



CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

Date - 22 September 2021

A welcome decision: India to resume export of covid vaccine again (GS-III, SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS)

CONTEXT– India will resume exports of COVID-19 vaccines in the October quarter, prioritising the global vaccine-sharing platform COVAX and neighbouring countries first, as supplies rise, as per the health minister on Monday, 20 september 2021.

India stopped exports of COVID vaccine in April prioritising the inoculation of its own population as infections exploded.

The country's monthly vaccine output has been approximately more than doubled and is targeted to quadruple to over 300 million doses next month, as per minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Total production could reach 1 billion in the last three months of the year as new vaccines from companies such as **Biological E** are also likely to be approved, according to him.

The Government restricted vaccine exports in March and stopped them in mid-April but now as a welcome move to address the huge vaccine-inequity globally, India will, from October, continue exporting COVID-19 vaccines.

The decision comes after the renewed export drive, known as **Vaccine Maitri**. India has already shipped the first batch of vaccines to Bhutan and the Maldives as its vaccine diplomacy policy.

Till mid-April-

- India had supplied nearly 20 million doses to COVAX
- Donated nearly 11 million
- Sold nearly 36 million doses to 26 countries

So far it was possible to export vaccines till March because of the slow uptake of vaccines by health-care, frontline workers and Covishield vaccine manufactured late last year nearing the six-month expiry date.

The daily uptake of vaccines started rising with vaccine eligibility too — all above 45 years from April 1 and all adults above 18 years from May 1.

While the developed countries are hoarding vaccines and prioritising their vaccination, India also halt all exports.

Vaccine-inequity is striking in Africa —

- Just 2% out of six billion doses are administered here
- less than 3.5% of its people are fully vaccinated as per the reports.

While efforts are being made through COVAX to increase vaccine supply to Africa, the continent will still end up with 25% fewer doses than anticipated by the end of 2021.

Decision of U.S.A. and developed countries w.r.t. export of vaccine-

- Only 15% of one billion doses, and even more, that were pledged by the developed countries, have reached Africa so far. Thus it's becoming difficult for people to buy medicine.
- With the U.S. and other developed countries focusing efforts on approving booster doses for some specific categories, the supply of vaccines to Africa and other countries to immunise even health-care workers will continue to be restricted or neglected for the time being.
- A vaccination policy that leaves many countries in the Global South vaccine-deprived will be undoubtedly counterproductive. So long as vaccine inequity prevails, the virus will continue to circulate, increasing the possibility of more dangerous, more transmissible and resistant to vaccines variants than Delta.

Decision of India w.r.t. export of vaccine-

India has decided to resume vaccine exports. The need to quickly increase vaccine production to sustain exports and parallelly meet the ever-increasing

domestic demand cannot be overemphasised. Vaccine production must be ramped up to sustain exports and meet domestic demand.

BY RAJEEV YADAV

FACULTY of HISTORY OPTIONAL and G.S.

PLUTUS IAS

Swarn Singh

**World's Longest Highway: (Delhi-
Mumbai Expressway) GS- 3 –
Infrastructure**

CONTEXT

Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways) recently concluded the two-day review of the work progress on eight-lane Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which will reduce travel time between certain cities

to 12-12.5 hours from 24 hours. It will be the world's longest highway once completed covering a total distance of 1380km. It is expected to be completed by March 2023. It will connect Haryana's Sohna and Mira Bhayander near Mumbai. The highway project was started in the year 2018 with the project's foundation stone being laid on 9 March 2019.

ICONIC FEATURES

- It will be equipped with **onside amenities** like resorts, restaurants, first aid, food courts, fuel stations, facilities for truckers, and logistics parks.
- An **Emergency helicopter ambulance service** for accident victims and a heliport, which will use drone services for business activities as well.
- The expressway is the **first in Asia and only the second in the world to feature animal overpasses (Animal Corridors)** to facilitate unrestricted movement of wildlife.
- It will also include two world class 8-lane tunnels, one tunneling through **Mukundra sanctuary, Rajasthan** and the second will pass through the **Matheran eco-sensitive zone, Maharashtra**.
- The expressway will result in a **fuel savings** of more than 320 million litres annually and reduce **CO2 emissions** by 850 million kg which is equivalent to the planting of 40 million trees.
- The entire expressway is being constructed keeping in mind the **environment-friendly expressway** with a tree cover of 2 million trees. They are being watered with drip irrigation along the entire stretch with a rainwater harvesting system at every 500 metres.
- More than **12 lakh tonnes of steel** will be consumed in the construction of the expressway, which is equivalent to building 50 Howrah bridges.

- **80 lakh tonnes of cement** will be used for the project, which is around 2% of countries annual cement production capacity.
- The project has also **created employment** for thousands of trained civil engineers and more than 50 lakh man days of work.
- Once ready, the expressway will **feature a spur** to Noida International Airport and Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Mumbai through a spur in the financial capital.

Wayforward

- The connectivity of India's capital with its financial capital will improve connectivity of other economic hubs like Jaipur, Kishangarh, Ajmer, Kota, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore, Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat.
- It will give a boost to other such projects across the country thereby leading to overall development.
- Such projects not only save economic time but will help to enhance overall energy saving for the country.

By ANSHUM VERMA

**FACULTY (POLITY, GEOGRAPHY &
ENVIRONMENT)**

Swarn Singh

Documentary Sabaya: Social issues raising Documentary (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

Context

Swedish documentary film Sabaya directed by Hogir Hirori is a documentary which shows the pathetic conditions of sex slaves of. This group generally work for the sex slaves who are arrested by ISIS in Al-Hawl. This documentary was shown in its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on 30 January 2021. Al Hawl is a outpost town of Syria where this refugee camp is situated

The award-winning documentary by Hogir Hirori reflects the struggles of activists determined to save Yazidi girls and women who were arrested by the “Islamic State.”

Story of the documentary

In the beginning of the film it has been shown that ISIS, an Islamic terrorist group has been defeated. In this movie it has been shown how Mahmud and Ziyad, volunteers of the Yazidi with other fellows, visited the dangerous internment camp al-Hol. At this place approx 73,000 individuals from 58 countries are living in tents. Most of them were supporters of ISIS and belonged to the family of ISIS .

Yazidi girls are Hidden among them. They were kidnapped by IS to serve as sex slaves. These girls are called “sabaya.”

The ISIS people abducted these girls five years ago, when IS captured the province of Sinjar in Iraq. massacre against the Yazidis in 2014 in the region was the symbol or mark of the beginning of the genocide of the ancient religious minority.

Immersive cinema

This is very appreciable that Mahmud, Ziyad and the small team of the Yazidi Home Center saved the captive Yazidi. The filmmaker Hogir Hirori joined them to document their dangerous rescue missions.

The documentary Sabaya was presented at the Human Rights Film Festival Berlin in Sept 2020 . This film was shown for the first time in Berlin and because of the covid pandemic the director could personally attend due to COVID. This documentary Sabaya has already been shown at 30 international festivals . It is the most appreciable documentary and has won the 2021 World Documentary Directing Award at Sundance as well as other prizes.

About the director

The director was born in Kurdistan. Kurdistan is a place near Sinjar where ISIS had captured these girls. This director learnt a lot of things from these experiences also. Although he has been living living in Sweden since 1999,

Sabaya is his third film. Besides Sabaya and the ***Girl Who Saved My Life*** (2014) and ***The Deminer (2017)*** other two films directed by him . These films are also based on the impact of war in the region.

Significance

After this film many international agencies came forward and rescued these women . now days this area is not under the control of ISIS and most of the sex slaves have been rescued but still 2,000 – 2,800 girls are missing according to various estimates.

After the completion of the film, Ziyad, the director of the Yazidi Home Center had to leave Syria because ISIS is still trying to control this region . But this director is continuing his work and showing the world the pathetic condition of women in this area.

By Dr Anshul Bajpai

Swarn Singh

The Puppet Art : An Effort to Protect this dying art (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

Context

In the thousands years of the history of Puppet art , the first time leather puppets were performed . By using computer technology the epic Ramayana was displayed . Sajeesh Pulava was the person who used technology to perform this puppet art

The Puppet art of Puppetry

Puppetry Puppet art is a form of theatre or performing art in which puppets are substitutes with humans . Through Puppets all the performance is done. Generally animal and human both may be puppet figures. These puppets are animated or manipulated by a human called a puppeteer. In modern days , we can equate this puppetry art with animated cartoons .

Puppets can interact directly with the public , act as storytellers, represent a character from a play text, comment on the themes of a play, or contribute to the mood and atmosphere of a performance.

History of the Puppetry

It is one of the oldest of the world and generally it has been considered that Puppetry is a form of theatre which had evolved in the 5th century BC in Ancient Greece. Even though people knew sculpture making techniques, so many archaeologists tried to prove that this puppetry art was as old as 3000 years BC. There are many forms of Puppetry but all of them consist of the process of animating inanimate performing objects to express its expressions for narrating any story.

TYPES OF PUPPETS AND THEIR USES

- Hand (or different parts of the body)
- Rod (or sticks)
- String (or marionettes)
- Hand puppets are those puppets which can be operated or manipulated by the puppeteer's hand or hands. This can be said as glove puppet also
- Mouth puppets are similar to hand puppets. Since the puppeteer's hand is used to operate the mouth and head both simultaneously for the expressions. They are so called because their most distinctive characteristic is a moving mouth.
- Rod puppets are held and moved by rods or sticks made of wood or wire, which are attached above, below, or behind the puppet.
- Shadow puppets are flat cut out figures held by any number of rods or wires against a translucent (semitransparent) screen which is illuminated from behind.
- String puppetry (also called "marionettes", the French word for puppet) refers to puppets operated by strings. The puppet is suspended on strings, cotton or nylon cord from a control bar held by the puppeteer.

Regions of the Puppetry Art

This art is generally popular in the regions of Rajasthan, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Puppetry art and Their regions

- Kathputli, Rajasthan
- Kundhei, Odisha
- Gombeyatta, Karnataka
- Bommalattam, Tamil Nadu
- Shadow Puppets
- Togalu Gombeyatta , Karnataka
- Tholu Bommalata, Andhra Pradesh
- Ravana Chhaya, Orissa
- Rod Puppets
- Putul Nautch, West Bengal
- Yampuri, Bihar
- Pavakoothu, Kerala

Artist related to Puppetry art

- Suresh Dutta
- Ranganath Rao
- Dadi Pudumjee
- Ramdas Pandhye

Nowadays Puppetry art is facing the problem of its audiences . audiences are losing their interest . as per the changing technology , in puppetry art we should use technology to animate it as per the requirement . this art is our cultural heritage so government also come forward to protect and to promote this art

By Dr Anshul Bajpai

Swarn Singh

Plutus IAS