shows government inability plus nonscientific attitude.

UNSCIENTIFIC GESTURE FROM THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT

- lack of scientific temper among senior functionaries
- Ministers have claimed the use of in-vitro fertilisation techniques and plastic surgery in ancient times.
- a minister in charge of education had objected to the theory of evolution
- lack of scientific temper — indeed, a definite anti-science attitude
- minister promotes astrology as a science

Many people on the social media is saying that this is due to the 5G technology introduction. This technology is depleting the oxygen level in the atmosphere.

CONSTITUTIONAL ANGLE:

- Fundamental duties talks about inculcating the scientific tempre
- DPSP also talks about science and environment
- It is also the duty of every indian that we should excel towards science

WHAT IS THE ISSUE:

- Issue is in creating an atmosphere which provides opportunity to excel in the science
- So as the king, as is the follower.
- Degradation of science in india
- People educate towards science fo job but not to fight the social evil.

Swarn Singh

A Collage of Laws that Leaves the Worker out in the Cold (The Hindu, GS-3, Economy)

CONTEXT:

India consists of 91% informal workers, who are at the brink because of the hardship unleashed by the pandemic and government ignorance are pushing towards poverty.

- What is the best possible thing to them for now
 - ◆ To have social security, which will provide them basic needs such as minimum wage guarantee, access to public health care etc.

INDIAN PARLIAMENT HAS PASSED THIS CODE:

in September 2020 a Social Security Code

- SS Code does not have provision for free basic curate health care.
- The SS Code 2020 merges existing social security laws and attempts to include informal workers
- Criticism of code:- universalisation of social security remains an unfulfilled aspiration
- the central government can extend ESI benefits to any organisation irrespective of the number of workers employed, but here lies overlapping in the functioning of state and center again.
- This Code proposes that both the central and State governments will formulate schemes for unorganized workers

CRITICISM OF CODE:

basic onus lies on informal workers registering as beneficiaries

ISSUE:

it is that, experience shows that there is an awful lack of awareness among informal workers regarding social security schemes

- most informal workers lack digital literacy and connectivity
- Informal workers also find it difficult to furnish all documentary papers
- Continuous movement of informal workers led to lack of papers such as proof of livelihood and income details
- Particular acts in social security
 - ◆ Maternity benefit
 - ◆ Employees Provident Fund
 - ◆ Payment of gratuity

WAY FORWARD:

- inter-State arrangement and cooperation is imperative
- the central government should conceptualize a basic structure which if works must be adopted by the state with the requisite changes
- Providing holistic social security cover for the unorganized workforce in a simple and effective manner
- Employers should have made to have the responsibility of providing social security

Swarn Singh

Interpretations Which Impede a Just Social Order (The Hindu, GS-2, Polity)

CONTEXT:

Constitution provides right to equality and equity under article 16 which authorizes the state to make special arrangements for socially and educationally backward classes.

ISSUE:

- Maratha reservation given by the Maharashtra government on the pretext of socially and educationally backward classes. But this was cancelled out by the supreme court

COURT JUDGEMENT IN SUCH CASES

- **Indira sawhney case**:- Supreme court laid the ceiling of 50% on the reservation
- **M.Nag Rajan case**:- supreme court upheld the limit and put some conditions on the government in the promotion.

WHY RESERVATION IS NEEDED:

- For socially and educationally backward class
- Baseline for equity
- It helps in upliftment of downtrodden
- It is their Fundamental right.

CONSTITUTIONAL FACTORS:

- 102nd constitutional amendment act which establishes other backward commission as constitutional basis. This provides central government to put which caste or community is under backward community
- Article 342A, through which it stipulated that the President of India may, after consultation with the State government, notify groups of persons within such a State who are deemed to be socially and educationally backward.
- Article 366(26C) was also added, and “socially and educationally backward classes” was defined as “such backward classes as are so deemed under Article 342A for the purposes of this Constitution”.

Swarn Singh

The Basics of an Effective Vaccine Policy (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance, GS-4, Ethical Dilemma)

CONTEXT:

Government is vaccinating Indian people in order to save the life of the people and the livelihood as well. A stark reality of people's apprehension about the efficacy of drug on one hand and the shortage of the vaccine on the other pushes the government to move.

ETHICAL DILEMMA FACED BY THE GOVERNMENT:

- should we vaccinate the population which contributes the most to the economy or elderly people or its future i.e. children?
- Should we first vaccinate the elderly who are at high risk of serious illness and death, or should we vaccinate the working population so that we can open workplaces and revive the economy?

HOW THIS CAN BE REMOVED:

- India has to make decision in tranches i.e. both elderly as well as people who contribute to the economy should be vaccinated but this has to have a clear policy which must be made public.
- A clear policy on the government front will induce the confidence in the people.
- A clear ramp up of vaccine programme
- Increasing the capacity of current production
- Import is also a good option.

Swarn Singh

Indo – US Clean Energy Initiatives (Gs Paper-3, Sustainable Development Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Prime Minister of India and US President launched the India US Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership at the leaders summit on climate hosted by the US

KEY POINTS:

- The two-day event will feature 40 heads of states
- A set of 101 Nobel Laureates including the Dalai Lama urged in a letter to the summit attendance to take action against the use of fossil fuels
- The partnership will proceed along two main tracks which will build on and subsume a range of existing processes
- Strategic Clean Energy partnership
- The climate action and finance mobilization dialogue
- It aims to demonstrate how the world can align with climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities

- These steps will set America on a path of net zero emissions economy by no later than 2050

INDIA US COMMITMENTS

- The US pledged to cut emission by 50- 52 % of its 2005 levels by 2030. This is double the 2015 goals set by former President Barack Obama.
- The US joined the Paris agreement three month ago after the former President's decision to leave the multilateral forum made it the only country in the world to do so.
- The US will double its public climate financing development to developing countries and triple public financing for climate application in developing countries by 2024
- Despite development challenges India has taken many bold step on Clean Energy, energy efficiency, deforestation and biodiversity
- India also encourages Global initiative such as the international solar alliance and the coalition for disaster resilient infrastructure



-Khyati Khare

PLUTUS IAS **Green initiative** **(GS Paper- 3, Sustainable Development Source- The Hindu)**

CONTEXT:

to combat climate change Saudi Arabia had launched the Saudi green initiative and Middle East green initiative

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:

- **G20 Presidency:** one of the main pillars of the Saudi G20 Presidency was to safeguard the planet
- **Initiative Introduced:** Global coral reef research and development accelerator
- platform to accelerate scientific knowledge and technology development in support of coral reefs survival, conservation resilience, adaptation and restoration
- Acknowledged the circular carbon economy
- Platform as a tool towards affordable, reliable and Secure energy and economic growth
- In 2016 the Crown Prince unveiled Vision 2030 a comprehensive roadmap to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the country
- As part of this Saudi Arabia carried out a comprehensive restructuring of the environmental factor and established the environmental forces in 2019

SAUDI GREEN INITIATIVE:

- To raise the vegetation cover and reduce carbon emissions, combat pollution and land degradation and preserve marine life.

- To reduce carbon emission by more than 4% of global contribution through a renewable energy program that will generate 50% of Saudi energy from renewables by 2030.
- It is working towards raising the percentage of its protected areas to more than 30% of its total land area the representing roughly 6 lakhs square kilometre exceeding the Global target of 17%



-Khyati Khare

Sustainable Development (Gs Paper-3, Sustainable Development Source- The Hindu)

CONTEST:

World Economic Forum has suggested 3 practical ways by which countries can boost social inclusion as well as economic growth.

WAYS:

- First, countries should increase public and private investment in their citizens' capabilities, which is the most important way they can durably lift their rate of productivity growth.
- Second, governments, together with employers' and workers organizations, should upgrade national rules and institutions relating to work. These influence the quantity and distribution of job opportunities and compensation, and thus the level of purchasing power and aggregate demand within the economy.

- Third, countries should increase public and private investment in labor-intensive economic sectors that generate wider benefits for society. These include sustainable water, energy, digital, and transport infrastructure, care sectors, the rural economy, and education and training.

-Khyati Khare

The Fault Line of Poor Health Infrastructure (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance)

CONTEXT:

COVID-19 created havoc around the world. Countries with the poor health infrastructure are the ones who hit the most, India is one of them. Due to issues in the health infrastructure, production capacity and health personnel this COVID-19 crisis became the disaster.

- World bank data says that India had 85.7 physicians per 1,00,000 people in 2017
- 53 beds per 1,00,000 people
- 172.7 nurses and midwives per 1,00,000 people
- A stagnant expenditure:- 1% of GDP 2013-14 and 1.28% in 2017-18
- Health is a State subject in India
- State spending constitutes 68.6% of all the government health expenditure
- Technical expertise are under central control
- States lack corresponding expert bodies such as the National Centre for Disease Control
- Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, States that have been consistently towards the bottom of the ranking in all years in spending on health
- India has among the highest out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditures of all countries in the world,
- World Health Organization estimates that 62% of the total health expenditure in India is OOP



HOW WE CAN FIGHT FROM PANDEMIC OR WAY FORWARD:

- need for a coordinated national plan at the central level to fight the pandemic
- additional resources to be raised specifically for pandemic relief, such as PM CARES\
- need for a coordinated strategy on essential supplies of oxygen and vaccines is acute
- A central coordinated vaccine procurement and distribution
- creation of a “Pandemic Preparedness Unit” (PPU) by the central government
- streamline disease surveillance and reporting system
- coordinate public health management and policy responses across all levels of government;
- formulate policies to mitigate economic and social costs, and communicate effectively.

Swarn Singh

Circumvention (The Hindu, Polity, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

Recent meeting of the Prime minister with the district magistrate of various regions. In this meeting 24 pargana bengal D.M. got a chance to speak but instead of him Chief minister spoke and this created a hue and cry.

ISSUE:

Central government is bypassing the state elected representatives in current regime

- When the education minister talked about National education policy implementation in the state through state secretaries, such a meeting was not attended by the Tamilnadu official. This was not the boycott but they want the political leadership should be included in such discussion

CONSTITUTIONAL ANGLE:

- Article 256 and 257 provides such power to central government
- A historical incident when rajeev gandhi talked to collectors of Uttar pradesh, when he addressed them on panchayati raj institution.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD ON SUCH SITUATION:

- Federalism which is the basic structure must be followed in letter and spirit.
- Centre can give direction to state but the political executive comes first.
- A coordination-cooperation approach.
- Win-win federalism.
- Confidence building measures from centre.
- Focus on people's welfare is supreme most virtue.

Swarn Singh

Balancing Act (The Hindu, International Relations, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

Recently attack on Israel by Hamas and further Israel retaliation led to volcanic situation in the middle east. Countries are coming forward in the support and oppose but India must have a balancing act as she holds the chair in UNSC, which is the supreme peace enforcing body in the world.

- India voted against Israel in the historic resolution in U.N. India had voted in the favor of Palestine.
- Since the Cold war India is a adamant supporter of Palestine, but now the equation is changing
- Since 1992, India has the full fledged relation with the Israel and NDA government took it a leap forward when P.M. visited Israel in 2017 on the completion of 25 years.
- This visit was the first visit of any P.M. from India

Recently Israel showed a kind gesture to every country who supported her but India's name was missing.

SO WHAT INDIA SHOULD DO:

- A balancing act:- India should criticise the Hamas on unilateral act of attack on Israel but at the same time India should criticise the disproportionate bombing in Gaza. This act of balancing was missing.
- Issue remains that who should India support
- Issue of Arab unity and effect on India.

Swarn Singh

Government must be Transparent About its Plans for the National Archives of India (Indian Express, GS-2, Governance, GS-1, History))

CONTEXT:

The National Archives of India (NAI) complex is slated for major changes under the Central Vista Project. This building has several public records, private papers, departmental records etc.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE:

- Recent statement of the minister of culture that we will continue to keep records safely makes some apprehension about the mindfulness of the government.
- This statement need public scrutiny that what government is thinking about the historical records
- Archives are essential to the relationship between a state and its citizens.
- Moving public records in democracies is a big deal. Recently USA government was also thinking about same and there were excessive public consultations
- If Indian archives will not be accessible then in case foreign people will have exclusive right to write about Indian history because they may have access to British Historical Council which has the largest repository of colonial India

WAY FORWARD:

- Transparency and accountability are the way forward.
- History is irrespective of ideology

Swarn Singh

India's First Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre (Gs Paper-3, Infrastructure Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Recently The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) has launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre in Pune India

ABOUT THE CENTRE:

- The Centre will help in accelerating the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra.
- The centre will act as an one-stop shop to export agricultural food productions.
- The centre is available to anyone who is engaged in agricultural exports.
- It will give guidance in areas such as Minimum residue level, orchard management, branding and marketing, country-wise protocols, special export treatments and government export schemes.



REASON FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE IN MAHARASHTRA:

- Maharashtra is known as one of the leading states in Agriculture.
- It is one of the largest producers of onions.

- Maharashtra is emerging as an important horticultural state in the country.
- The soil and agro climatic conditions are diverse in the state.
- State is producing a variety of crops such as rice, wheat, tur, gram, bajra, jowar; fruits such as banana, mango, grapes, orange, cashew nut.
- The state is the leading producer in pulses.
- Maharashtra is known as the second largest coarse cereals producer.
- It is also the second largest producer of soya bean, sugarcane and cotton.



-Khyati Khare

A-76: World's Largest Iceberg Breaks off of Antarctica (Gs Paper-3, Environment Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Recently An Iceberg calved off from the continent of Antarctica. This iceberg is now the largest iceberg in the world. It has been named as A-76.

ABOUT THE ICEBERG

The Iceberg is 170 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide. The iceberg is spotted by a European Space Agency satellite called Copernicus Sentinel. It is a two-satellite constellation that orbits the earth's poles. The Iceberg is now floating on the Weddell Sea. Weddell Sea is a large bay in the Western Antarctic.

IMPACT OF THE ICEBERG ON SEA LEVEL

Every time an iceberg calves out from Antarctica, it adds up to the rising sea levels. However, in this case, the ice shelf from which this berg carved out was already floating on water. The Ice Shelf from which A-76 calved out is called Ronne Ice Shelf



– Khyati Khare

China-Russia: Biggest Nuclear Power Project (Gs Paper-2, International Relations Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

China and Russia are beginning the biggest Nuclear Power Project. The Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Chinese President Xi Jing Ping attend the ceremony that began the construction of the project.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The construction of the project is of four units, the major cooperation outcome of science and technology innovation and high-end equipment manufacturing between the countries. The contract value of the project is twenty billion USD. The nuclear reactors to be used in the project are third generation VVER-1200 reactors. After completion of this projects, the reactors will generate 37.6 billion kilo watt hours of electricity. Also, they will reduce 30.68 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and will also reduce the use of fossil fuels.

CHINA'S NUCLEAR POWER

At present, there are forty-nine nuclear power plants in China. This puts the country in the third position amongst the nuclear powers. On the other hand, China is also pushing its third-generation nuclear technology Hualong Two. The Chinese have a goal of achieving 200 GW of Nuclear capacity by 2035.



-Khyati Khare

The AIDS Fight offers a COVID Vaccine Patent Pathway (The Hindu, GS-2, Governance, Health)

CONTEXT

The whole world is fighting against COVID-19. Researchers and some companies made drugs which are available in the public domain but the prices and availability remains the issue. If this world wants to sustain then affordability and availability of vaccines must be ensured by the pharma companies.

HOW WE CAN ENSURE A SECURE WORLD:

- Voluntary giving up the licences to the mass producer of vaccine: Why?
- Voluntary giving up of licences provides licensee how to manufacture the medication
- figuring out how to reverse engineer the product
- Another option is opting for compulsory licences:-



WHAT IS THIS?

- Since 2003, under Doha declaration this agreement was added with TRIPS, which provides protection to the intellectual property right.
- What is the issue in this
- Issue is the legal hurdles, this compulsory licence phenomenon can be invoke by a country in the interest of public, but this will face the legal hurdle in the court and this C.L. will not come along with the tech transfer but in case of voluntary giving up, tech transfer _ expeditious process will takes place.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD

- As was the case of AIDS many companies came up with giving up licences and having royalty on the sale of vaccine.
- Cost of tenofovir came down from 500\$ per person per year to 39\$ per person per year
- We need patent pooling as the case of USA but this must be joined by the EU in order to provide

Swarn Singh

SC: Personal Guarantors Liable for Corporate debt (The Hindu, GS-2,3 Economy, Governance)

CONTEXT:

In 2017 Total bad loan in the banks reached a record high more than 11 lakh crore in the public sector bank. This much bad loan hurt the economy. Other tools which were there in place didnt help out in solving the crises. There by government took IBC code to solve the insolvency issue in the banking system. Recent supreme court said that allow lenders to initiate insolvency proceedings against personal guarantors



IBC CODE:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.

- Insolvency is when individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.
- Bankruptcy is when a court of competent jurisdiction has declared a person or other entity insolvent and further It is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is to consolidate all laws related to insolvency and bankruptcy and to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPA), bad loans a massive problem that has been pulling the Indian economy down for years.

OBJECTIVES OF IBC

- To consolidate and amend all existing insolvency laws in India so that banks can get rid off the NPA issue
- To simplify and expedite the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Proceedings in India.
- To protect the interest all stakeholders in a company.
- To revive the company in a time-bound manner.
- To promote entrepreneurship.

Salient features of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

- Covers all individuals, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms.
- Adjudicating authority; an institutional mechanims:
 - ◆ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for companies and LLPs
 - ◆ Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and partnership firms

INSOLVENCY RESOLUTION PROCESS

- Insolvency resolution process can be initiated by any of the stakeholders of the firm: firm/debtors/ creditors/employees.
- If the adjudicating authority accepts, an Insolvency resolution professional (IP) is appointed.
- The power of the management and the board of the firm is transferred to the committee of creditors (CoC). They act through the IP.
- The IP has to decide whether to revive the company (insolvency resolution) or liquidate it (liquidation).
- If they decide to revive, they have to find someone willing to buy the firm.
- The creditors also have to accept a significant reduction in debt. The reduction is known as a haircut.
- They choose the party with the best resolution plan, that is acceptable to the majority of the creditors (75 % in CoC), to take over the management of the firm.
- Establishment of an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India\
- Insolvency professionals:-to handle the commercial aspects of insolvency resolution process.
- Insolvency professional agencies:- to develop professional standards, code of ethics etc in professionals
- Information utilities:- to collect, collate, authenticate and disseminate financial information to be used in insolvency, liquidation and bankruptcy proceedings.
- Enabling provisions to deal with cross border insolvency.

Khayti Khare

Fitful Approach

(The Hindu, GS-3,2, data privacy and science and tech)

CONTEXT:

The Centre's recent notice to messaging service provider WhatsApp to withdraw its updated privacy policy. This policy specifically states that users would no longer be able to stop the app from sharing data with its parent Facebook unless they delete their accounts altogether.

WHAT IS DATA PROTECTION:

Data is generated by the footprint when a person does any kind of online transaction. Data protection is protecting the data from any kind of theft or misuse from a non-concerned party.

WHY IT IS NEEDED:

- To protect privacy of individual
 - ◆ To protect integrity and sovereignty of India
 - ◆ To uphold human rights written under UNHCR and Fundamental rights.
- To provide one a individual identity.
- Preserve oneself

WHAT ARE THE RECENT CONTROVERSIES REGARDING DATA PROTECTION:

- Aadhar act was challenged in supreme court
- Puttaswamy judgement
- Data selling by facebook in USA election
- Data theft by Chinese hackers.

WHAT ARE THE LAWS IN INDIA

- I.T. Act 2000.
- Aadhar act
- Cyber policy
- Subhramaniam committee recommendations on data protection

INTERNATIONAL WAY

- EU has the strong data protection law such as GDPR.
- New Zealand also has the same
- Australia working on the same direction.

Swarn Singh

INS Rajput

Gs Paper-3 Science And Technology Source-The Hindu

CONTEXT:

Recently, on 21 May, 2021 INS Rajput has been decommissioned after 41 years of service by the Indian Navy. INS Rajput was the first destroyer as well as the lead ship of the Rajput class of the Indian Navy.

RAJPUT CLASS OF SHIPS OF THE INDIAN NAVY:

Rajput class ships of the Indian Navy are guided missiles destroyers that were manufactured by the former Soviet Union (USSR). Soviet Kashin class destroyers of the USSR were modified to meet the needs of the Indian Navy. Indian Navy commissioned 5 such ships in the 1980s and they are all attached to the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.

SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT'S:

INS Rajput was equipped with a variety of sensors and weapons. She was fitted with the BrahMos missile and Prithvi-III missile was also test fired from INS Rajput. INS Rajput is equipped to attack various land, anti-aircraft and anti-submarine targets



Khyati Khare

Dipcovan

Gs Paper-3, Science and Technology Source- The Hindu

CONTEXT:

Dipcovan or DIPAS-VDx COVID 19 IgG Antibody Microwell ELISA is an antibody detection-based kit that can be used for sero-surveillance for detecting the presence of Covid antibodies amongst the population.

WHICH DRDO LAB HAS DEVELOPED DIPCOVAN?

Dipcovan has been developed by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), New Delhi in association with Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd. It was approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in April 2021. It will be commercially launched soon. The kit has a shelf life of 18 months.



Khyati Khare

CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2021

Varuna-2021

(Gs Paper 2, Diplomacy Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise ‘Varuna-2021’ has started in the Arabian Sea. This is the 19th edition. The exercise will highlight the extended level of coordination, synergy, and interoperability between the navies of India and France.

OBJECTIVE:

The units of the two navies in the Varuna bilateral naval exercise will endeavor and enhance their skills in order to showcase their ability as an integrated force to promote security, peace, and stability in the region

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar will lead the Indian navy
- From the Indian side, guided-missile frigates INS Talwar and INS Tarkarsh, guided-missile stealth destroyer INS Kolkata, Fleet Support Ship INS Deepak, with Chetak Integral Helicopters has participated

World Book Day 2021

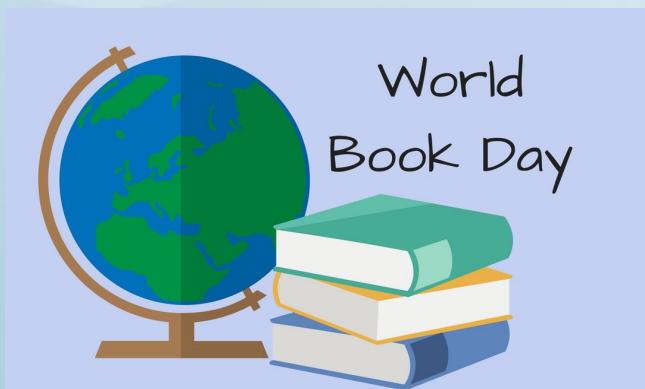
(Gs Paper-2 Days And Events Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

World Book and Copyright Day is organized every year on April 23rd by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote, highlight and expand the power of reading, books, and copyright.

On this day UNESCO aims to make a community so that readers across the world can connect with each other in turn combat isolation.

THEME:



In the wake of the pandemic, UNESCO has created a theme 'Bookface Challenge' to celebrate World Book Day 2021.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2021-

- This year, UNESCO argued everyone to challenge themselves, and explore new topics, books, formats, genres in one's reading lists.
- Their goal is to engage people in reading and encourage them to enjoy while doing so.

WHAT IS UNESCO?-

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is an international organization that aims to build peace through collaborative efforts in the field of Education, Science and Culture.
- UNESCO was founded on November 16, 1945. It is based in Paris, France.

-Khyati Khare

Maui Dolphins Gs Paper-3 Threatened Species Source- The Hindu

CONTEXT:

The Maui Dolphins are found only and only on the West Coast of New Zealand in the world. These are one of the smallest dolphin subspecies globally. There are only 63 Maui dolphins left in the world.

EFFORTS OF NEW ZEALAND:

The New Zealand Government with the help of the World Wide Fund and a few fishing companies is to develop a drone that is capable of finding and tracking Maui dolphins using Artificial Intelligence technology.



REASONS FOR THE DECLINING POPULATION:

- The Maui Dolphins are threatened by commercial fishing.
- This practice includes trawling and set-netting.
- They are affected by diseases such as Brucellosis and toxoplasmosis.
- Low food availability for the fishes
- Climate Change



-Khyati Khare

ASEAN and Myanmar (GS PAPER-2, India and World Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

The Government of India has welcomed the ASEAN Initiative on Myanmar

WHAT IS THE INITIATIVE:

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has presented a five-point strategy on the Myanmar crisis. Under this the ASEAN countries have demanded "Immediate Cessation of Violence". The five points of the initiative are as follows:

- To end violence in the country
- To Organise a constructive dialogue among all parties
- To appoint a special ASEAN Envoy to facilitate the all-party dialogue



- Acceptance of the aid
- The Special ASEAN Envoy will visit Myanmar with the Military leader

REASON:

The military of Myanmar had dismissed the Government of Myanmar headed by Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

Khyati Khare

World Immunisation Week

Gs Paper-3 Events Source- The Hindu

CONTEXT:

Every year, World Immunisation Week is celebrated in the last week of April. The aim is to promote the use of vaccines.

THEME:

This year, the World Immunisation Week is to be celebrated under the following theme: Vaccines bring us closer

OBJECTIVE:

- The world, there are more than twenty million children in the world that miss out on vaccines.
- In the era of COVID-19, several children have not been vaccinated with their measles and polio vaccines.



Khyati Khare

International Climate Finance Plan of the US

(Gs Paper-2, Diplomacy Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

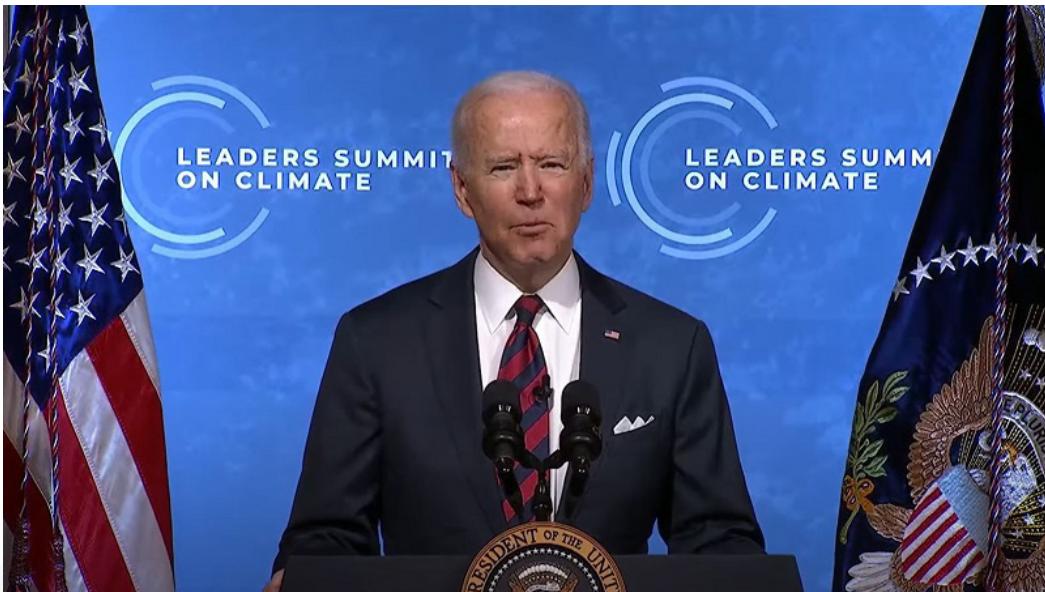
Recently the President of the US has announced the country's new Finance Plan at the Leader's Summit on Climate. This Summit was hosted by the USA.

BACKGROUND:

At present The United States is the world's second-leading emitter after China. Now The country will have to contribute a sum of 800 billion USD as its share in international climate finance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLAN:

- The US has set a target to reduce its emissions by 50% to 52% as compared to 2005 levels.
- The US will double its climate funding by 2024. It is to triple its climate funding eventually.
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will release a new Climate Change Strategy in the coming November at the COP26.



Khyati khare

ADB raises India GDP forecast by 11% **(Gs Paper-3, Reports Source – The Hindu)**

CONTEXT:

Recently The Asian Development Bank has released its Asian Development Outlook, 2021. According to its report, India is to grow at 11%. The outlook is saying that ADB has provided financial support of 1.5 billion USD to India to fight against COVID-19



KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT:

- According to findings of ADB, South Asia is expected to rebound at 9.5% in 2021. The South Asian region contracted by 6% in 2020.
- The growth of the region will moderate to 6.6% in 2022.
- The report highlights that the economic growth of Asia is to rebound at 7.3% in 2021.
- The region is facing a contraction of 0.2% in its growth in 2020. In 2022, its growth rate is to be 5.3%.
- The countries such as China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taipei are expected to meet an increased growth rate of 7.7% in 2021 and 5.6% in 2022.
- The report has classified these countries as newly industrialized countries.
- The GDP of East Asia is expected to grow at 7.4% in 2021 and at 5.1% in 2022

-Khyati Khare

Chandler Good Government Index (Gs Paper-2, Reports And Indices Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Recently The Chandler Good Governance Index has released by the Chandler Institute of Governance and it is headquartered in Singapore. This index is prepared based on seven pillars which are leadership and foresight, strong institutions, robust laws and policies, attractive marketplace, financial stewardship, helping people rise, global influence, and reputation.



FINDINGS:

- Finland has topped the ranking following Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Denmark, and Norway.
- In the report, Pakistan was ranked at 90th place, Sri Lanka at 74th, and Nepal at 92nd.
- In the BRICS countries, China ranked 140th, Brazil at 67th, Russia at 48th, South Africa at 70th.
- It recommends “Pracademics” in Government. Pracademics is a rigorous understanding of research and data with a practical sense of what governments need to do to succeed

-Khyati Khare

Large Area Certification (LAC) Scheme (Source- The Hindu GS PAPER-3, Government Schemes)

CONTEXT:

Recently The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare has announced that around 14,491 hectares of land in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been certified as organic. This is for the first time a large

contiguous territory to be certified under the government scheme.

BACKGROUND:

The organic certification will be provided under the Large Area Certification Scheme of the Participatory Guarantee System certification program.

LARGE AREA CERTIFICATION SCHEME:

Under this scheme, each village will be considered as one cluster or group and the farmers have to adhere to the standard requirements without the need to undergo a conversion period to get certified. This scheme is launched under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.



Khyati Khare

Genome Study (Gs Paper 3, Biotechnology Sources- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

The researchers of the Centre for Palaeogenetics, Stockholm has recently showed that the populations of Sumatran Rhinoceros displayed low levels of inbreeding

ABOUT THE GENOME STUDY:

1. In order to monitor their inbreeding levels, the researchers had sequenced the genomes from 16 rhinos on Sumatra and Borneo region.
2. The findings that the rhinos are facing low levels of inbreeding was based on this genome sequencing.
3. At present the rhinos in Sumatra and Borneo are facing high genetic diversity and very low inbreeding levels.

4. It is said that the low inbreeding levels are due to small population size.
5. The researchers have found that the frequency of potentially harmful mutations was very high.
6. This shows that closely related parents produced offspring that suffer from genetic diseases.
7. Now the researchers will study the sequenced genome to estimate their inbreeding levels, frequency of potentially harmful mutations and genetic variations.

Khyati Khare

Purchase of Electric Vehicle (Gs Paper-3, Sustainable Development Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Recently NITI Aayog has asked that the Government of India should provide incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles over and above the existing subsidized rate being provided under the FAME II scheme. Niti Aayog has also recommended providing interest subvention on loan amount taken for Electric Vehicle purchases.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY NITI AAYOG:

- NITI Aayog has also recommended creating non-financial incentives apart from interest subvention and additional subsidies.



- This includes exclusive parking for Electric Vehicles in commercial complexes, priority lanes for EVs.
- The NITI Aayog has given a recommendation that the Green Zones should be demarcated within cities that permit only electric Vehicles.

- NITI Aayog has recommended that heavy taxes should be charged on conventional fuel vehicles.
- Green corridors should be created which will allow only E-Buses.

Khyati Khare

Indigenous Vaccine for fish (Gs Paper-3, Ecology Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

The Central Institute of Brackish Aquaculture which is located in Chennai has recently developed an indigenous vaccine for Viral Nervous Necrosis. The name given to the vaccine is Nodavac-R

WHAT IS VIRAL NERVOUS NECROSIS:

- The cause of the disease is Betanodavirus which mostly affects teleost fish. More than forty species of fish are affected by this virus and most of them are marine species.
- This virus transmits through passive diffusion and contact.
- The disease is mostly occurring in juveniles or larvae. However, it also affects adults.



VIRAL NERVOUS NECROSIS IN INDIA:

The disease has been a serious concern affecting freshwater, marine and brackish water fishes largely in India. It results in 100% mortality in fishes that are in juvenile and larval stages.

REMEDY:

The best approach to control the disease in India is to vaccinate adult fish and also their fingerlings. The Nodavac-R is safe for all species that are susceptible to Viral Nervous Necrosis.

Khyati Khare

Relation between Right and Duties Gs Paper-2, Rights and Duties Source- Niti Aayog

CONTEXT:

Rights basically belong to the liberal political theory.

The theory of natural rights is the oldest theory, according to which man was born with certain rights and men had created the state to continue to enjoy the right properly, it talks about there is no right to live on liberty in the absence of the state.

ISSUES RELATED TO RIGHT:

As the development goes on, a new concept has emerged which is known as human rights it implies that whether the state give or not all human beings have the right and it is the responsibility of the state and the international community to ensure the right to the man for being a man

SOCIALIST APPROACH:

The socialists do not talk about the right but emphasize the duties. According to the socialist, there is no interest among people, no need for right only there will be a state who will give the people according to need. In the second world war, fascists leaders stated that man has no rights and men are bound to follow the duties only.

WAY FORWARD:

it is to be noted that every person who is enjoying the right has certain duties also. When one person's right enters the domain of another person's right, it becomes the first person's duty to curtail its right so that other people also properly enjoy their right.

Khyati khare

WhatsApp Number for Pregnant Women (GS PAPER- 1, Women Source- Livemint)

CONTEXT:

Recently The National Commission for Women has launched a WhatsApp number to help pregnant women. The helpline number is 9354954224. This will be a "message only" helpline number.

OBJECTIVE:

- This is going to provide round-the-clock medical assistance to expectant mothers all over India.
- The Commission has also set up a dedicated team to look after the grievances raised from pregnant women on the number.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN:

- The body was established under the National Commission for Women Act in the year 1992.
- The body checks the legal and constitutional safeguards of women.
- The chairperson of this commission is appointed by the Government of India and the other five members in the commission are also appointed by the GoI.
- Eligibility for the members should have experience in women's voluntary organization, economic development, legislation, administration, etc.



- Jayanti Patnaik was the first Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.
- The objective of National Commission for Women-
- To investigates and examines the matters related to the safeguards of the women as provided by the Constitution of India

Khyati Khare

Immunisation Agenda 2030

GS Paper 3- Science, Tech Source- Livemint

CONTEXT:

This was launched by three body World Health Organisation, GAVI, and UNICEF. The program has been titled “A Global Strategy to leave No One Behind”. The program aims to maximize the lifesaving impact of vaccines. The Agenda of Immunisation 2030 was launched during World Immunisation Week.

KEY FEATURES OF IA 2030:

The objective is to promote “Vaccination throughout life”, that is, from infancy to adolescence and till old age.

According to the report of WHO, if completely implemented, the IA 2030 will avert fifty million deaths. Out of this 75% of them will be in low-income and in lower-middle-income countries.



PRIORITIES OF IA 2030:

- Priorities of IA 2030 are as follows:
- Commitment and Demand
- Coverage and Equity
- Outbreaks and Emergencies
- Life Course and Integration
- Supply and Sustainability
- Research and Innovation

Khyati Khare

Supply Chain Resilience Initiative GS PAPER-3 Infrastructure Source- The Hindu

CONTEXT:

India, Australia, and Japan have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative. The objective of the initiative was to counter the dominance of China in the Global Supply Chain. It also aims to prevent disruptions in the supply chain as seen during the pandemic of COVID-19. The initiative will mainly focus on diversification of investment and digital technology adoption.

OBJECTIVES:

- To increase Foreign Direct Investment in India and eventually turn Indo-Pacific region into an “Economic Powerhouse”.
- To build complementary relations between the partner countries
- To build on the existential Supply Chain Network.

ACTION BY CHINA:

- Recently China has formed an initiative with its Asian neighbors Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh to help them set up COVID-19 emergency supply reserves.
- Recently the Sichuan Airlines of China has suspended cargo flights to India that were taking crucial supplies of Oxygen concentrators to India.
- Such aggressive war-like behavior of China even during the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the countries to form these initiatives.

Khyati Khare

Asset Reconstruction Companies (Gs Paper-3, Economy Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

The RBI set up a committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies in the financial sector ecosystem

KEY POINTS:

- The six member committee will be headed by Sudarshan Sen former executive director of RBI
- As per the terms of reference of the committee the panel will review the existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs And recommended measure to improve efficacy of ARC-
- 1. The business model of a RC
- 2. It give suggestions for improving liquidity in and trading of security receipts
- 3. The committee will submit its report within 3 months from the date of its first meeting



ABOUT ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY:

Objective:

- It is a specialized financial institution that buy the non performing asset from bank and Financial Institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheet
- This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities

LEGAL BASIS:

- The securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest Act 2002 to provide the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India
- The act help the construction of bad assets without the intervention of court

CAPITAL NEED FOR ARCs:

- As per the amendment made in the Act in 2016 and RCA should have a minimum net owned fund of rupees 2 crore
- The RBI raised this amount to rupees hundred crore in 2017

-Khyati Khare

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (Gs Paper-3 Economy Source- The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Agriculture infrastructure fund has cross the rupees 8000 around mark after receiving 8665 application worth rupees 8216 crore

KEY POINTS:

- The largest share of the Pie is contributed by-
- 1. primary agricultural credit societies
- 2. agri entrepreneur
- 3. individual farmers
- States leading the front are Andhra Pradesh Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh Karnataka and Rajasthan
- While most of the states are leveraging their strong Cooperative network to take the lead Madhya Pradesh it stands out off with the highest non PAC applications
- AIF has brought farmers and Agri Business together with News new partnership models emerging for the creation of distributed infra near farm get in a hub and spoke model

HOST INITIATIVE:

Department of agriculture cooperation and farmers welfare is undertaking a host initiative to accelerate on ground investment



-Khyati Khare

Gandhian Perspective of Development Gs Paper4, Thinkers Source- Mkgandhi.Org

CONTEXT:

Gandhian vision of development was the creation of a self sufficient and self-governing village for the overall development of the society. In Hind Swaraj he criticized the society based on the western nation of greed, wealth and industrialization on a massive scale.

CRITICS VIEW:

Some critics argue that Gandhi was against machines and heavy industries but when we analyse Gandhian perspective in a broader sense we found that he had given emphasis and primacy to human labour over machines. He aimed to integrate production and employment, agriculture and industry.

According to Gandhi, India has a huge labor force therefore it needs to focus on employment oriented production and put an emphasis on Khadi, charkha, cottage industries and dignity of labour.

TRUSTEESHIP:

He believed in the idea of Trusteeship where everyone is the Trustee of Surplus. He proposed the concept of Sarvodaya and he wanted to establish the concept of Gram Swaraj where the centre of economic development is the village.

GANDHI ON TECHNOLOGY:

Today Science and Technology have taken unprecedented strides, still millions of people are unemployed, machines have replaced the human labour force, in this scenario the idea of Gandhi became much more relevant to create a just, welfare, equitable, employable and dignified society.



Khyati Khare

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2021

Recalibrate Growth, Reprioritise Expenditures (GS-3, The Hindu, Economy)

CONTEXT:

COVID-19 second wave has devastated Indian society and particularly the economy by successive lockdown and economic activity restrictions. This led to erosion of central government capacity and its income from tax and non-tax revenue.

- Government is more optimistic than it has to recalibrate tax revenue once again.
- There will be a shortfall of GDP which will be around 8% according to Rangarajan
- There will be a shortfall in the non-tax revenue

HOW WE CAN MOVE FORWARD:

- Ramping up health infrastructure to tackle second wave
- Construction activity in particular health sector will have multiplier effect
- Mass vaccination programme
- Central government would have floated a global tender rather than an individual state because it will increase the total cost of vaccination programme.
- We have to manage the total expenditure.

Swarn Singh

Deflating India's COVID Black Market Boom (Governance, GS-2, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Covid-19 which has devastated medical supply has also made black economy thrive. This black market acts like a blood succor. So we will talk about how we can undo this tragedy of human.

- Fake tocilizumab injections in Surat and Ahmedabad were unearthed by the Gujarat Food and Drugs Control Administration
- Same story of remdesivir

- Same with the oxygen supply
- persistent challenges many citizens face in medical aid



WHY THIS SITUATION:

- administrative organisations are being overwhelmed and helpline numbers inundated with calls
- not receiving a closure communication from helplines
- inaccessibility, a redundant and long communication process flow
- a delay in rendering responses
- Alleged hospital bed-booking scams
- unnecessary hoarding of COVID-19 essentials by the elite

WAY FORWARD:

- administrative mechanisms need to be expanded qualitatively and quantitatively
- identify volunteer groups, train them, optimise them and deploy them on a priority basis
- We need to operationalise technological knowledge in order to ease the communication processes
- reduce the burden on data entry operators
- expert planning model
- we need a strong, decentralised and independent vigilance system which promotes transparency

Swarn Singh

Guarantor Beware (Polity, GS-2, Law, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

The Supreme Court judgment of: upholding creditors' right to proceed against personal guarantors to loans provided by them to a corporate borrower. This will help in lifting the uncertainty over the extent to which banks and other financial lenders can pursue.

WHY THIS IS A GOOD MOVE:

- Corporates are the guarantor in thousands of crore rupees.
- When corporates will become liable then they will pressurise the debtors
- In this case there will be successful execution of IBC code.
- It will help the banks in recovering the loans
- resolution plan for the corporate debtor does not extinguish the personal guarantor's liability



HOW TO SOLVE THE NPA ISSUE IN INDIAN BANKING SYSTEM

- PARA a bad bank as recommended by the economic survey.
- A comprehensive communication and a data scrutinise before lending
- A clear communication between the banks so that same loan can't be disbursed by the banks

- A quick resolution process.
- Banks have to accept losses on loans so that RBI will get to know about the real situation.
- With out fear of 3C i.e. CVC, CBI, Courts
- The Indian Banks' Association has set up a six-member panel to oversee resolution plans of lead lenders. To expedite resolution, more such panels may be required.

An alternative is to set up a Loan Resolution Authority, if necessary through an Act of Parliament.

Swarn Singh

A September Exit, Afghanistan at the Crossroads (The Hindu, GS-2, International Relations)

CONTEXT:

Peace process in afghanistan, as USA wants withdrawal of it's forces in sept 11, now will take place in Istanbul. Parties will be Afghanistan, Turkey, China, Taliban, pakistan and a peripheral participator india. In this context some issues and interest which are along the lins:

INTEREST:

- China wants its xinxiang province safe. Some way or the other USA presence kept a check on the terrorist which were a threat to china.
- Pakistan got benefit of military, money by the presence of USA
- Russia which is also a key player, USA presence checked extremism in the central asia which is the backyard of Russia
- India also benefited as it helped in curbing the extremism in kashmir.

ISSUE:

- The Taliban which was born in Pakistan now has different patronage. Taliban's legitimacy is being increased by the Iran, Russia, China, Turkey and the godfather pakistan.
- Withdrawal by USA will hit the china, now china has to make more effort in xinxiang.
 - India:** to check extremism in kashmir
- Ghani government dont want to share the power with the taliban
- Taliban which is a terrorist group is somewhere keen in fragile afghanistan
- In the upcoming months fragility will increase
- Issue of on table negotiation: as taliban knows that USA will withdraw from afghanistan by itself in the spetmber then they may not negotiate a favourable deal to USA
- Taliban will be favourable to pakistan then india

WAY FORWARD:

- India should maintain it's interest in afghanistan and actively pursue what is good for india
- India should secure it's interest such as safety of indian investment
- A deal with power negotiations.



IAS

Swarn Singh

A Single Global Tender for Vaccine Procurement (The Hindu, Governance, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

- Pandemic which is devastating now can be restricted through the vaccine but a myopic vision about the vaccination programme hit the economies of scale as well as availability.

ISSUE:

- Central government has asked the states to float the global tenders according to their need. This is an issue on the federal front:

WHY THIS IS AN ISSUE:

- It is the responsibility of the federal government to provide vaccine to all people of India
- With individual states floating their tender is leading to more price per unit
- It has decreased the power of negotiation which Indian government would have as the single buyer.
- Shifting the responsibility to the states.

- Fiscal federalism is not followed.
- Traditional way where Centre procures vaccines and the States administer them.

HOW THIS CAN BE SOLVED:

- Revisit the vaccine policy
- Centre to acquire the vaccine from foreign countries
- A targeted approach i.e. government should provide the vaccine to 18-44 group in terms of vulnerability
- Right to life which is enshrined in the constitution under article 21 must be followed
- People should be treated as an end in themselves



Swarn Singh

Expanding the Scope of POCSO (The Hindu, Polity, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

- POSCO act which was enacted to save children from sexual abuse still find itself insufficient to deal with the historic cases. Though before the POSCO act there were some section of CrPC but these sections too were insufficient.

MAIN PROVISIONS OF POSCO ACT:

- **Gender neutral:** It talks about aggravated penetrative sexual assault against children, both boys and girls, below the age of 18.

- **Definition:** It defines sexual assault
- The existing definition covers 21 categories of penetrative sexual crimes against children
- **New category:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development has cited reported rapes of young girls in the aftermath of Kedarnath floods and that children constitute 50-60% of victims of calamities to make a case for including rapes in course of natural calamities as the 21st category.
- **More stringent punishment:** minimum of 10 years to a minimum of 20 years, up to a maximum of life imprisonment and even the death penalty under Section 6 of POCSO Act.
- Punitive measures have been made more stringent in cases where children are used for pornography as well as for storing such content.
- It also includes the gangrape of a child or use of deadly weapons during penetrative sexual assault
- The maximum punishment of death.

ISSUE:

- Historic cases are not dealt with the efficiency even they are not registered.
- Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) prohibit judicial magistrates from taking cognisance of cases beyond a specific time period.
- any reporting of an offence, under Section 354 of the IPC, more than three years after the date of incident would be barred by the CrPC.



WHY REPORTING OF CASES ARE LATE IN CASE OF CHILDREN:

- Societal pressure
- Child thinks he or she will not be trusted by the family

- Fear from the concerned person
- No police help

NEED TO REVISIT THE LAW:

- no time limit shall apply for POCSO cases.
- Security to the child who comes to filing the cases
- A secrecy in the name of the child

Swarn Singh

UNESCO Grants World Heritage Site Tag (Indian Express, History, GS-1)

CONTEXT:

UNESCO grants World Heritage Site tag to 14 forts of shivaji maharaj



- Maharashtra government has nominated the 17th century's 14 Forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for UNESCO grants World Heritage Site tag.
- This includes- RAJGAD FORT in Pune district, capital of the Maratha Empire under Chhatrapati Shivaji for almost 26 years.

- Then capital was moved to the Raigad Fort. RAIGAD FORT in Sahyadris Hills
- SHIVNERI FORT Near Junnar in Pune district. Shivaji's birthplace, example of Bahamani/ Nizamshahi architecture.
- Other Forts: Torna Fort,
- Lohagad,
- Salher Fort,
- Mulher Fort,
- Rangana Fort,
- Ankai Tankai Forts,
- Kasa Fort,
- Khanderi Fort,
- Sindhudurg Fort,
- Alibag Fort Popularly known as Kulaba Fort – a naval base by Chhatrapati Shivaji, SUVARNADURG Built on an island.

History of maratha, i will cover in the seprate article today. please follow.

74th World Health Assembly

CONTEXT:

Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, Dr Harsh Vardhan, chaired 74th World Health Assembly in virtual mode

KEY POINTS:

- Director-General of World Health Organization, Dr Tedros, also participated in the event.
- According to Dr Harsh Vardhan, the executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.
- Board recommended the 74th World Health Assembly to consider a report on mental health preparedness and response for Covid-19 pandemic.
- It further recommended an updated comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan for 2013 to 2030 and encouraged WHO to work in collaboration with World Organization for Animal Health and Food & Agriculture Organization so that the source of zoonotic virus can be identified.



WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY:

The World Health assembly is the key decision-making body of WHO. Assembly is attended by delegations from Member States of WHO. It focuses on a specific health agenda, prepared by the Executive Board. Primary functions of the assembly include- determining policies of Organization, appointing Director-General, supervising financial policies, and reviewing & approving proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held in Geneva, Switzerland annually.

Khyati Khare

Singapore Approves Covid Breath

CONTEXT:

Singapore has approved a covid breath test which detects covid-19 and shows the accurate results in less than a minute.

WHO DEVELOPED THE TEST?

The test has been developed by a start-up called Breathonix.



ABOUT THE TEST KIT:

The test kit works in a manner similar to standard breathalyzer test which is used by police to check for erratic drunken drivers. To test, a person first blows into a one-way valve mouthpiece. Then, compounds in a person's breath are compared through machine learning software. It compares against a sort of breath signature which is a symptom of a person who is Covid-positive.

HOW IS THE SINGAPORE TEST CURRENTLY?

Before this test kit was approved Singapore was screening the incoming travellers with antigen rapid tests. Now, a breath test will be used to screen incoming travellers from Malaysia.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEST:

Breath test provided accurate tests within a minute. This will help in opening the travel sector which has slowed amid the covid-19 pandemic. It will help in opening up the international borders.

Khyati Khare

Base Effect

CONTEXT:

The base effect refers to the impact of the rise in price level (i.e. last year's inflation) in the previous year over the corresponding rise in price levels in the current year (i.e., current inflation): if the price index had risen at a high rate in the corresponding period of the previous year leading to a high inflation rate, some of the potential rise is already factored in, therefore a similar absolute increase in the Price index in the current year will lead to a relatively lower inflation rates. On the other hand, if the inflation rate was too low in the corresponding period of the previous year, even a relatively smaller rise in the Price Index will arithmetically give a high rate of current inflation.

Khyati Khare

One-state Solution, the Way Forward in Palestine (The Hindu, International Relation, GS-2)

CONTEXT:

Israel and palestine dispute again surfaced as HAMAS attacked on israel. Israel retaliate and this dispute again got the attention of whole world

AUTHOR SAYS:

- Britisher in particular and European in general during the decolonisation took a path where theory divided the territory. Example india, Nigeria and palestine and among others.
- In 1937 Birtishers decided to settle the jews in the territory of palestine or divided palestine. It was not acceptable to palestine.
- After 1948 UN recognised Palestine and it some how forced israel not to have mass ethenic cleansing by the Israel to palestine.
- Since 1960's a systematic cleansing was started where right of Palestinians were abducted.
- In 1992 Oslo accord based on the two nation theory came into effect on the pretext that USA and Egypt agreed for two nation theory.
- Now in 1995 Oslo-2 accord: Westbank which is 60% now administered by the ISrael was to be divided but illigal jews settlement turned the equation.
- Last week conflict is the testimony to this.

WHY TWO STATE NATION THEORY CAN'T BE APPLICABLE ACCORDING TO AUTHOR:

- It doesn't talk about the ethenic cleansing

- It presume that the movement in both the state is based on the nationalism
- It doesn't ensure the right to palestinians

WAY FORWARD:

- The only alternative is to decolonise historical Palestine.
- dismantlement of colonialist institutions, fair redistribution of the country's natural resources, compensation of the victims of the ethnic cleansing and allowing their repatriation

Swarn Singh

Slowing the Pace of India's Mucormycosis Threat (GS-2, Governance, The Hindu, Health)

CONTEXT:

The alarming rise in India recently in the incidence of mucormycosis — a rare fungal infection in the covid-19 patients.



WHY:

- COVID-19 medication included steroids which decrease the natural immune power.
- Self medication increases the blood sugar level.
- steroids, chemotherapy or immunotherapy, and solid organ or stem-cell transplantations

- common sites of presentation include rhino-cerebral involvement
- SARS-CoV-2 can potentially multiply in pancreatic cells and contribute to increased blood sugar levels
- Surgery for mucormycosis can be debilitating requiring major resections.

WHAT IS WAY FORWARD:

- Steroid use at home for COVID-19 should be only under the supervision of a health-care worker.
- The control of blood sugars during steroid intake
- monitoring of capillary blood glucose is essential
- a tele-consult with a doctor is advisable
- Patients on steroids for COVID-19 should report symptoms of mucormycosis at the earliest
- COVID-19 treatment experts and policy-makers may consider widespread training of health-care personnel

Swarn Singh

What's Going Wrong with India's Act East Policy? (GS-2, International Relations, Indian Express)

CONTEXT:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's recent remarks about a Singapore variant of Covid and his related critical comments should alert Indian policymakers and foreign policy analysts to a wider and larger challenge to India's standing in Southeast Asia.

ACT EAST POLICY, MAJOR 3 DEVELOPMENT IN LAST FEW YEARS:

- the rising profile of China combined with growing China-India tensions
- disappointment in the region with India's economic under-performance
- rising concern in the region with India's approach towards its minorities

WHY ACT EAST POLICY NEED NEW ORIENTATION:

- Increase in the stature of china:
 - ❑ After the global financial crisis 2007 china emerged as a giant.
 - ❑ Beijing Olympic games provided chinese diaspora in south east asia.
 - ❑ India's stay away from RCEP is some what gave slap to indian stature.

NOW WHAT TO:

- Maintaining a good relation with south asian country
- More integration of indian economy with south asian tigers.

Swarn Singh

Ricochet Impact

CONTEXT:

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Emerging-market nations' struggle to move out of covid-19 pandemic-induced economic crisis can hurt developed nations. It said, the crisis has a "Ricochet impact" on the developed and advanced economies.

WHAT IS RICOCHET IMPACT:

- Ricochet means rebound, bounce, or skip off from the surface, particularly in projectile cases.

KEY POINTS:

- IMF suggests that developed nations should do all to ensure better & equitable access to vaccines and equitable recovery. Poorer nations are facing the risk of increasing interest rates even though, their economies aren't growing.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF):

- This international financial institution is headquartered in Washington, D.C. It comprises 190 countries.
- They work together to boost global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, promote high employment, facilitate international trade, and sustainable economic growth.
- It also takes measures to reduce poverty across the world.
- It was set up in 1944 but started functioning in 1945 at Bretton Woods Conference.
- The IMF plays an important role in the management of balance of payments issues and international financial crises.



Khyati Khare

WCD Ministry is All Set to Set Up One-Stop Centres

CONTEXT:

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, is to set up One-Stop Centres (OSCs) in 10 missions across 9 countries. It will be set to curb the cases of violence against women.

IN WHICH COUNTRIES OSCs WILL BE SET UP:

- One OSC will be set up each in Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Canada, Australia and Singapore. TWO OSCs will be set up in Saudi Arabia. Apart from that, 300 OSCs will be set up across India.

WHO WILL OPERATE THE OSCs:

- All OSCs will be supported by the Women and Child Development Ministry while, Ministry of External Affairs will operate it.

EXISTING OSCs:

- Currently, about 701 One Stop Centres are operating in the country since 2015 across 35 states & Union Territories. Through these centres, three lakh women have been provided assistance since 2015.

Khyati Khare

India-Israel Signs Cooperation in Agriculture

CONTEXT:

- India and Israel have inked a three-year joint work programme which will continue till 2023. Joint work programme was initiated with the aim of enhancing cooperation in agriculture.



ABOUT NEW WORK PROGRAMME:

- Under the new work programme, 13 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were set up to make Indian farmers aware of Israeli farm and water technologies.
- A model ecosystem in agriculture called Villages of Excellence (VoE) will also be created across eight states within 75 villages.
- New programme will promote an increase of net income and enhance the livelihood of individual farmers.
- It will also transform traditional farms into modern-intensive farms on the basis of IIAP standards.



- It will also strengthen the bilateral relations and mutual cooperation between both the countries in agriculture to benefit the farming community.

INDIA ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL RELATION:

- “India and Israel started bilateral relations in the agriculture sector in 1993. So, the new programme is the 5th Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP).

Khyati Khare

The Miracle of Allopathy: A Response to Baba Ramdev (Indian Express,GS-2,Health)

CONTEXT:

Ramdev, who is an ayurvedic teacher, an entrepreneur and a yoga teacher as well, recently remarked about the efficacy of allopathy.



WHAT DOES ALLOPATHY DO:

- Allopathic science is a medical science which is based on the cure rather than prevention.
- Yoga works on prevention.
- Allopathic science where most of the disease can be cured whereas yoga works on prevention.

WHY ALLOPATHY IS IMPORTANT NOW A DAYS:

- Allopathy is far ahead in the medical field because of its research and human resource.
- Other sciences lacks R&D

ISSUES IN INDIA:

- Inadequate allopathic health infrastructure
- Poor quality programme
- Post covid issues such as mucormycosis

WAY FORWARD

- Robust health infrastructure
- Blend of yoga and allopathy
- Focus on prevention
- Quality health care
- Quality health professional.

Swarn Singh

Dinesh Mohan was Brilliant, Contrarian and Committed to Social Justice (GS-2, Governance, Human Right, GS-4, Ethics, Indian Express)

CONTEXT:

Sotry of human right activist, a government critic Dinesh Mohan

HIS WORK:

- Dinesh questioned the value of prioritising testing, pushing many public health professionals to re-examine their position
- His efforts led to a transformation in the Delhi Solidarity Group's civic intervention
- democratic protests against the Vietnam war in the US
- frontline involvement in the pursuit of justice and accountability in India
 - especially on issues such as the 1984 anti-Sikh violence, the Babri Masjid demolition and human rights violations in Kashmir
- He was critical of Delhi's switch to CNG and braved public controversy over the introduction of the BRT (Bus Rapid Transport)
- policy research on road transport and safety was integral to his commitment to social justice
- pioneered research in the field of road safety and co-authored the international Public Charter on Right to Safety.

Swarn Singh

Naturally, Selection (GS-2, Governance, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

To save the population from the wrath of the pandemic government decided to give vaccines to indian population. Now the production capacity is shorter compared to the demand. So the government needs to prioritize which group must be the 1st one.

WAY FORWARD:

- Tailoring supply for optimal effect
- supply considerations will necessarily mean prioritisation of groups for vaccination
- Primary among them are people in the services sector — those whose jobs mandate interactions with multiple people
- priority list even in the 18-44 age category, as Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have done
- Once vaccine supply picks up, a more expansive first-come, first-served basis
- it is the government's bounden duty to ensure an equitable coverage among vulnerable groups

Swarn Singh

Ayush Clinical Case Repository Portal

CONTEXT:

Ayush Clinical Case Repository portal will be launched by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on May 27, 2021. Along with the portal, third version of Ayush Sanjivani App will also be launched.

AYUSH CLINICAL REPOSITORY PORTAL:

This portal will act as a platform providing support both to Ayush practitioners and general public. It will be launched with the aim to provide aggregate information regarding clinical outcomes achieved by Ayush practitioners on a large scale. It will also help to widen solid scientific base of all streams of Ayush.

ABOUT AYUSH SANJIVANI APP:

It was developed by Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY). It seeks to reach out to 50 lakh people in India. The app generate data on usage of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-rigpa and Homoeopathy) advocacies. It also measures the impact of AYUSH in prevention of Covid-19.

Khyati Khare

PLUTUS
Van Gujjars Nomadic Tribe

IAS

CONTEXT:

Recently, Uttarakhand high court has criticized state government for neglecting and forcing families of Van Gujjars nomadic tribe to survive in conditions below animal's existence

HC's ORDER

Court has ordered Uttarakhand government to provide them accommodation, food, water and medicines. It also ordered to get their Covid-19 testing done before they enter Govind Pashu Vihar National Park in Uttarkashi.

STATE'S VIEW:

State government were of the view that; if tribes will enter national park, they will endanger the wildlife because, coronavirus may spread from humans to animals.

ORIGIN OF VAN GUJJARS:

It is believed, Gujjars belonged to Gurjara kingdom and they migrated to states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in Indian Subcontinent. On the other hand, Muslim Gujjars including Van Gujjars migrated to Pakistan, Afghanistan and Indian Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. It is also believed that, ancestors of van Gujjars migrated from Kashmir to Uttarakhand some 1500 years ago.

Khyati Khare

Virtual Vesak

CONTEXT:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Virtual Vesak Global Celebrations on Buddha Purnima on May 26, 2021. Over 50 most prominent Buddhist religious leaders from across the world also addressed the virtual congregation.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Virtual Vesak Global Celebration on Buddha Purnima event was organised by Culture Ministry in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

WHO WAS GAUTAMA BUDDHA?

Gautama Buddha was the founder of world religion of Buddhism. He is revered by most Buddhist schools as a savior. He rediscovered an ancient path to release clinging & craving and to escape cycle of birth & rebirth. His teaching is based on insight into- arising of duhkha and ending of duhkha. Once the duhkha ends, that stage is called Nirvana.

Khyati Khare

Culture, Increasingly Fractured and Unplanned (The Hindu, GS-1, Art and Culture)

CONTEXT:

Central Vista redevelopment project will be going in the full swing in upcoming days. Issue remains about the shifting of the national museum which contains fragile artefacts.

ISSUE:

- Now the new building of the National museum will be in the vicinity of Rashtrapati Bhavan and PM's residence.
- These two residences are high profile and high security areas.
- So this will certainly lead to issues in the access of museums to common people.
- Now the building which belongs to the Home Ministry and other ministries will be given to the national museum.

IF WE NEED TO SHIFT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM THEN WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD:

- Properly packing of all the artefacts.
- The National Museum contains fragile Harappan terracottas, the ashes of the Buddha and sculptures as fine as filigree.
- There are bronzes: from the iconic "Dancing Girl" to Chola bronzes, coins and more coins of gold, silver, copper and bronze from every epoch of Indian history and precious jewellery that was from the collections of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

- There are grand Egyptian stone statues, and in fact entire wooden chariots from South Indian temples.
- The museum immediately employed more qualified conservation personnel
- The largest Pallava and Chola sculptures in the National Museum weigh many tonnes obviously putting stress on heritage buildings.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- The Los Angeles County Museum of Art shut down to undertake a similar move

Swarn Singh

Weathering Storms (The Hindu, GS-3, Disaster Management, GS-1)

CONTEXT:

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas striking Odisha, it has tested Indian capability of disaster management where early and accurate warning system is the foremost.



CONDITION OF FORMATION OF CYCLONE:

- According to NCERT:
 - Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C,

- o Presence of the Coriolis force enough to create a cyclonic vortex,
 - o Small variations in the vertical wind speed,
 - o A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation,
 - o Upper divergence above the sea level system,
- Indian response to YAAS:
 - o preparatory mass evacuation from habitations
 - o India has improved its resilience to cyclones
 - o raising the capacity of the disaster response forces
- System to counter Disaster:
 - o Disaster management act 2005
 - o Increased capacity of indian metrological system in terms of human resources, technical resources.
- Issue in the indian disaster management
 - o Corruption as surfaced in bengal during cyclone disaster fighting
 - o Lack of resources.
 - o Incapacity of states to tackle.

Swarn Singh

Incorporating limits (GS-2, Polity, The Hindu)

CONTEXT:

Speech is free, but it is a freedom that comes with responsibility. There are many instances where free speech is been threaten and free speech is being misused. On this context, Law commission recommendations and t.k. Vishwanathan committee recommendations are the way forward.

WHAT IS HATE SPEECH:

It is any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis their collective identity, be it race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality.

- Constitutional provisions: Article 19(2) of the Constitution gives all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression but subject to “reasonable restrictions”
- These restrictions are” for preserving inter alia “public order, decency or morality”.
- Statutory provisions: India prohibits hate speech by several sections such as Section 95 of CRPC Section 124A or Section 153A or Section 153B or Section 292 or Section 293 or Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code.
- T.K. Vishwanathan committee recommendations
- appointment of cybercrime coordinators in every state as well as setting up of cybercrime cells in each district.
- The committee suggested that the state cybercrime coordinator should be an officer not below the rank of Inspector General of Police.

- o They will deal with those fomenting trouble or spreading hate against anybody on the grounds of religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of birth or residence, language, disability, or tribe through any means of communication.
- The punishment: two years imprisonment or a fine of Rs 5,000 or both.
- offences under the amended Section 505A be punishable: imprisonment of up to one year or fine or Rs 5,000 or both.
- It also suggested that the district cyber crime cell should be headed by an officer not below the rank of sub-inspector of police.
- Section 78 of the IT Act needs to be substituted and Section 153 and 505A of the Indian Penal Code need to be amended.

Swarn Singh

Dharavi Model

CONTEXT

Dharavi is a slum in Mumbai that reported some 99 COVID-19 cases every day in April 2021. But, in last some days, number of cases is declining gradually. According to officials, 'Dharavi model' of COVID-19 management and vaccination drive have helped in containing second wave in the slum.

CASES IN DHARAVI

According to 'Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)', slum cluster which spread across 2.5 square kilometres and located on border of island city, reported three and four cases in last two days, even though, Mumbai is witnessing coronavirus cases in four digits daily. There were total of 6,802 COVID-19 patients out of which 6,398 have recovered, while 354 have died.



WHAT IS DHARAVI MODEL?

Rise in initial phase of second covid wave pushed civic authorities to once again to initiate the "Dharavi model". The model involves 4Ts which stands for "tracing, tracking, testing and treating". This strategy was

also praised by World Health Organisation (WHO) during first wave of COVID-19. This model was activated in February 2021 again as the second wave started. Under the model, Door-to-door screening of people is conducted with symptoms, aggressive testing and regular screening.

Khyati Khare

Citizenship by Investment

CONTEXT:

Recently Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, asked neighbouring Dominica to handover India's fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi to India directly.

HIGHLIGHTS

As per Prime Minister, Choksi was living in Antigua and Barbuda since 2018 after taking citizenship in 2017 under the 'Citizenship by Investment Programme'. He will not be having same rights in Dominica as he was having in Antigua and Barbuda.

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME?

It is a program allowing individuals to get residence or citizenship of a country in return of making qualifying investments. These programs offer-

1. Citizenship by investment in which the person gets "golden passport" or "cash-for-passports"
2. Residence by investment in which person gets a "golden visa" or
3. Hybrid with immediate residence followed by accelerated citizenship.
4. Applicants of Program must fulfil multiple qualification criteria. Investment by them can be done in various forms including contribution to government funds, purchase of qualifying real estate, investment in qualifying business or creation of specific number of jobs.



WHICH COUNTRIES RUN THIS PROGRAMME?

As of now, five countries in Caribbean – Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia); Egypt; Cambodia, Malta; Jordan, Montenegro, Vanuatu and North Macedonia are running the citizenship by investment programme.

Khyati Khare

Humanity Matters, Capitalism Needs an Upgrade (The Hindu, GS-2, 3)

CONTEXT:

Capitalism which has the basic value of profit. This profit is to maximise in order to increase the return for the investor. In such episode the product or process becomes out of the reach of poor which some way or the other deprive them of their basic rights

WHY:

- Capitalism i.e. privatization provides good services
- The private sector works on the capital interest
- Private works on profit whereas public sector works on people service

WHAT IS THE CURRENT ISSUE IN A PANDEMIC:

- The covid vaccine is not available to all
- Issue of accessibility
- Issue of private companies making the intellectual property as a deprivation to people, for example, IPR on turmeric, Neem, etc.
- They are working to extract excessive profit
- India has a process patent approach which is different than the TRIPS' mentioned product patent approach
- Issue of compulsory licensing and evergreening of patents.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD

- Compassionate capitalism
- Human values must be at the forefront
- Humanity must prevail over profit
- A new path for the capitalism if it needs to sustain.

Swarn Singh

Govt. Puts Off Decision on Tax Relief for COVID-19 Supplies (The Hindu, GS-3)

CONTEXT:

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council failed to agree on immediate tax breaks for critical pandemic relief supplies, including COVID-19 vaccines.

WHY?

- States such as West Bengal, Kerala etc were demanding GST to be scrapped on the COVID-19 supply items

- The major thing is that government too needs money
- Central government wants to collect TAX so that it can finance its ongoing programs

WHAT CAN BE THE WAY FORWARD FOR THIS DEADLOCK

- Governments must put people's interest supreme
 - Interest of the people is that they must pay less so that they can fund their health program
- Political interests must set aside

Swarn Singh

Why UGC's Proposal for 'Blended Teaching' is a Bad Idea (Indian Express, GS-2, Governance)

CONTEXT:

University Grants Commission to encourage "blended teaching" in higher educational institutions effectively means replacement of face-to-face teaching with online teaching. It recommends 30 per cent of courses would be online initially.

CURRENT APPROACH:

- Present teaching is top-down
- Teacher-centric
- One-size-fits-all
- Ignores the diversity of students.

A BLENDED APPROACH:

- would provide students autonomy
- instil a disposition of self-advocacy
- promote student ownership
- enable them to learn at their own pace
- massive online open courseware or MOOCs were seen as a potential

ISSUE:

- Teaching is not just about delivering the online lecture or dictating the bookish knowledge
- Now pushing on the swayam portal, online education will somehow cut the number of teachers in the campus
- Teacher-student emotional bond will break
- Government wants to cut the budget given to the universities
- Government tries to make the hold on the education
- Homogenization can not be the way out in the education
- What about the research?

Swarn Singh

Vaccine Partnership

CONTEXT:

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken held a meeting in Washington

HIGHLIGHTS:

Both of them held a productive discussion on various aspects of bilateral cooperation and regional & global issues. They discussed Indo Pacific and Quad, Myanmar matter, Afghanistan matter and UNSC matters. Meeting also focused on "Indo-US vaccine partnership".



INDO-US VACCINE PARTNERSHIP:

The partnership aims to expand access and ensure supply of the vaccines. Following the meeting, Government of United States redirected orders of critical vaccine manufacturing supplies. This now allow India to make over 20 million additional doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

INDIA- US COOPERATION ON COVID-19:

USA had also announced to send 60 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to other nations, from June 2021, fighting pandemic. US government also provided over USD 500 million as relief supplies to India to strengthen its fight against pandemic.

ASTRAZENECA PLC:

The British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company has developed the Oxford-Astrazeneca covid-19 vaccine. It is headquartered at Cambridge Biomedical Campus in Cambridge, England. Its portfolio includes products for major diseases in fields of oncology, cardiovascular, infection, gastrointestinal, neuroscience and respiratory.

Khyati Khare

Permanent Commission for Israel and Palestine

CONTEXT:

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have called United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to establish a permanent commission; who can report on human rights violations across Israel, Gaza and West Bank; following the latest violence in Israel-Palestine Conflict.

WHAT IS PERMANENT COMMISSION:

The proposed Permanent Commission is an independent, international commission of inquiry. It will be appointed by president of UNHRC. Commission will investigate violations of humanitarian and human rights law in Israel and Palestine. Commission will authorize “commission of inquiry (COI)” which is the highest level of scrutiny. Proposed commission can also investigate all underlying causes of tensions and instability in the region often.

ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC):

OIC, comprising of 57 states, is second-largest intergovernmental organization after United Nations. It acts as “collective voice of Muslim countries”. It is involved in protection of interests of Muslims in order to promote international peace and harmony across world. It was established in 1969 following a summit in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. It is headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

IS INDIA MEMBER OF OIC:

India is not a member of OIC. But recently, India was invited as a guest of honor to attend 46th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers in 2019.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHCR):

UNHCR is an inter-governmental body of United Nations (UN), comprising 47 member states of UN, involved in strengthening promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. It was established by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2006, replacing United Nations Commission on Human Rights. It is headquartered in Geneva Switzerland. In 2019, India was elected to Council for a period of three years.

Khyati Khare