



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Date – 9 September 2022

Leaving behind the symbols of slavery: Kartavya Path

Why it is in the News?

Recently the Kingsway, or Rajpath, was renamed Kartavya Path, by the honorary Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi. Stating that the symbol of slavery has become a matter of history from today and has been erased forever.

How did Delhi become the capital?



- In 1911 the British Imperial Government and the Viceregal administration intended that the capital of the British Indian Empire should be shifted to Delhi, from Calcutta.
- The British government believed that ruling India from Delhi believed India from Delhi was easier and more convenient than from Calcutta
- As a consequence, New Delhi was constructed according to a New capital that year, so that it would serve as the purpose-built administrative capital of the Indian Empire.
- The British Raj duly gave responsibility to Sir Edwin Lutyens to construct the new city.

- New Delhi was inaugurated by Lord Irwin as the capital of India, on February 13, 1931, 86 years ago.

The story behind Rajpath:



- Rajpath runs in an east-west direction. Roads from Connaught Place, the financial center of Delhi, run into Rajpath from the north.
- When the road was built, it was named King's Way, or Kingsway, in honor of the Emperor of India George V, who had visited Delhi during the Delhi Durbar of 1911.
- After Independence, the name was changed to Rajpath, the Hindi translation of the world Kingsway.
- Edwin Lutyens the architect of that time, came up with a modern imperial city centered around a "ceremonial axis", such axis being the large boulevard now named Kartavya Path.
- Lutyens wanted a panoramic view of the city of Delhi from the viceregal palace.
- Most of the buildings surrounding the Kartavya Path were designed by Lutyens and the second architect of the project, Sir Herbert Baker. The importance of such buildings in the government of India ensures the road's importance.

The Kartavya Path



- PM Modi renamed it Kartavya path on the 7th of Sept 2022 which means the duty to serve

- It was redeveloped under The Central Vista Redevelopment Project, which started construction on 4 February 2021 and is planned to be finished in 2026 in phases.
- A statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was installed, 28 feet tall, that is, a little taller than a two-story building.
- The jet black granite statue was placed under the Grand Canopy to the east of the India Gate, halfway on the east-west axis to the National War Memorial.
- The statue has been carved out of a monolithic block of granite weighing 280 tonnes.

Farhin

Flash flood and its risk in coming years (9th Sept 2022)

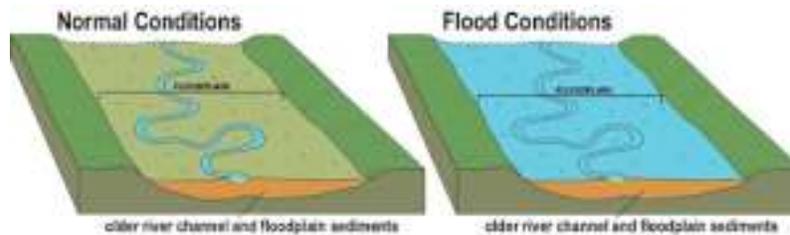
Why in the news?

Death toll in Himachal downpour rises to 21, railway bridge collapses

What are they, and how are they different?

- **Flash Floods:-** Flash Floods refer to such environmental situations where outrageous or continuous rainfall over a period of days, or during particular seasons can lead to stagnation of water and cause flooding in a much shorter span of time.
- A study by the US's meteorological agency, the National Weather Service, says flash floods are caused when rainfall creates flooding in less than 6 hours.
- It adds that flash floods can also be caused by factors apart from rainfall, like when water goes beyond the levels of a dam.
- In the Indian climate, flash floods are often associated with cloudbursts – sudden, intense rainfall in a short period of time.
- Himalayan states further face the challenge of overflowing glacial lakes, formed due to the melting of glaciers, and their numbers have been increasing in the last few years.
- Flash flooding generally occurs more where rivers are narrow and steep, so they flow more quickly,

- They can also occur in urban areas located near small rivers since hard surfaces such as roads and concrete do not allow the water to absorb into the ground.



How common are these floods and normal floods?

- Flash floods have been frequently witnessed in cities like Chennai and Mumbai.
- India is the worst flood-affected country in the world after Bangladesh and accounts for one-fifth of the global death count due to floods, as per government data issued from a project by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority.
- Depression and cyclonic storms in the coastal areas of Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and others also cause flash floods.
- Also, the data from the National Disaster Management Authority, stated that one of the primary reasons for flood situations occurring so commonly is that nearly 75 percent of the total Indian rainfall is concentrated over a short monsoon season of four months (June to September). which results, the rivers witness a heavy discharge during these months.

Consequences of Flash Flood



- Loss of the natural environment (including vegetation, agriculture, geomorphology, and pollution)
- Loss of the human population (entrapments, injuries, fatalities).
- Loss of infrastructure in the particular area.

Way forward.

As stated by the Indian geologist there is one way of dealing with the current situation is a comprehensive strategy of monitoring the ground in hilly areas,

planning development works in a way that is sensitive to the region's ecology, and mitigation to reduce the extent of damages.

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COVID VACCINATION : TRACING TARGETS

CONTEXT: Its now relieving time for the world as we have now passed the crucial waves of the COVID-19 virus which rattled the world for long. The vaccine is the most effective tool to deal with the unprecedented threat of the virus. WHO (World Health Organisation) has set the target to vaccinate 70% of the humanity by mid-2022 i.e., June/July 2022. The timeline has lapsed and we are ahead now to check the status and India's contribution and possible solution for it.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF TARGET?

In October 2021, WHO has decided to **vaccinate 70% of the world population** with COVID-19 protection dose to spread its further spread and to make it a dwarf disease. This target was set with the view to promote vaccine equity and justice specially keeping poor and underdeveloped countries in mind.

By the month of September 2022, we are having only 3% of global vaccination in underdeveloped countries with one dose and if overall this figure stands below 10% of all. Thus, it is clear that WHO missed its target by a considerable margin and there are many possible reasons as-

1. The time taken for research and approval of the vaccine
2. **Vaccine hesitancy and reservation** is still major factor in the African and Asiatic societies.
3. The adaptability of the COVID-19 virus which modified in different strains, India was impacted huge by Omicron strain.
4. The **Poor funding** commitments and its non- followance which made WHO's target a distant dream.
5. **The geopolitics** involved makes the process further complicated and thus, delayed.

Hence it is clear that world agency has failed its target but attributed to many socio-economic reasons making the humanity deprived of 'Herd immunity' and to remain under constant threat of micro virus.

INDIAS HELPING HANDS

India, being the **Pharmacy of the world** is the producer of **60 % of world** vaccine and is said to be 60-80% supplier of UNO vaccine procurement. There is hardly any doubt that India can solve the problem we as a humanity is facing, even now.

On her part, India contributed **594.35 lakhs** of COVID doses by 2021 to almost 72 countries in need. Most of them are poor and underdeveloped countries. It's also interesting to know, of this supply 82 lakh were as gifts and 175 lakh were under GAVI's COVAX programme – which shows the classic example of global vaccine responsibility. Even in severe rattling strain of 2nd wave the supply was continued considering the India's role to save the Humanity. India also moved proposal to keep IPR –patents out for vaccine related to COVID-19.

INDIA'S GAIN

- India, the follower of '**Vasudhaiv kutumbakam**' (the whole world is our family) benefitted by saving thousands of life as moral duty.
- Apart from it also benefitted by **vaccine diplomacy and gaining diplomatic advantage** as acted as friend in need is friend indeed.
- It also provide more **market access** to Indian vaccine, even in developed countries.
- The production created **employment and taxation** to the government.
- There are many tangible and intangible benefits with this timely help.

WHAT FURTHER NEEDS TO DONE?

- The production need to promote and accelerated so that supply can be consistent.
- There is need to strengthened global vaccine supply chain to fast forward the process.
- There is need to keep patent and rights away from the global danger and to promote its free use.
- Geopolitics has to keep aside and free responsible funding has to ensure so that the drive to save could never be halted.
- For future, there is need for a treaty including all cooperation, sharing of data, genome sequencing to avoid any regional disease to become mammoth like COVID.

Though, target deadline passed but still the threat is active and it's better to late than never. The world has to unite, to accelerate the vaccination drive. The global

co-operation and responsible contribution can shield the world from current and future emerging dangers

Akshay gurubhaiye

