



Drishti CURRENT AFFAIRS TODAY

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES



- Learning Through Maps
- Academic Vitamins
- Current Affairs
- Target Mains
- To The Point

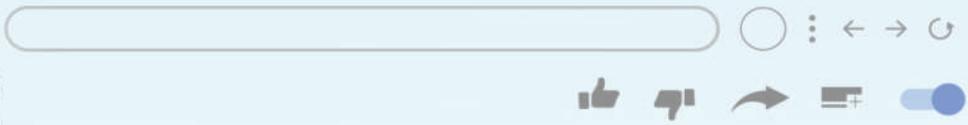


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THIS MAGAZINE IS A RESULT OF TEAM
COLLABORATION. WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE
TO ALL OUR TEAM MEMBERS. APART FROM THE
GIVEN NAMES, SEVERAL FREELANCE WRITERS
HAVE ALSO MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS.

DEAR ASPIRANTS,

As the COVID-19 spreads its reach far and wide, the humanity gasps for breath. Caused by the novel Coronavirus, the disease COVID-19 has already been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Almost every country in the world is struggling to get out of this pandemic, India is no exception. In fact, India is one of the most vulnerable countries given its population density and meagre health infrastructure. In this context, it is of paramount importance that any decision, in haste or under pressure, is avoided as it can trigger the spread of the pandemic in the rural areas, which have relatively been less affected. This again makes the imposition of the lockdown somewhat acceptable for breaking the chain of this devastating virus.

At the same time, it must also be noted that human beings are a social animal and any stretched period of life in isolation may have its own repercussions in terms of feeling depressed and mentally fatigued. We all should be mindful of the risks because it is the awareness of this risk that can go a long way in mitigating it. It holds more or less the same level of significance for the civil service aspirants.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has postponed the civil service examination set to be conducted on 31st of May till further notice. Aspirants might be feeling apprehensive about their future as the examination cycle gets delayed. However, it must be noted that it is a situation of extraordinary kind demanding extraordinary steps. It must also be noted that nothing is permanent in nature, everything is transient. This pandemic will certainly die down sooner or later. So, we must use this hiatus in examination cycle more productively. Preparation for the examination must go in full throttle.

With this vision, we at Drishti constantly endeavour to help you wade the troubled waters. This edition of the Drishti Current Affairs Today comprises the Special Supplement on Government Schemes. This Supplement has been prepared by keeping in mind the importance of Government Schemes in the Preliminary examination. It will be of immense use to our readers.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

With Best Wishes

(Dr. Vikas Divyakirti)

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Polity & Governance

POLICY WATCH

Centre Defines J&K Domicile Rules

Recently, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has issued the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020**.

- On 5th August 2019, the Centre **revoked J&K's special status under Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution and bifurcated it into the UTs of J&K and Ladakh**.
 - The two revoked constitutional provisions let the state legislature decide the **'permanent residents'**, prohibiting a non-J&K resident from buying property there and ensuring job reservation for its residents.

Key highlights of order

- It amended and repealed several laws of the erstwhile State and inserted the **'domicile'** clause in the **Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act, 2010**.
- The clause for **'permanent resident of the State'** under the 2010 Act, has been substituted by **'Domicile'** of the UT.
 - The Act pertained to **employment in the civil services** comprising "district, divisional and State" cadre posts.
 - The **power to issue domicile certificates has been given to "tahsildar"**. Owing to protests, the Central Government amended the clause which considered any person fulfilling the eligibility criteria as "deemed to be" a domicile.
- **Protection to domiciles to "any post"** in the government of J&K **including senior level positions in Group A and Group B category**. This reserves all jobs in the Union Territory for only its domiciles.
 - Earlier the protection to domiciles was **provided only in Group D** and entry level non-gazetted government posts. This opened all other government posts to anyone from the rest of the country.

Criteria for Domiciles

- Someone who has **resided for a period of 15 years** in the UT of J&K or
 - Someone who has **studied for a period of seven years and appeared in Class 10th/12th examination** in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K or
 - Someone who is **registered as a migrant by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants)**.
 - **Children** of Central government officials, All India Services, PSUs, autonomous body of Centre, Public Sector Banks, officials of statutory bodies, Central Universities, recognised research institutes of Centre who have served in J&K for a **total period of 10 years**.
 - **Children of such residents of J&K** who reside outside J&K in connection with their employment or business or other professional or vocational reasons but their parents **fulfil any of the conditions provided**.
- The order also amended the **Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984** which fixes the pension for former legislators and councillors.
 - The notification **scraps all pension benefits** such as car, driver, accommodation, phones, electricity, medical facilities and rent-free accommodation to former J&K Chief Ministers.
 - The order has also made amendments to the **Public Safety Act (PSA) 1978** by removing a clause that prohibited J&K residents booked under the Act to be lodged in jails outside.
 - It **changes the criteria for appointing the PSA advisory board** on the recommendation of a search committee headed by the Chief Secretary instead of the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court.
 - ◆ The advisory board has a crucial role to play in release of detenus under the PSA.
 - It also **bars sitting High Court judges to be made part of the board** without the Chief justice's consultation.
 - The order also **scraps a clause that deals with the power to regulate place and conditions of detention**.

Public Health vs Private Information

Recently, a list containing private information of suspects of Covid-19 was not only found on social media but also some state governments, officially, have made public the disclosure of data of those under quarantine.

Nation & States

Sahyog App: Survey of India

The **Survey of India (SoI)** has developed an e-platform that will collect geotagged information on the nation's critical infrastructure in order to help the Government and public health agencies take critical decisions in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic situation.

- To support this platform, a **mobile application called Sahyog** has also been created. This app will help collect location specific data with the help of community workers.

Key Points

- **Swift Solution:** Data collection by formal land survey is a lengthy and time taking process but the mobile app can help **crowdsource data quickly**.
- **Complement Arogya Setu App:** This will complement the recently launched Aarogya Setu App that helps trace the contacts of those who may have been infected by Covid-19.
- **Relevant Information:** Information regarding biomedical waste disposals, containment areas, available hospitals for Covid-19 cases, ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) testing laboratories and quarantine camps **will be integrated** on this platform with their latitudinal and longitudinal parameters. This could be customised to a variety of 'Covid-related applications' such as healthcare facilities, infection clusters and disaster management.
- **Data Localisation:** Data collected using Sahyog application will be used for creating various applications for everyone's usage and would facilitate building a **dataset that remains inside India**.
- **Support System:** The **data fed by the volunteers** working on the ground such as the ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and Anganwadi workers will lead to a good support system for the government and doctors on ground.
- **Health Delivery System:** This will strengthen the **public health delivery system** of the central and state governments by providing necessary information to workers dealing with the challenges of health, socio-economic distress and livelihood changes.

- **Integration on Single Platform:** A lot of geospatial data about locations of fire services, banquet halls etc. is already present with the Government which was not integrated in a single platform. This is a step in that direction.

Survey of India

- It is the National Survey and Mapping Organization of the country under the **Department of Science & Technology**.
- It was **established in 1767** and is the **oldest scientific department** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered at **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- The Survey of India acts as **adviser to the Government of India** on all survey matters, viz Geodesy, Photogrammetry, Mapping and Map Reproduction.
 - **Geodesy** is the science of **accurately measuring** and understanding the **Earth's geometric shape**, orientation in space and gravity field.
 - **Photogrammetry** is the science of making measurements from photographs.

Concerns

- **Privacy:** Arogya Setu and applications like Sahyog that link to it, could **infringe privacy** as there wasn't clarity on how the data would be shared between the two applications.
- **Lack of Clarity:** Arogya Setu's terms of use were unclear on several aspects including **how long data would be stored** and what would happen to it after the pandemic has ceased.
- **Effectiveness:** Additionally, there is also a question of proportionality, i.e. in India, compared to its population, **smartphone users are very less** which means very few people will be able to download the app.

Privacy Concern Over Aarogya Setu App

Recently, some legal experts have raised concerns over the privacy policy of **Aarogya Setu app**, launched by the Central government.

- They are of the view that there is a need for clarity on how the data collected by the app be stored and used by the government.

Aarogya Setu App

- Aarogya Setu app has been launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.

Economic Scenario

Economic Impact of Covid-19

Amid the ongoing economic slowdown due to Covid-19 pandemic, the government witnessed a **fall in tax collections** and **foreign investors sold over ₹1 lakh-crore securities** in a month (March) for the first time in history.

Fall in Tax Collections

■ Direct Tax Collections

- Direct tax is a tax paid directly by an individual or organization to the imposing entity. For example, income tax.
- The **government's net direct tax collections have missed the downward revised target** for 2019-20 by ₹1.42 lakh crore. The overall collection stood at ₹10.27 lakh crore. This is a decline of over 8% from previous year's receipts.
- The contraction in direct tax collections in a financial year has been witnessed after a gap of 20 years. The Centre's direct tax receipts had last seen a year-on-year decline in 1998-99, when collections recorded a contraction of 3.5% in that financial year.

■ Indirect Tax Collections

- Indirect tax is a tax collected by one entity in the supply chain and paid to the government, but it is passed on to the consumer as part of the purchase price of a good or service. GST is an indirect tax.
- The **government has missed its Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections target**. The reasons that led to the fall in GST collections in March below the ₹1 lakh crore mark are: a drop of 7.8% in returns filing over last month, 4% fall over last year in domestic revenue, a sharp 23% fall in revenue from imports.

■ Consequences

- The government is **likely to miss its revised fiscal deficit target of 3.8% for 2019-20**. The government's fiscal deficit during April-February increased to 135.2% of the revised estimate for the fiscal year 2019-20.

Foreign Investors Sell Securities

- For the first time in the history of the Indian capital market, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have sold securities worth over ₹1 lakh crore in a single month (March 2020).
- As per data from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), the cumulative net outflow from the debt and equity segments was pegged at ₹1.18 lakh crore in March. This is more than double the previous high of ₹44,000 crore witnessed in June.
- **Reason:** According to market participants, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic that has affected stocks worldwide is the primary reason for such record outflows as foreign investors move away from riskier assets and emerging markets.
- However, **buying by Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs)** has been acting as a strong counter force to the selling by foreign investors.

Impact of Covid-19 on India's GDP

- According to the **World Bank's South Asia Economic Focus report**, India will grow at 1.5-2.8% in 2020-21 which is the slowest since 1991 economic reforms.
- As per the **International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Report**, India's growth is expected to dip to 1.9% in 2020 and rebound to 7.4% in 2021.

Impact of Covid-19 on Global Economy

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has observed that the economic uncertainty sparked by the **Covid-19 will likely cost the global economy \$1 trillion in 2020**.
- Global financial market is fluctuating due to the supply-chain interruptions from China and oil price uncertainty among major producers.
- European economies had already been performing extremely bad towards the end of 2019. Europe may go into recession over the coming months.
- Many parts of the Latin American region are also vulnerable. Argentina in particular will be struggling as a consequence of the knock-on effects of this pandemic.

International Relations

India-China: 70 Years of Diplomatic Relations

India and China mark 1st April 2020 as the **70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them starting from 1950 till now.**

Facts and Figures on China-India Cooperation

■ Political and Diplomatic Relations

- The **Communist Party of China (CPC)** has maintained friendly exchanges with 9 major Indian political parties including the BJP, Congress and left-wing parties for a long time.
- 20 **Inter-parliamentary friendship groups** have been set up by China and India.
- There are 50 **dialogue mechanisms** between China and India for exchanging views on various topics of bilateral, regional and global concern.

■ Economy and Trade

- Since the beginning of the 21st century, trade between China and India has grown from less than \$3 billion to nearly \$100 billion, an **increase of about 32 times.**
 - ◆ In 2019, the trade volume between China and India was \$92.68 billion.
- With a **combined market of over 2.7 billion people and a GDP of 20% of the world's total**, China and India enjoy huge potential and broad prospects for economic and trade cooperation.

■ Science and Technology

- Both nations have held **Joint Research workshops** on Science and Technology Innovation.
- Indian companies have set up **IT corridors in China**, which help promote China-India cooperation in information technology and high technology.

■ Defense

- **'Hand-in-Hand' joint anti-terrorist exercises** to enhance mutual understanding and trust, exchange training experiences and jointly improve anti-terrorism capabilities.
- **China-India defense and security consultation** to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the defense field.

■ People-to-People Exchanges

- Both nations have held meetings of **China-India High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism.** The two sides have made new progress on exchanges and cooperation in the fields of art, publishing, media, film and television, museum, sports, youth, tourism, locality, traditional medicine, yoga, education and think tanks.
- Sessions of **China-India High Level Media Forum** and **China-India Think Tank Forum** were held to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the field of media and think tanks.
- The two countries have established **pairs of sister cities and provinces.** For example, sister provinces and cities between **Fujian Province and Tamil Nadu State, Quanzhou City and Chennai City.**
- The **number of Indian pilgrims to Xizang Autonomous Region of China has surged** from several hundreds in the 1980s to more than 20,000 in 2019.

Way Forward

- Today's achievements of India-China relations embody the great efforts of several generations.
- Both nations **need to master the four keys of:**
 - **Leading:** It means to reach consensus and guide the direction of the development of bilateral relations under the guidance of leaders from both nations.
 - **Transmitting:** It means to transmit the leaders' consensus to all levels and translate it into tangible cooperation and outcomes.
 - **Shaping:** It means to go beyond the mode of managing differences, shape bilateral relations actively and accumulate positive momentum.
 - **Integrating:** It means to strengthen exchanges and cooperation, promote convergence of interests and achieve common development.
- At this moment, it is particularly important to revisit the original aspiration of establishing diplomatic relations 70 years ago and carry forward the spirit of good neighborliness friendship, unity and cooperation.

CHRONOLOGY

1950

- India and China established diplomatic relations on 1st April 1950.
- India was the first non-socialist country to establish relations with the People's Republic of China and the catchphrase 'Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai' became famous.

1954: The Five Principles, as stated by the Panchsheel Treaty, was signed on April 29, 1954.

1955

- Both countries attended the Asian-African Conference in which 29 countries participated in Bandung, Indonesia and jointly advocated the Bandung Spirit of solidarity, friendship and cooperation.
- It led to the decolonisation of the whole of Asia and Africa and to the formation of a Non-Aligned Movement as the third way between the Two Blocs of Superpowers.
- The First NAM Summit took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961.

1962: The border conflict led to a serious setback in bilateral relations.

1976: China and India restored ambassadorial relations and bilateral ties improved gradually.

1988

- Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited China, initiating the process of normalization of bilateral relations.
- The two sides agreed to look forward and develop bilateral relations actively in other fields while seeking a mutually acceptable solution to boundary questions.

1992

- Indian President R. Venkataraman visited China.
- He was the first President who visited China since the independence of the Republic of India.

1996

- Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited India.
- He was the first head of State from China who visited India since the establishment of bilateral ties.
- Agreement between the Government of China and the Government of India on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas was signed.

2000: Indian President K R Narayanan visited China on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India.

2008: "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century" was agreed upon by the two governments.

2010

- The 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India.

- In December, the two countries issued a Joint Communiqué.

2011

- It was the 'China-India Exchange Year'.
- Both sides held a series of people-to-people and cultural exchange activities.
- Both of them signed a memorandum on joint compilation for the 'Encyclopedia of India-China Cultural Contacts'.

2012

- It was the 'Year of China-India Friendship and Cooperation'.
- The head of the governments met each other on the sidelines of the 4th BRICS Summit and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

2015

- The two sides met on the sidelines of the 7th BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia and the Leaders' Meetings on East Asia Cooperation in Malaysia.
- China decided to open the Nathu La Pass (Sikkim) to Indian official pilgrims.
- India celebrated the India Tourism Year in China.

2018

- Chinese President held an informal meeting with Indian Prime Minister in Wuhan which set up a new model of exchanges between two leaders.
- Indian Prime Minister visited China to attend the SCO Summit in Qingdao.
- The two leaders met again on the sidelines of the 10th BRICS Summit and the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires.

2019

- The second informal meeting was held in Mamallapuram, Chennai which reaffirmed the Wuhan consensus.
- Both nations agreed to build a closer partnership for development, enhance the in-depth strategic communication, promote mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and advance exchanges and mutual learning between the two civilizations.
- Both sides met on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Bishkek and the 11th BRICS Summit.

2020

- It marks the year of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India.
- It is also China-India Year of Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, where the two sides agreed to hold 70 celebratory activities to demonstrate the historic connection between the two civilizations as well as their growing bilateral relationship.

Environment & Ecology

Human Activities Responsible for Zoonoses

According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), 60% of human infectious diseases originate from animals.

Key Points

- **Zoonoses** is the name given to Diseases and infections naturally transmitted from animals to humans. It is based on the Greek words for “animal” and “sickness”.
 - **Examples:** Rabies (rabid dogs), Ebola (fruit bats), West Nile virus (infected mosquitoes), Zika virus (infected Aedes mosquito) and Covid-19 (bat/pangolin).
- **Data Related to Zoonoses**
 - On an average, one new infectious disease emerges in humans every four months.
 - Rodents, primates and bats are hosts of three-quarters of viruses transmitted to humans.
 - Domestic animals also carry about 50% of the zoonoses identified.
 - In 2016, the UNEP pointed out that 75% of all emerging infectious diseases in humans are zoonotic (pertaining to zoonoses).
 - ◆ According to it, these zoonotic diseases are closely interlinked with the health of ecosystems.
 - **Deaths due to Zoonoses:** The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) estimates that zoonoses kill around 700,000 people a year.
- **Changed Ecosystems**
 - Zoonoses are opportunistic and thrive where there are changes in the environment, changes in animal or human populations that serve as hosts for certain pathogens or changes in the pathogen (disease causing microorganisms) itself.
 - In the last century, a combination of population growth and reduction in ecosystems and biodiversity has culminated in unprecedented opportunities for pathogens to pass between animals and people.

■ Humans-led Changes in the Environment

- **By altering land use:** For settlement, agriculture, logging, extractive or other industries and their associated infrastructure, humans fragment and encroach into animal habitats.
 - **Destruction of natural buffer zones:** Creating opportunities for pathogens to spill over from wild animals to people which are otherwise prevented by buffer zones.
 - **Climate change:** Primarily the result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions exacerbates the situation. Changes in temperature, humidity and seasonality directly affect the survival of microbes in the environment.
 - **Proximity to different species:** Wet (live animal) markets or consumption of wild animals can also facilitate animal to human transmission.
 - **Resistance to Drugs:** One example of this is the emerging resistance of pathogens to antimicrobial drugs such as antibiotics, antifungals, antiretrovirals and antimalarials. It often result from the misuse of the drugs, either by people or in veterinary medicine.
 - **Domesticated animals:** They often act as a “bridge” between pathogens from the wild and humans.
- ## ■ Global Action
- UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and hundreds of partners across the planet have launched a 10-year effort to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.
 - Known as the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030**, this globally-coordinated response to the loss and degradation of habitats will focus on building political will and capacity to restore humankind’s relation with nature.

Suggestions

- **Addressing** zoonotic disease emergence requires addressing its root cause which is primarily the impact of human activities on ecosystems.

Science & Technology

Ebola Death in Democratic Republic of Congo

According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the Democratic Republic of Congo recorded a second **Ebola death** in days following more than seven weeks without a new case.

Key Points

- The Ebola outbreak has killed more than 2,200 people since August 2018. During this outbreak it **killed about two thirds of those it infected**.
- The cases appear when the **Democratic Republic of Congo** had been due to mark an end to the second-deadliest outbreak of the virus on record.
- **No clarity on contractions:** It is not yet clear how the new cases emerged. Neither there was any contact

with other Ebola patients, nor the patient was a survivor of the virus which could have relapsed.

- **Flare-ups or one-off transmissions (sudden outburst) are common towards the end of Ebola outbreaks**, and a new case does not necessarily mean that the virus will spread out of control again.



Ebola Virus Disease

- Ebola virus disease, formerly known as **Ebola haemorrhagic fever** was first discovered in **1976 near the Ebola River** in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since then, the virus has been infecting people from time to time, leading to outbreaks in several African countries.
- **Transmission:** Fruit bats of the **Pteropodidae** family are natural Ebola virus hosts.
 - **Animal to human transmission:** Ebola is introduced into the human population through close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals such as fruit bats, chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope or porcupines found ill or dead or in the rainforest.
 - **Human-to-human transmission:** Ebola spreads via direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with:
 - ◆ Blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.
 - ◆ Objects that have been contaminated with body fluids (like blood, feces, vomit) from a person infected with Ebola or the body of a person who died from Ebola.
- **Incubation Period:** The incubation period, that is, the time interval from infection with the virus to onset of symptoms, is from 2 to 21 days.
 - A person infected with Ebola cannot spread the disease until they develop symptoms.
- **Symptoms:** Symptoms of Ebola can be sudden and include:
 - Fever ● Fatigue ● Muscle pain ● Headache ● Sore throat ● Vomiting ● Diarrhoea
 - Symptoms of impaired kidney and liver function
 - In some cases, both internal and external bleeding
- **Diagnosis:** It can be difficult to clinically distinguish Ebola from other infectious diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever, and meningitis but confirmation that symptoms are caused by Ebola virus infection are made using the following diagnostic methods:
 - Antibody-capture Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA). It also tests **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome** and **Kyasanur Forest Disease**.
 - Antigen-capture detection tests ● Serum neutralization test
 - Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) assay ● Electron microscopy
 - Virus isolation by cell culture.
- **Vaccines:** An experimental Ebola vaccine, called **rVSV-ZEBOV** proved highly protective against EVD in a major trial in Guinea in 2015.
 - The rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine is being used in the ongoing 2018-2019 Ebola outbreak in DRC. Pregnant and breastfeeding women should have access to the vaccine under the same conditions as for the general population.
 - The public mistrust and militia attacks have prevented health workers from reaching some hard-hit areas for administering the vaccines.

History, Art & Culture

Mahavir Jayanti

- Mahavir Jayanti is one of the most auspicious festivals in the Jain community.
- This day marks the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira, who **was the 24th** and the **last Tirthankara** who succeeded the **23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha**.
- According to Jain texts, Lord Mahavira was born on the 13th day of the bright half of the moon in the **month of Chaitra**.
 - As per the Gregorian calendar, Mahavir Jayanti is usually celebrated during the month of March or April.
- A procession is taken out with the idol of Lord Mahavira called the Rath Yatra.
- Reciting stavans or Jain prayers, statues of the lord are given a ceremonial bath called abhisheka.

Lord Mahavira

- Mahavir was born to King Siddhartha of Kundagrama and Queen Trishala, a **Lichchhavi princess around 540 BC in the Vajji kingdom**, identical with modern day Vaishali in Bihar.
- Mahavira belonged to the **Ikshvaku dynasty**.
- There are several historians who believe that he was born in a place called Ahalya bhumi and the land has not been plowed for hundreds of years by the family that owns it.
- Lord Mahavir was named **Vardhamana**, which means **“one who grows”**.
- He abandoned worldly life at the age of 30 and attained **‘kaivalya’** or omniscience at the age of 42.
- Mahavira taught **Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), Asteya (non-stealing), Brahmacharya (chastity) and Aparigraha (non-attachment)** to his disciples and his teachings were called Jain Agamas.
- Ordinary people were able to understand the teachings of Mahavira and his followers because they used **Prakrit**.
- It is believed that the Mahavira passed away and attained moksha (liberation from the cycle of birth and death) at the age of 72 in 468 BC at a place called **Pavapuri near modern Rajgir in Bihar**.

Jainism

- The word Jaina comes from the term **Jina**, meaning **conqueror**.
- Tirthankara is a Sanskrit word meaning **‘Ford maker’**, i.e., one who is able to ford the river, to cross beyond the perpetual flow of earthly life.
- Jainism attaches utmost importance to **ahimsa or non-violence**.
- It preaches **5 mahavrata (the 5 great vows)**:
 - Ahimsa (Non-violence)
 - Satya (Truth)
 - Asteya or Acharya (Non-stealing)
 - Aparigraha (Non-attachment/Non-possession)
 - Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity)
- Among these 5 mahavrata (vows), the **Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity) was added by Mahavira**.
- The **three jewels or Triratna** of Jainism are:
 - Samyak Darshana (right faith).
 - Samyak Gyana (right knowledge).
 - Samyak Charitra (right conduct).
- Jainism is a religion of self-help.
 - There are **no gods or spiritual beings** that will help human beings.
 - It **does not condemn** the varna system.
- In later times, it got divided into **two sects**:
 - **Shvetambaras (white-clad)** under **Sthalabahu**.
 - **Digambaras (sky-clad)** under the leadership of **Bhadrabahu**.
- The important idea in Jainism is that the **entire world is animated**: even stones, rocks, and water **have life**.
- Non-injury to living beings, especially to humans, animals, plants, and insects, is central to Jaina philosophy.
- According to Jain teachings, the cycle of birth and rebirth is shaped through karma.
- Asceticism and penance are required to free oneself from the cycle of karma and achieve the liberation of the soul.
- The **practice of Santhara** is also a part of Jainism.
 - It is the ritual of fasting unto death. **Swetambara Jains call it Santhara** whereas **Digambaras call it Sallekhana**.

70 Years of Indian Council for Cultural Relations

The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** observed its **70th foundation day on 9th April 2020**.

- However, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic it has decided not to hold any celebrations to mark the occasion.

Social Issues

Woes of Migrants Amid Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic and the imposition of lockdown in order to curb it has brought the perils of migrant workers into the light.

Key Points

- Most of the migrant workers are **not routed through licensed contractors** so a huge number is excluded from getting any benefit out of the **Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) Act, 1979**.
 - According to ISMW Act, an inter-State migrant worker is any person who is recruited by or through a licensed contractor.
 - ◆ The ISMW Act was drawn up after repealing the Orissa Dadan Labour Act, 1975.
- The Act is only applicable to any **establishment which has five or more inter-State migrant workers as employees** which again leaves out a significant number of workers.
 - In reality, a small proportion of migrant workmen are placed under such establishments.
 - Migrants from establishments with less than five migrant employees also cease to be migrants, legally.
- Coronavirus crisis has exposed the inadequacy of the ISMW Act highlighting needs for legal safeguards and welfare measures for migrants.

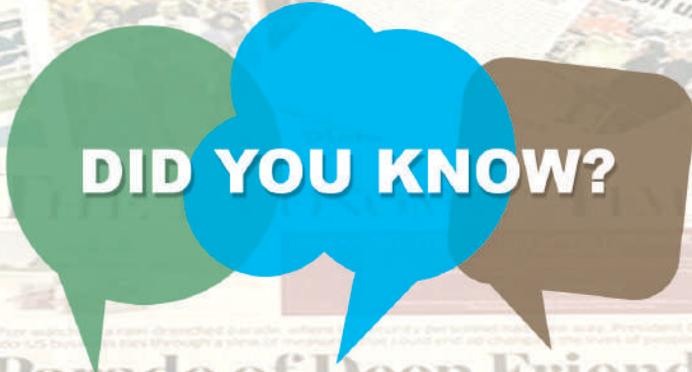
Suggestions

- Repealing of the ISMW Act, 1979 and replacing it with a new Act, or by enlarging the scope of Unorganised Workers' Social Security (UWSS) Act, 2008 to **include legal entitlements, to define the migrant workman as a subset (irrespective of whether he/she is recruited through a contractor or not), to provide for contingencies of livelihood loss**.
- Universalisation of registration and issuance of Aadhaar-based Unique Worker's Identification Number (UWIN).
- Schemes like MGNREGA, Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) and Ujjwala need to be made portable and extensive.

- Geofencing of different benefits enabling a migrant worker to choose location-wise benefits.
 - Geo-fencing is a location-based service in which an app or other software uses GPS, RFID, Wi-Fi or cellular data to trigger a pre-programmed action when a mobile device or RFID tag enters or exits a virtual boundary set up around a geographical location, known as a geofence.
- Preparing a **comprehensive database** of the migrant workers' source and destination, demography, employment patterns and skill sets.
 - It will help in skill development, providing social security benefits, planning for mass transit of migrant labour and preparing for any contingency plan in emergency situations.
- Empowering the **Inter-State Council, set up under Article 263** of the Constitution to effectively and comprehensively deal with larger issues related to migrant workers.
 - Migrant worker issues have complex Centre-State and inter-State dimensions.

Steps Taken by Government

- **The UWSS Act, 2008:** It provides for social security and welfare of unorganised workers.
 - The UWSS Act defines unorganised workers as home-based worker, self-employed worker or wage worker in the unorganised sector.
 - **It has two features:**
 - ◆ Registration of unorganised workers.
 - ◆ Portable smart I-card with a Unique Worker's Identification Number (UWIN).
- **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana:** To ensure old age protection for unorganised workers.
- **Atal Pension Yojana:** It is a social security scheme launched under the National Pension System (NPS) and aims at providing a steady stream of income after the age of 60 to all citizens of India including the migrants and labourers.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (under the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan):** Both of the schemes provide



DID YOU KNOW?

Innovations for Defence Excellence

- Launched in April, 2018, Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) is an initiative taken by the government to contribute towards modernization of the Defence Industry.
- **Aim:**
 - To promote innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries (which includes MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia).
 - To provide the engaging industries with funding and other support to carry out Research & Development.
- iDEX will be funded and managed by Defence Innovation Organization (DIO) and will function as its executive arm.

Defence Innovation Organization

It is a 'not for profit' company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013. Its two founding members are Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) - Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). HAL and BEL are navratna companies.

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

- Launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Defence with the objective of creating greater innovation and intellectual property (IP) in Defence Production Ecosystem.
- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.
 - DGQA is under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
 - The organisation provides Quality Assurance (QA) cover for the entire range of Arms, Ammunitions, Equipments and Stores supplied to Armed Forces.
- **Aim:** To achieve the goal of self-reliance in the defense sector to generate IP in India and marks a departure from the culture of seeking Transfer of Technology (ToT) from foreign sources.

Dr Ram Manohar Lohia (1910-67)

- The Prime Minister paid tribute to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia on his birth anniversary who was born on March 23, 1910.
- He was a prominent figure in socialist politics and in the movement towards Indian independence.
- **1934:** Became actively involved in the Congress Socialist Party (CSP), a left-wing group within the Indian National Congress and served in its executive committee and edited its weekly journal.
- **1939-40:** Opposed the Indian participation on the side of Great Britain in World War II and was arrested for anti-British remarks.
- **1942:** Along with other CSP leaders, he mobilised support for the Quit India movement.
- **1948:** Left Congress with other CSP members.
- **1952:** Became a member of the Praja Socialist Party upon its formation and served as general secretary for a brief period, but conflicts within the party led to his resignation in 1955.
- **1955:** Established a new Socialist Party. Became its chairman as well as the editor of its journal, Mankind.
 - He advocated for various socio-political reforms in his capacity as party leader, including the abolition of the caste system, the adoption of Hindi as India's national language, and stronger protection of civil liberties.
- **1963:** Elected to the Lok Sabha.
- **Important Work:** Marx, Gandhi and Socialism, Guilty Men of India's Partition, etc.

Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme

- Launched in April, 2003, it is a flagship scheme of the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence.
- **Aim:** To provide quality healthcare for Ex-servicemen (Army, Navy and Air Force) pensioners and their dependents.



Safeguarding Human Rights

Human rights are not a privilege conferred by the government rather they are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity.

What are Human Rights?

- Human rights are the rights which are possessed by every human being, irrespective of his or her nationality, race, religion, sex, etc. simply by virtue of being a human. They are inherent in our nature and without them, we cannot live as human beings.
- Human rights along with fundamental freedom allow us to fully develop and use our human qualities, our intelligence, our talents, and our conscience and to satisfy our physical, spiritual and other needs.

Sources of Human Rights

- **Universal Declaration On Human Rights:** Adopted in 1948, the Declaration consists of 30 articles affirming an individual's rights which, although not legally binding in themselves, have been elaborated in subsequent treaties, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions, and other laws.
- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:** Adopted in 1966, it deals with the rights of equality, personal liberty, freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, freedom from rendering compulsory personal service, freedom of expression and conscience, right to participate in the administration of the country, etc.
- **The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:** Adopted in 1966, it deals with the right to work, the right to fair wages, the right to collective bargaining, the right to carry on trade or profession, the right to establish institutions to conserve culture etc.
- **Indian Constitution:** It has guaranteed several rights which are known as Fundamental Rights.
 - Article 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Rights.

- Right to life, liberty, equality, dignity, freedom of speech and expression besides religious freedom and right against exploitation and rights of minorities are some of the enforceable rights which cannot be infringed upon by the State through executive action.
- The Constitution safeguards all citizens, individually and collectively, human rights by protecting basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights, which are justiciable.

Important Cases Regarding Human Rights

- The Supreme Court of India in the *Kesavananda Bharati, Minerva Mills and I.R. Coelho* case has upheld that fundamental rights, as such, are not immune from amendment *en block*.
- Particular rights or part thereof may be held as basic features which cannot be amended by exercising the power of amendment under Article 368 of the Constitution of India.
- **Ranjitsing Brahmajeetsing Sharma case:** The Supreme Court (SC) opined that gender injustice, pollution, environmental degradation, malnutrition, social ostracism of Dalits are various forms of violations of human rights. The presumption of innocence is also a human right.
- **National Legal Services Authority case:** The SC declared transgender people to be a 'third gender' and affirmed that the fundamental rights granted under the Constitution will be equally applicable to them.
- **Navtej Singh Johar case:** The SC gave a unanimous decision on **Section 377** of the Indian Penal Code, decriminalising homosexuality.

National Human Rights Commission

- The growing concern regarding violation of human rights led to the enactment of Protection of Human Rights Act which provided for the constitution of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC).



GIST OF MAJOR ARTICLES FROM THE APRIL 2020 ISSUE

Rapid Transformation in Rural Employment Scenario

Employment generation is the cornerstone of the economic development of any country. India is a country of villages and the majority of the population of rural India still depends mainly on farming or agricultural work for their livelihood.

Employment

- According to an estimate of the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the share of regular wages/salaries has increased by 5% i.e. from 18% in 2011–12 to 23% in 2017–18.
- The proportion of women workers in the category of regular wage/salary-based employment has increased by 8%.
- Efforts are being made to formalise the economy by introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST), digitisation of payments, direct benefit transfer of wages and salaries, the opening of Jan Dhan accounts and expanding social security coverage to include more and more workers.
- To promote employment generation in the country, the government is providing special assistance to new employers for a period of up to 3 years from the start of business under Prime Minister Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY).
 - Under the scheme, the entire contribution of employers in the Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance Scheme is being paid by the Government itself.

Skill Development

- Through the Kaushal Bharat Programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, more than one crore youth are being imparted training in various skills every year so as to enhance their access to better and lucrative livelihood.

- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched in 2016 with an objective of encouraging employers to engage as many apprentices as possible.
- The Ministry is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana through National Skill Development Corporation with the aim of involving 24 lakh youth of the country.
- Persons having pre-learning or skill-related experience are also being given certificates after assessment, under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) category.

Labour

- For the welfare and upliftment of the country's labour force, the Government has taken various measures to increase transparency and accountability through various reforms and labour laws.
- Legal procedures and formalities have been liberalised and simplified to provide relief to entrepreneurs in starting businesses so that local employment opportunities can be created through them as well.
- All the existing labour laws are being amalgamated in 4 labour codes and simplified and rationalised according to the need of the present time.
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Yojana, a voluntary and contributory pension scheme was launched in 2019 for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the **National Career Service** to provide various employment-related services such as career counselling, information related to skill development courses, apprenticeship, etc.
- National Livelihood Service Centres have been established for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons.

Livelihood Promotion

- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin is a housing programme creating employment both directly and indirectly.

DOWN TO EARTH



GIST OF MAJOR ARTICLES FROM 31 MARCH AND 15 APRIL ISSUES

India and Water Crisis

India is among the top 10 water-rich countries. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has identified 256 districts in the country as water-stressed. As many as 1,186 blocks in these districts are overexploited, which means people here have used up over 100% of the available groundwater.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)

- It was launched to revive India back to a sustained system of water conservation and efficient irrigation. It was a time-bound campaign with a mission-mode approach.
- Like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, where success had much to do with how it became a jan andolan, this too was implemented through community-based programmes.
- The government followed a convergence approach and mobilised funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for the scheme.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Har Ghar Nal Se Jal

JJM was launched to ensure piped water supply to every household by 2024. But there are several challenges:

- An audit of the erstwhile National Rural Drinking Water Programme for 2012-2017 by the Comptroller and Auditor General found that 0.46 million rural habitations slipped from full coverage of piped water to partial coverage in the assessed six years due to unavailability of continuous supply from the source and delay in expansion projects.
- According to an Asian Development Bank estimate, 48% of water gets lost in public supply each day through pipe leaks.

- Another challenge is the volume of water to be supplied. At present, most rural households get 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) which has to be increased to 55 lpcd, as per a 2014 announcement by the Union Government.
 - To ensure 55 lpcd to each rural household, which is also crucial for the Swachh Bharat Mission, the country urgently needs assured availability of water resources.
- Tapped water is channelised through various primary (rivers, ponds, lakes, tanks and rainwater) and secondary sources (canals, dams, reservoirs, bottled water and tanker supplies). But there is acute stress in freshwater availability.
- Besides depleting surface water, it is also exhausting groundwater because of high dependency on hand pumps, borewells and tubewells.
- Hundreds of check dams were constructed on streams, which later dried up the streams due to wrong planning.

Water Conservation Strategies

- **Community participation:** People's participation can help in understanding how, where and why water flows or stagnates at a particular place.
- **Old water structures:** Rejuvenation of old borewells, and other traditional structures can help to store and harvest water in case of low rainfall and drought.
- **Programmes:** With a combination of Central schemes like MGNREGA and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, State programmes like Mission Kakatiya, a proactive district administration and data funding, water structures can be built up.
- **Groundwater recharge:** Afforestation and community soak pit especially in schools where already roof water harvesting systems exist, groundwater recharge can be ensured.

- Feeds containing antibiotics are like borderline products. They contain drugs and antibiotics which are not claimed to be intended for treatment.
- Due to this loophole, state drug authorities have to resort to judicial routes to address the misuse of antibiotics.

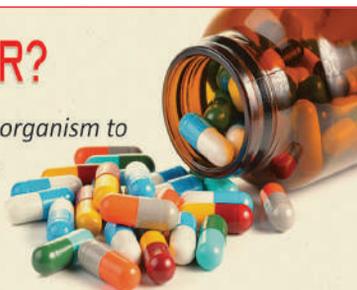
NOTE: Borderline products are products having combined characteristics of medicines along with either foods, medical devices or cosmetics.

What are the Guidelines at Present?

- Though there are no regulations, there are advisories and guidelines.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) provides norms for various animal feeds, such as cattle, fish and poultry.
- The poultry feed specifications (IS 1374) of 2007 mention that use of antibiotic growth promoters with systemic action are not recommended.
- Even the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying had issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories in 2014 stating that antibiotics should not be allowed in feed and feed supplement as a growth promoter.

What is AMR?

Resistance of a micro-organism to an antibiotic that was originally effective in treating infections caused by it



Why India needs to curb antibiotic overuse

- India's bacterial disease burden is highest in the world
- Large population suffers from diseases like diabetes, heart ailments and cancer, making them prone to infections
- 40% children are malnourished and at risk of infections
- More and more drug-resistant bacteria are being identified

Way Forward

- To contain AMR, in line with how other countries are dealing with it, antibiotics should not be allowed in the feed.
- Beginning with phasing out all antibiotics medically important for humans. CDSCO should amend the Drugs and Cosmetic (D&C) Act to ensure that antibiotics are not available without a prescription for any use in the human and veterinary sector.
- Additionally, the D&C Act should be modified to give necessary powers to drug officials so that antibiotic misuse in feeds can be regulated.
- BIS should make the poultry feed specification mandatory and develop necessary standards for other sectors.
- To complement the above, MoHFW should consider banning all medically important antibiotics for humans from use in feed or feed supplements.

March Gets Increasingly Wetter Across India

Unseasonal rainfall in March, accompanied by hail storms and strong winds, has caused heavy damage to rabi crops across north India.

Key Points

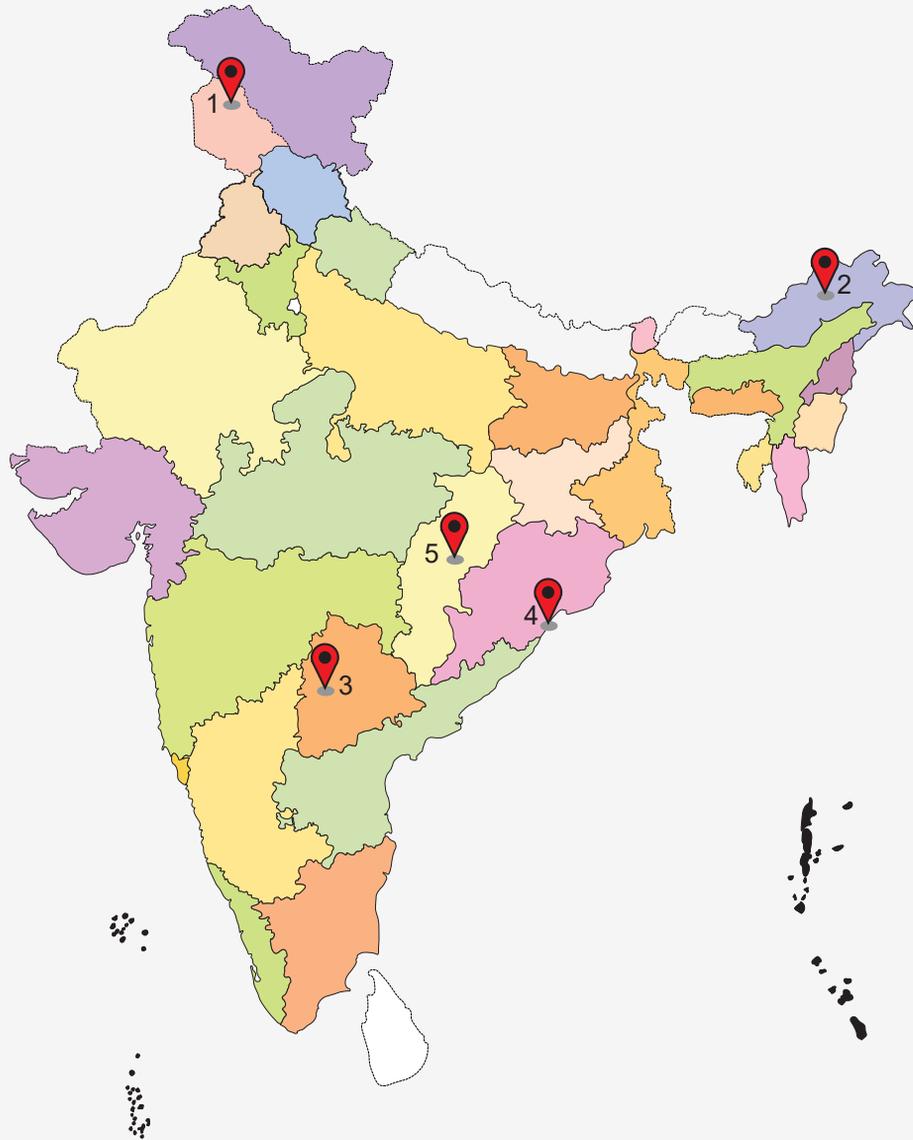
- According to the India Meteorological Organisation (IMD), between March 1 and 18, India received 82% above normal rainfall; the figure was 212% for central India.
- In Haryana, which received 650% above normal rainfall for this period, farmers have reported crop damage over 95% of farmlands.
- Winter rainfall is brought by the Western Disturbance (WD) - a non-monsoon precipitation pattern driven by the Westerlies or Anti-trade winds.
- They usually bring mild rain during January-February to the Indian sub-continent, which is beneficial to the rabi crop. But over the past decade, it has been shifting to March with increasing intensity.
- There is no consensus among weather experts about this abnormal behaviour of WD, though some link it to the heating of the Tibetan plateau and warming of the Arctic region in recent years.

D C A T



LEARNING

MAP-1

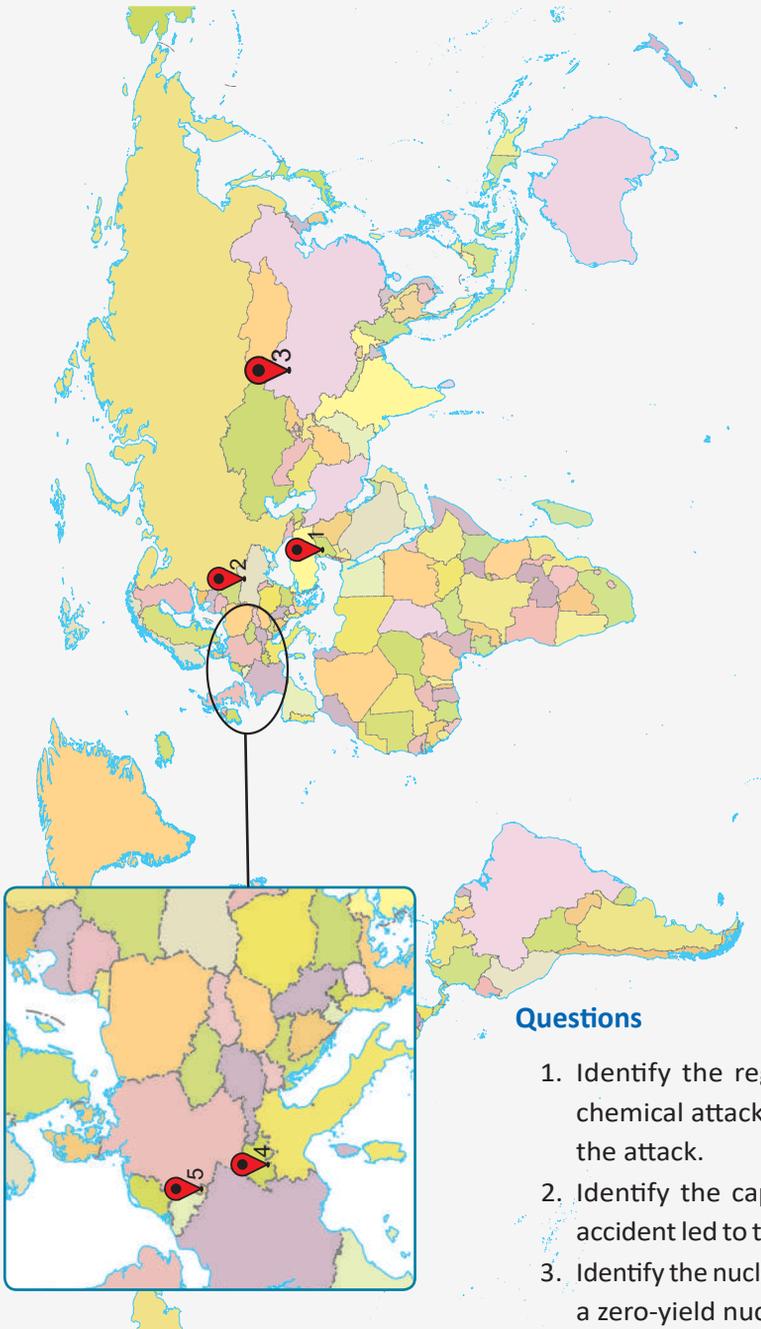


Questions

1. Identify the region where lunar year 'Navreh' is celebrated.
2. Identify the river where the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed a bridge within 27 days.
3. Identify the place where the Wings India-2020 event was organised.
4. Identify the coastal site where Olive Ridleys congregate for mass nesting.
5. Identify the state where UNICEF has started online learning through the 'Seekh' programme.

(Answers : Refer to Page No. 162)

THROUGH MAPS



Questions

1. Identify the region where OPCW has investigated a chemical attack and held the Air Force responsible for the attack.
2. Identify the capital where the world's worst nuclear accident led to the higher radiation level after forest fire.
3. Identify the nuclear site where China has been conducting a zero-yield nuclear test.
4. Identify the mountain where an European country projected the Indian flag to mark its solidarity.
5. Identify the country which became the first country in the world to make public transport free.

(Answers : Refer to Page No. 162)



TO THE POINT

Designed to hit the bull's eye: Point wise, short, crisp material in an easy-to-understand format.

Kashmir's Architecture - Synthesis of Religions

Besides its most talked about scenery, Kashmir has also been a melting pot of cultural practices. The 14th century, in particular, is considered to be a watershed in Kashmir's history, when different traditions of art and architecture came together.

Buddhist Style Buildings

- Historical records suggest that Buddhism was introduced in Kashmir soon after Lord Buddha passed away around 400 BC, but it attained dominance in the 1st century AD when the 4th Buddhist council was held in the region.
- Buddhist art of Gandhara had an influence on the architecture of Kashmir.
- The **Rajavihara of Parihaspora** is the only surviving example of a Buddhist chaitya or temple.
 - Parihaspora was a marvellous city built by one of Kashmir's most well-known kings, **Lalitaditya Muktapida**, in the 8th century.
 - Rajatarangini (written by Kalhana) tells us about Lalitaditya Muktapida, the ruler of the **Karkota dynasty** who ascended the throne in 724 AD.
 - The material brought into use was grey limestone. The walls were plain.
 - The roof was probably sloping and gabled like modern roofs in Kashmir.
- **Harwan monastery**
 - Excavations suggest its dates between 1st to 6th century AD and it is also said to be the home of Nagarjuna (Mahayana Buddhism) who is thought to have travelled to Kashmir from Nagarjunakonda.

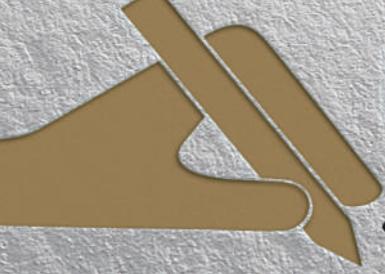


Harwan Monastery

- The Upper Tier of the monastery lies on the edge of the Dachigam National Park near Srinagar.
- It is believed that the 4th Buddhist Council of Mahayana Buddhism was held in Harwan which was known as 'Kundalvana' in ancient times.

Hindu Style Buildings

- The earliest example of this class is the **Temple of Martand**, which is the greatest and one of the most finished of all the Kashmir temples.
 - The **Martand Sun Temple** was built by **Lalitaditya Muktapida** in the 8th century AD.
 - It can be said it was an excellent specimen of Kashmiri architecture, which had blended the Gandharan, Gupta, Chinese, Roman, Syrian-Byzantine and Greek forms of architecture.
 - Greek architectural elements could be seen in the columns, the pedestal and the arches.
 - It is Kashmir's most prominent example of a **peristyle** (continuous porch of columns).
- **Temple at Loduv**
 - It is an extremely plain structure, circular in plan internally, a square externally, very simple in construction, and almost devoid of decoration. It has a **trefoiled arch** entrance.
 - It seems probable that the temple belonged to the time when **ashlar-dressed limestone** began first to dawn upon the architects of Kashmir i.e. to the 6th or 7th century AD.
- **Shankaracharya Temple**
 - Located in Srinagar, this Lord Shiva temple was built by **Raja Gopadatya** in 371 BC. Earlier, the temple was known as **Gopadri**.
 - Saint **Adiguru Shankaracharya stayed** here when he visited Kashmir to revive Sanatan Dharma in the early part of the 9th century and hence the name was changed.



ESSAY WRITING

COMPETITION

“A drop of ink may make a million think.”

- PAPER-I (250 Marks, UPSC CS Main Examination): “Essay: Candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.” That is what the UPSC says about the Essay paper in the CSE notification. Through an essay, the commission wants to know if you will make the right civil servant who has balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, logical exposition and other such bureaucratic qualities.
- Keeping this in mind, we present a forum where you are asked to practice your writing skills by writing essays on the given topics. The topics are decided keeping in view the thematic trends in CS (Mains) examination.
- If that is not all, the best essays shall be rewarded and published. We’ll judge the essay based upon four parameters viz. Structure of the essay, Content, Flow and Language.
- The prize details are as follows:

First Prize: 6 Months Subscription

Second Prize: 4 Months Subscription

Third Prize: 2 Months Subscription

Essay Writing Competition—49

Topic:

‘Schooling is not Education’

Terms and Conditions—

1. The essay shall be of length between 1000-1200 words.
2. It should be neatly written or printed on A4 sheets.
3. Only one entry per participant is allowed.
4. Entries are to be sent by Registered/speed post only on following address: EXECUTIVE EDITOR, DRISHTI CURRENT AFFAIRS TODAY, 641, FIRST FLOOR, DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR, DELHI-110009. Please mention ‘For Essay Competition’ in capital letters on the envelope.
5. Remember to submit your personal details on the form printed on this page after neatly tearing it off the marked pointers. Submissions without this form shall not be entertained.
6. Your essay must reach the given address before **20th May, 2020**. Entries reaching us after the given date will not be accepted.
7. Essays should be original and not plagiarized or copied except for properly quoted references. Prior published or awarded essays will not be accepted.
8. All rights related to the results of the competition are secure with ‘Drishti Current Affairs Today’. The winners shall be announced in the subsequent issue of the magazine and the winners shall be contacted by email and telephone.
9. Copyrights of the rewarded essays will lie with the magazine which may be used in any way by ‘Drishti Publications’.



Form for Essay Competition-49

(Kindly cut and attach this form along with your essay. Use original form and not photocopy.)

Name of participant: Mobile no.

Address:

.....

Pin code: Email ID:

TARGET MAINS

PAPER-I

Question 1. What do you understand by Health Security? How can countries ensure health security amid situations like the lockdown due to the Coronavirus outbreak?

Answer: Health security is defined as the activities required to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger the collective health of populations living across geographical regions and international boundaries.

Health security can be ensured by:

- **Social distancing:** Changing the behaviour of people by asking them to stay at home and stay safe. It can be achieved by banning the activities like mass gathering, schools and colleges and offices which can be temporarily shut down, etc.
- **Quarantine:** Those persons who are prone to infection from disease can be put in quarantine facilities like hospitals and providing them health care free of cost.
- **Herd immunity:** Immunising a certain percentage of the population who has weaker immunity and likely to acquire disease symptoms. It can be done by vaccination.
- **Routine surveillance:** Establishing routine surveillance for priority diseases and developing information technology tools and systems and adopting models like Bhilwara which can be achieved by making colleges, hotels as quarantine facilities.
- **Testing labs:** Safe laboratory systems and diagnostics can be built so that timely investigation of disease can be diagnosed.
- **Workforce:** Developing the workforce, training frontline responders, laboratorians, disease detectives, emergency managers, and other health professionals who are responsible for taking the lead when a crisis strikes.

However, across the globe, dangerous gaps in public health systems still exist. The pandemic COVID-19 has a very dark side because of its impacts globally but there is an opportunity too. Re-strategising the need for healthcare, research and development, environmental benefits and urban development can be taken care of.

Question 2. The government has taken various measures for the emancipation of women in India. Discuss such measures and assess their impacts.

Answer: The emancipation of women has always been closely bound up with the struggle for political freedom. 'Emancipation' refers to liberation from oppression or bondage of any kind. The period of 19th and 20th centuries is often referred to as one of social, sexual, economic, political and legal emancipation of women in not only India but also the West.

Various steps for the emancipation of women:

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** to contribute towards a better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.
- **National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW)** to strengthen the overall processes that promote all-round development of women.
- **Swadhar and Short Stay Homes** to provide relief and rehabilitation to destitute women and women in distress.
- **One-Stop Centre** to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence.
- **Vishakha Guidelines:** The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 has been enacted, which covers all women and empowers them to have a safe workplace.
- **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)** provides microfinance services to bring about the socio-economic upliftment of poor women.

Impact of such schemes and efforts:

- Reduction in the drop-out ratio for girls in schools. They have been further advancing their studies.
- A rising trend has been seen in the age of marriage for girls around India.
- Prohibition on prenatal sex-determination has reduced the instances of female foeticide.

- Women have been playing an important role in the business, corporate and MSMEs sector that has helped in uplifting their status in the society.

India has some of the deep-rooted social evils in the society like patriarchy, gender stereotypes and others. To progress towards development, such barriers need to be broken allowing women an equal workspace in every sphere. According to an estimate of the World Economic Forum, raising women's participation in the labour force to the same level as men can boost India's GDP by 27%.

Question 3. *What is globalisation? Do you think globalisation is a challenge for global financial stability? Substantiate.*

Answer: Globalisation is the process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected as a result of massively increased trade and cultural exchange. Globalisation has increased the production of goods and services.

Globalisation has resulted in:

- increased international trade
- greater dependence on the global economy
- freer movement of capital, goods, and services
- recognition of companies such as McDonalds and Starbucks in low income countries
- economic expansion and improvements in standards of living in developing countries

Challenges posed by globalisation:

- Globalisation is alleged to be operating mostly in the interests of the rich countries, which continue to dominate world trade at the expense of developing countries. The role of low income countries in the world market is mostly to provide cheap labour and raw materials.
- An absence of strictly enforced international laws means that multinational companies may pollute the environment, run risks with safety or impose poor working conditions and low wages on local workers.
- An economic downturn in one country can create a domino effect through its trade partners. For example, the 2008 financial crisis had a severe impact on different developed as well as the third world countries.
- Highly mobile international capital can behave in a very procyclical manner, amplifying financial upswings and reversals.

- Trade and financial openness can also increase inequality by favouring income from capital sources.

While globalisation increases living standards, it does create challenges. Globalisation has mostly been positive for the globe though there have been instances of failures. But then also, global cooperation has helped out the economies in the time of a global crisis.

PAPER-II

Question 4. *Post-retirement appointments should not be rejected in absolute terms. The problem is only when it is seen through the lens of a reward for favouring the political establishment. Do you agree with this view? Substantiate.*

Answer: The former CJI's nomination to the Rajya Sabha has reignited the debate on post-retirement appointments. When seen through the lens of quid pro quo, such post-retirement appointments are certainly undesirable but it also needs to be highlighted that they have their own benefits.

Positives of post-retirement appointment:

- All the three organs of government need to work together for nation-building.
- A judicial member can represent better in Parliament about social causes because they do not belong to any political party.
- The objective of the nomination can be to provide eminent persons a place in the Rajya Sabha without going through the process of election.
- A judge of the higher judiciary in India retires at a comparatively young age and is capable of many more years of productive work.

Benefits apart, such appointments are often seen as a reward for favouring the political establishment. It is alleged that when judges or government officials work in favour of the political establishment of the day, he/she gets rewarded in terms of post-retirement appointments.

This is problematic on following grounds:

- Irrespective of the merits of the person, it is bound to put a question mark on the independence of the judiciary or the decision-making authority.
- Judges nearing retirement could decide cases in a manner that pleases the government in order to get

not meet the same fate like PMC or Yes Bank and the economy does not pay a heavy price.

- Formulation of a Public Credit Registry to help in preempting frauds by structured sharing of credit information and follow-up action among banks.
- The lenders must try to maintain a balance between corporate and retail lending. This will prove to be a big step in administering the bad loans.
- To avoid collapse, the banks must voluntarily refrain from drawing out to one or a few large borrowers to minimize the chances of potential defaults.

Economic growth is indispensable, but to encourage this, the government shouldn't pressurize banks to overlend. If these checks are implemented and the government confirms stringent penalties for mishaps by auditors and rating agencies, India will be able to resolve and control a fair number of crises.

Question 9. What do you mean by cryptocurrency? What role do you think cryptocurrency can play in the Indian context?

Answer: A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency designed to work as a medium of exchange. It uses cryptography to secure and verify transactions as well as to control the creation of new units of a particular cryptocurrency.

The role that can be played by cryptocurrencies in India:

- Enabling small merchants to benefit from digitisation by the use of cryptocurrency as their transaction is low-cost as India is in the midst of a wave of digitisation guided by the rise of mobile phone internet connectivity.
- Data and credit theft have been one of the reasons for low acceptability of online transactions. Cryptocurrency offers an avenue that is safe and encrypted.
- A lot of time and resources that otherwise go in securing sanctions from the third party, will not be required in a cryptocurrency economy.
- Since cryptocurrency is a new and growing domain, the playing field is levelled. The younger generation in India can easily be at par with this global phenomenon.

Challenges for cryptocurrencies in India:

- Hackers and malicious users can create as much as they want from virtual currency if they break the system and know the method of virtual currency creations.
- Unlimited issuing of virtual currency in the variety of virtual communities will lead to economic problems since its issuing is not based on the demand and supply.

- Money laundering is one risk that is very likely to rise with the use of cryptocurrencies especially with platforms that enable users to exchange virtual currency with real money.
- Digital divide in India where a lot of people are not digitally competent.

India, with its large base of consumers, engineers, and entrepreneurs, is poised to become a world leader as more and more blockchain participation, investment, development, and mining occurs within its borders. Nevertheless, any decision in this direction should be based on sound policy foundations.

PAPER-IV

Question 10. What does the following quotation mean to you?

Force is all conquering. But its victories are short lived."

Answer: It is believed that force may let you win the situation but its consequences could not be well fructified. For example, using force for eviction of public protesting for demand of better remuneration will help in dissipating the crowd. But it won't change the whole idea of protest and people will again demand such things.

Problem associated with force:

- **Mental setup:** Force can change the mindset of a person. Like when parents use force on their child, the child gets offended and makes a negative image towards his/her parents.
- **Failure of governance:** Forceful administration and management can develop a sense of insecurity among people. Like in a hierarchical order, the superior who has power more than their subordinates forces to regulate the whole system without consulting its subordinates. This powerful authorisation could prove wrong for governance.
- **Mistrust:** Imposition of regulation without taking the public into confidence could lead to mistrust in state. Like recently, Hong Kong demanded complete autonomy from China.

Force should be replaced with a sense of responsibility, accountability and authority with legitimacy. Force has always been a short-term measure of solving problems. It must be pragmatically thought and considered to use force or applying a long-term solution to things with rational thinking.

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

- It is a flagship financial inclusion scheme launched in 2014.
- It envisages universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every adult, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance and pension.
- There are some special benefits like free accident insurance cover, overdraft facility for the Jan Dhan account holders.
- Special benefits to Jan Dhan account holders
 - No minimum balance required
 - Interest on deposit
 - Accidental insurance cover of ₹2 lakhs
 - Life cover of ₹30,000/- payable on death of the beneficiary
 - Access to Pension, insurance products
 - Overdraft facility upto ₹10,000/- in only one account per household
 - No conditions attached for over-draft of up to ₹2,000
- The scheme is also known as National Mission of Financial Inclusion.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

- Provides accidental insurance cover at a very affordable premium of ₹12/year.
- The coverage available will be ₹2 lakh for accidental death or permanent total disability and ₹1 lakh for permanent partial disability.
- The Scheme is available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a savings bank account who give their consent to join.
- It serves the goal of financial inclusion by achieving penetration of insurance down to the weaker sections of the society.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

- Offers insurance coverage for death due to any reason.
- Available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a savings bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.

- A life cover of ₹2 lakhs is available for a one year period at a premium of ₹330/- per annum per member and is renewable every year.
- It is administered through LIC and other Indian private Life Insurance companies.
- A person can join PMJJBY with one Insurance company with one bank account only.

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

- A pension scheme to provide social security during old age (60 and above).
- One can invest up to ₹15 lakh and receive regular payout on a pre-decided frequency of monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually.
- The maximum and minimum investment (referred to as purchase price) will depend on the amount and the frequency of the payouts.
- To illustrate, the purchase price ranges from a minimum purchase price of ₹1,50,000/- for a minimum pension of ₹1000/- per month to a maximum purchase price of ₹7,50,000/- for maximum pension of ₹5,000/- per month.
- It provides an assured return of 8% per annum payable monthly for 10 years.
- The interest on the investment is taxable.
- The scheme is exempted from Service Tax/ GST.
- In case of death of the holder during the term of the policy, the purchase price shall be refunded to the beneficiary. If the individual survives the policy term, he/she shall be paid the purchase price along with the final instalment.
- **Minimum Entry Age:** 60 years; **Maximum Entry Age:** No limit
- In case of financial emergency during the tenure of the scheme, you can opt for a loan against the PMVVY investment.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India is the implementing agency.

Stand Up India

- To promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) and women.

- Facilitates bank loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 Crore to at least one SC or ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise.
- Green field signifies, in this context, the first time venture of the beneficiary in the manufacturing or services or trading sector.
- Besides primary security, the loan may be secured by collateral security or guarantee of Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Stand-Up India Loans (CGFSIL).
- More than 80% beneficiaries are women.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) Yojana

- To promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth by providing loans up to ₹10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
- These loans are given by Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Micro Finance Institutions and Non-banking Financial Companies.
- Easy loans without collateral under three categories
 - Shishu (loan amount upto ₹50000),
 - Kishore (loan amount between ₹50000 and ₹5 lakh) and
 - Tarun (loan amount between ₹5 lakh and 10 lakh) by the banks.
- MUDRA is the refinancing institution i.e. it does not lend directly but provides funding to the financial institutions through which the loan is disbursed.
- More than 70% of the loans have been availed of by women entrepreneurs.

Gold Monetisation Scheme

- It offers option to resident Indians to deposit gold and earn an interest on it. It replaces the earlier Gold Deposit Scheme, 1999.
- Resident Indians (individuals, mutual funds, companies, charitable institutions, any entity owned by Central/State Government) can make deposits under the scheme, subject to Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- The tenure of gold deposits is a minimum of one year.
- The minimum deposit at any one time shall be 30 grams of raw gold. There is no maximum limit for deposit under the scheme.

- The scheme will help in mobilising the large amount of gold lying as an idle asset with households.
- The long-term objective is to reduce the country's reliance on the import of gold to meet domestic demand.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- To meet investment appetite/physical demand for gold and thus to reduce gold imports.
- Sovereign Gold Bonds are government securities or bonds denominated in fixed grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold.
- The bond is issued by Reserve Bank of India.
- Investors pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.
- Persons resident in India are eligible to invest. Eligible investors include individuals, trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

Tejaswini

- To foster socio-economic empowerment of adolescent girls and young women by imparting basic life skills and thereafter market driven skills or completion of secondary education.
- **Thrust areas:**
 - Expanding social, educational and economic opportunities.
 - Improving livelihood opportunities by developing skills.
 - Strengthens women's participation in local governance.
- International Development Association (IDA) of World Bank provides funding support.
- It is not a pan India project. It is being implemented in selected districts and states.

Swachh Bharat Kosh

- It has been set up to attract Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and contributions from individuals and philanthropists to achieve the objective of Clean India (Swachh Bharat) by the year 2019.
- The Kosh is administered by a Governing Council chaired by Secretary, Department of Expenditure.

- The Suryamitra course is 3 months skill development programme designed to create skilled manpower in installation, commissioning, and operation & maintenance of solar power plants and equipment.
- The objective is to provide employability and entrepreneurship to rural and urban youth and women. Special emphasis is given to skill youth from SC/ST/OBC categories.
- The programme is 100% funded by central government and implemented by National Institute for Solar Energy (NISE) across the country.

Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)

- KUSUM is a farmer-oriented solar power scheme that will allow setting up grid-connected solar plants in rural areas and off-grid solar pumps.
- The scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.
- Under the scheme, the government plans to **incentivise farmers** to run solar farm water pumps and use barren land for generating power for extra income.
- **The Scheme consists of three components:**
 - 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW. These can be setup by individual farmers/group of farmers. The renewable power generated will be purchased by DISCOMs.
 - Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of 30% will be provided; the State Government will give a subsidy of 30%; and the remaining 40% will be borne by the farmer.
 - Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps. Individual farmers having grid connected agriculture pump will be supported to solarise pumps. The farmer will be able to use the generated solar power to meet the irrigation needs and the excess solar power will be sold to DISCOMs. CFA of 30% will be provided; the State Government will give a subsidy of 30%; and the remaining 40% will be provided by the farmer.

The benefits of the scheme include:

- Reduction in transmission losses
- Support the financial health of discoms by cutting the burden of agricultural subsidy.
- Supporting states in meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets.
- Promotion of energy efficiency and providing water security to farmers.
- Boost farmers' income by allowing them to sell additional power to the grid.

Atal Jyoti Yojana

- The Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) aims to illuminate dark regions through establishment of solar street lights.
- The Phase I was implemented during September 2016 - March 2018. The Phase II is currently under implementation and is effective till March 2021.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has been entrusted to implement the scheme.

NOTE: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is promoted by the Ministry of Power Government of India as a Joint Venture of four reputed public sector undertakings - NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited, and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- NCAP is a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.
- It aims to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards are the standards for ambient air quality set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The CPCB has been conferred this power by the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- It includes 12 pollutants, namely, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ammonia (NH₃), ground level Ozone (O₃), Lead (Pb), Arsenic (As), Nickel (Ni), Benzene (C₆H₆) and Benzo(a)Pyrene.

National Air Quality Index

- To monitor the quality of air in major urban centres across the country on a real-time basis and enhancing public awareness for taking mitigative action.
- The index measures eight major pollutants, namely particulate matter (PM 10 and PM 2.5), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, ammonia and lead.
- The index is based on real time monitoring and the health risks are easily identified through a colour coded system.
- The risks are signified through six levels – good, satisfactory, moderately polluted, poor, very poor and severe. Air quality is qualified as good if the level of air pollution is at least 50% below the permissible limits set by the pollution control authorities.

Graded Response Action Plan

- A Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for control of air pollution is applicable in Delhi and NCR region.
- GRAP is a set of stratified actions that are taken once the pollution level reaches a certain specified limit. The Supreme Court had mandated the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Control Authority (EPCA) to come up with such a plan.
- At any point of time, if the authorities identify that the concentration has reached or exceeded a certain level, proper actions to control the pollution will be taken immediately. For instance, actions such as mechanized cleaning of roads, sprinkling of water etc. will begin as a means to control the pollution.
- In instances where the concentration of particulate matter reaches higher and more dangerous levels, the government can impose tough regulations like banning the use of firecrackers, generators, and prohibition of construction activities.

National Afforestation Programme

- The objective of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is ecological restoration of degraded forests and to develop the forest resources with peoples' participation, with focus on improvement in livelihoods of the forest-fringe communities, especially the poor.

- NAP aims to support and accelerate the on-going process of devolving forest conservation, protection, management and development functions to the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level, which are registered societies.

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

- The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established in 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation due to climate change for the State and Union Territories of India that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- The projects under NAFCC prioritize the needs that build climate resilience in the areas identified under the SAPCC (State Action Plan on Climate Change) and the relevant Missions under NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change).
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been designated as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for implementation of adaptation projects under NAFCC.

PARIVESH

- Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub (PARIVESH) is a Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System.
- It has been rolled out for online submission, monitoring and management of proposals seeking various types of environment clearances from Central, State and district-level authorities.
- It enables project proponents, citizens to view, track and interact with scrutiny officers, generates online mail alerts to state functionaries in case of delays beyond stipulated time for processing of applications.

National Action Plan on Climate Change

- National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) is a comprehensive action plan which outlines measures on climate change related adaptation and mitigation while simultaneously advancing development.
- It effectively pulls together a number of the government's existing national plans on water,

renewable energy, energy efficiency agriculture and others and bundled with additional ones into a set of eight missions.

- The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change is in charge of the overall implementation of the plan.
- **Eight core missions of NAPCC**
 - National Solar Mission
 - National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
 - National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
 - National Water Mission
 - National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem.
 - National Mission for a Green India
 - National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
 - National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
- The eight National Missions are institutionalised by respective ministries and organised through inter-sectoral groups including.

National Green Corps (NGC)

- The NGC aims at building cadres of young students working towards environmental conservation for more secure and sustainable world.
- It is being operated through Eco-clubs in schools.
- These students participate in activities related to energy conservation, water conservation, biodiversity conservation, waste management, resource management and land use planning.
- The students are titled NGC students similar to National Cadet Corps (NCC).

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

- It is a comprehensive Cooling Action plan which has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.
- The overarching goal of ICAP is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society. This will also help in reducing both direct and indirect emissions.

MINISTRY OF POWER

National LED Programme

- To promote energy efficiency in the country.
- It has two components – Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP).
 - DELP – UJALA Scheme has been launched to provide LED bulbs to domestic consumers.
 - SLNP – It aims to replace conventional street light with smart and energy efficient LED street lights.

UJALA

- UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) is a Light Emitting Diode based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) that aims to promote efficient lighting, reducing energy consumption, energy savings and reducing green house gas emissions.
- Under it, every grid-connected consumer having a metered connection is eligible to get the LED bulbs at subsidized rates.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a government company under the administrative control of Ministry of Power is implementing agency for this programme.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

- To provide 24x7 power supply to rural areas.
- **The major components of the scheme are:**
 - Separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders facilitating adequate power to agricultural and non-agriculture consumers in the rural areas.
 - Strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas, including metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers.
 - Micro grid and off grid distribution network to provide power supply to remote areas of the country.
- Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) is the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme. REC is a Navratna company under the Ministry of Power.

Integrated Power Development Scheme

- To provide 24x7 power supply to urban areas.
- **The major components of the scheme are:**
 - Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network in the urban areas
 - Metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers in the urban areas
 - IT (Information Technology) enablement of distribution sector and strengthening of distribution network
- The scheme will help in reduction in AT&C (Aggregate Technical & Commercial) losses; establishment of IT enabled energy accounting/auditing system; improvement in billed energy system based on metered consumption and improvement in collection efficiency.
- All Discoms are eligible for financial assistance under the scheme. The discoms can prioritize what fraction of their infrastructure work is to be strengthened.

PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya)

- To achieve universal household electrification by ensuring last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified rural and urban households in the country.
- Under the scheme, power connection is provided free of cost to all poor families. Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data is used to identify the beneficiaries for free electricity connections.
- Un-electrified households not covered under the SECC data would also be provided electricity connections on payment of ₹500 which will be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.
- The scheme is about providing free electricity connections. There is no provision in the scheme to provide free power to any category of consumers. The cost of electricity consumption shall have to be paid by the respective consumers as per the prevailing tariff.
- The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited is the nodal agency for the operationalisation of the scheme.

- Benefits associated with the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana:
 - Access to electricity to all willing households
 - Substitution to kerosene
 - Improvement in educational services
 - Improvement in health services
 - Improvement in communications
 - Improvement in public safety
 - Increased job opportunities
 - Better quality of life, especially for women, in daily chores

ECO-NIWAS

- Energy Conservation – New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable homes (ECO-NIWAS) is an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings.
- The objective is to raise the awareness about building sustainable and energy efficient homes in the country.
- It is developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a statutory body under **Ministry of Power**.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Digital India

- To transform India into digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- The scheme is coordinated by the department of Electronics and IT and implemented by all government departments.
- It has three key vision areas: creation of digital infrastructure; governance and services; and digital empowerment.
- **Nine pillars of Digital India Programme are:**
 - Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity
 - Broadband Highways
 - Public Internet Access Programme - one Common Services Centre (CSC) in each Gram Panchayat and Post Offices to be converted into multi service centres
 - e-Governance – reforming government through technology

- e-Kranti – electronic delivery of services
- Information for All
- Electronics Manufacturing – target net zero imports by 2020
- IT for Jobs
- Early Harvest Programmes
- It also includes the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to connect 2,50,000 gram panchayats by providing internet connectivity to all citizens.
- The programme management structure for Digital India consists of a Monitoring Committee on Digital India headed by the Prime Minister, a Digital India Advisory Group chaired by the Minister of Communications & IT and an Apex Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin

Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

- PMGDISHA seeks to make six crore persons in rural areas digitally literate, reaching to around 40% of rural households by covering one member from every eligible household by March 2020.
- All such households where none of the family members is digitally literate will be considered as eligible household. Only one person (between 14-60 years of age) per eligible household will be considered for training.
- This scheme is initiated under Digital India Programme and is expected to be one of the largest digital literacy programmes in the world.
- It would empower the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for operating computers/digital access devices.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana

- To give rural people affordable life insurance services.
- At least one village will be identified in each district and provided with a minimum of one Rural Postal Life Insurance policy for each household. Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram is the primary objective of this scheme.
- All villages under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.

NOTE: Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI), introduced in 1995 on recommendations of Malhotra Committee, provides insurance cover to people residing in rural areas, especially weaker sections and women. Low premium and high bonus is the unique feature of RPLI.

Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana

- It is a pan India scholarship programme for children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing philately as a hobby. Philately is the collection and study of postage stamps.
- The selection would be based on the evaluation of project work on philately and performance in Philately Quiz.
- Stamp collection as a hobby has lot of educational benefits as it teaches a lot about the socio-economic political reality of the period in which the stamp is issued or the theme on which it is issued.

DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India)

- The Project seeks to achieve total digitisation of postal operations in the country.
- Aimed at financial inclusion of un-banked rural population.
- It is an information technology modernization project which intends to provide a low power technology solution to each branch postmaster to improve service delivery.
- DARPAN offers core banking services such as cash deposit and withdrawal in savings bank and recurring deposit, mini statement, Aadhaar seeding and daily transaction report.
- The application will also be used for the reimbursement of social security benefits such as MGNREGS, old age pension and DBT.

Bharat Net

- Bharat Net Project is the new name of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) which was launched in 2011 to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats through optical fibre network with a minimum bandwidth of 100 Mbps.

- The project is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). This fund was established with the object of improving telecom services in the remote and rural areas of India.
- Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the special purpose vehicle created for execution of this project.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- Aims to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).
- Launched in May 2016, under this scheme, 5 crore LPG connections were to be provided to BPL families. The administrative cost of ₹1600 per connection, which includes a cylinder, pressure regulator, booklet, safety hose, etc. is borne by the Government.
- An adult woman belonging to a poor family not having LPG connection in her household, is an eligible beneficiary.
- **The broad categories of eligible families include:**
 - Beneficiaries listed in the SECC 2011 list
 - Forest dwellers
 - Most Backward Classes (MBC)
 - Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes
 - People residing in Islands
- The government in February 2018 revised the number of target beneficiaries from 5 crore to 8 crore, to be covered by 2020.

PAHAL

- It is a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) subsidy.
- Under the scheme, subsidized LPG cylinders are sold at market rates and consumers are entitled to receive LPG subsidy directly into their bank accounts.
- It aims to reduce leakage of subsidy, reduce intermediaries and eliminate duplicate LPG connections by introducing direct cash transfer of subsidies.

Urja Ganga

- To develop gas pipeline network in the eastern part of the country.

- Under it, there are two gas pipeline projects, namely Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline and Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline.
- The project is being implemented by state-run gas utility GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited).
- It will ensure the availability of clean and eco-friendly fuel i.e. natural gas to the industrial, commercial, domestic and transport sectors in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- The project is considered as a major step towards collective growth and development of the Eastern region of India.
- These pipeline projects will also support the revival of three fertilizer plants namely Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Barauni (Bihar) and Sindri (Jharkhand) along the route of these pipeline projects.

Saksham

- Saksham is fuel conservation campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) and oil public sector undertakings.
- It is aimed at creating awareness towards judicious utilization and conservation of petroleum products and switching to cleaner fuels.

NOTE: Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) is a registered society set up under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. As a non-profit organization, PCRA is a national government agency engaged in promoting energy efficiency in various sectors of economy.

GiveItUp Campaign

- As a part of subsidy management, GiveItUp campaign was launched for well-off LPG consumers to voluntarily surrender their subsidy.
- The campaign has heralded a new chapter in social volunteerism by the citizens of the country and has set a new benchmark of public good delivery mechanisms.

MINISTRY OF MINES

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana

- To provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations.
- To minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and

socio-economic conditions of people in mining districts and also to ensure sustainable livelihood for the affected people.

- It is implemented by the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF from miners.
- District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a trust set up under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act (MMDRA) 2015 as a non-profit body in those districts affected by the mining operations.
- The DMFs have been directed to take all major decision in a participatory mode, in consultation with the gram sabhas of the respective villages and activities taken under “polluter pays principle” cannot be included under PMKKKY.
- 60% of the funds will be utilised for high priority areas such as drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people and environment conservation.
- 40% of the fund will be utilised for physical infrastructure, irrigation, energy and watershed development.
- The projects implemented under PMKKKY will help create a congenial mining environment, ameliorate the condition of the affected persons and create a win-win situation for the stakeholders.

Sudoor Drishti

- A project to monitor mining activity through satellite.
- Launched by the Indian Bureau of Mines in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and Department of Space.
- Bhuvan-based services will be used for the monitoring of periodic changes of the mining areas within mining lease boundary and development of mobile app for field data collection to verify the ground realities.

Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation (TAMRA)

- TAMRA is a web-based portal conceptualized to provide the status of mining blocks auctioned/to be auctioned in India to the public in a ‘transparent’ manner.

- This would facilitate the preferred bidders and other stakeholders including States/Ministry of Mines to ‘monitor’ the status of statutory clearances associated with the mineral blocks to expedite production from the mineral blocks, resulting in ‘resource augmentation’ and addition to the fiscal resource base of the States.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

National Health Mission

- The National Health Mission (NHM) envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people’s needs.
- National Health Mission (NHM) includes two Sub-Missions: National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).
- The main programmatic components include strengthening of health system in rural and urban areas; Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A); and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.
- The key features of NRHM include making the public health delivery system fully functional and accountable to the community, human resources management, community involvement, decentralization, rigorous monitoring & evaluation against standards, convergence of health and related programmes from village level upwards, innovations and flexible financing and also interventions for improving the health indicators.
- NUHM envisages to meet health care needs of the urban population with the focus on urban poor, by making available to them essential primary health care services and reducing their Out of Pocket (OOP) expenses for treatment.
- This will be achieved by strengthening the existing health care service delivery system, targeting the people living in slums and converging with various schemes relating to wider determinants of health like drinking water, sanitation, school education, etc.

Universal Immunization Programme

- UIP is a routine immunization programme to provide free of cost vaccination to all children during the first year of life.

creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

- It seeks to modernize agro-processing sector, decrease agriculture waste, supplement agriculture sector and thus improve farmer's income.
- It is a central sector scheme.
- Mega Food Park is one of the schemes implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

Mega Food Parks

- A Mega Food Park is basically a hub and spoke architecture comprising Collection Centres (CCs) and Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) as spokes linked to a Central Processing Centre as hub.
- The objective is to reduce wastage of perishables; raise processing of food items from 6% to 20% and raise India's share in food processing industry from 1.5% to 3%.
- Implementation is based on cluster approach and envisages a well-defined processing zone containing state-of-the-art processing facilities with supportive infrastructure and well-established supply chain.
- The Mega Food Park project is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme

- To facilitate collaboration of foreign scientists/senior researchers (with emphasis on Indian origin) with Indian faculties for conducting joint research in India.
- Public funded academic institutions and national laboratories are eligible to host the VAJRA Faculty. The Faculty can also be allowed to participate in other academic activities as agreed to by the host institution and the faculty. The residency period of the VAJRA Faculty in India would be a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months a year.
- The scheme is to be regulated by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under the Department of Science & Technology.

MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge)

- It is one of the components of INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research).
- To attract talent to the study of science at an early age and thus build the required critical human resource pool for expanding the research and development base.
- Under it, monetary award is given to young learners in the age group of 10-15 years.
- The programme is jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF).

Biotech KISAN (Krishi Innovation Science Application Network)

- Biotech-KISAN is a farmer centric scheme for farmers. It is a Pan-India program, following a hub-and spoke model and stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation in farmers and empowers women.
- The Biotech- KISAN Hubs are expected to fulfil the technology requirement to generate agriculture and bio-resource related jobs and better livelihood ensuring biotechnological benefits to small and marginal farmers.
- Biotech-KISAN also has unique a feature to identify and promote local farm leadership in both genders. Such leadership helps to develop science-based farming besides facilitating transfer of knowledge.
- Several Biotech KISAN hubs are set up in 15 agro-climatic zones to understand the problems of individual farmers related to water, soil, seed and marketing and scientists provide solutions with validated technologies.

SATYAM (Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation)

- A comprehensive research on yoga and meditation is expected to address various challenges confronting physical and mental health.
- SATYAM seeks to foster scientific research on the effects of yoga and meditation on physical & mental health and on cognitive functioning in healthy people as well as in patients with disorders.

National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)

- NIDHI is an umbrella programme for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.
- **Components of NIDHI**
 - NIDHI-GCC (Grand Challenges and Competitions for scouting innovations)
 - NIDHI-PRAYAS (PRomoting and accelerating Young and Aspiring Innovators and Startups)
 - NIDHI-EIR (Entrepreneur In Residence)
 - Startup-NIDHI
 - NIDHI-TBI (Technology Business Incubator)
 - NIDHI-Accelerator
 - NIDHI-SSS (Seed Support System)
 - NIDHI-CoE (Centre of Excellence)

LOTUS HR Project (Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse)

- To demonstrate a novel holistic waste-water management approach that will produce clean water while simultaneously recovering nutrients and energy from the urban waste water, thus converting waste into wealth.
- It is an Indo-Netherlands joint project funded by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Government of Netherlands.

National Bio Pharma Mission

- **Objectives:**
 - To accelerate bio-pharmaceutical development so as to create a globally competitive biopharmaceutical industry.
 - To bring together industry and academia to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the bio-pharmaceutical sector.
 - To bring together national and international experts to provide strategic guidance and direction to move promising solutions through the product development value chain.
 - To increase India's share in the global biopharmaceutical market to 5% from the current 2.8%.

- **Implementation:** The mission will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in collaboration with the World Bank.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)

A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)

- **Objective:** To set up a network of technology centers, incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship and also to promote start-ups for innovation and entrepreneurship in rural and agriculture-based industry.
- **Components:**
 - Setting up Technology Business Incubators (TBI).
 - Setting up Livelihood Business Incubators (LBI).
 - Creation of a Fund of Funds for such initiatives with SIDBI.

Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)

- **Objective:** To enhance the competitiveness of traditional industries and artisans.
- **Approach:** Cluster-based approach.
- **Implementation:** Enhancing the marketability of products, improving the skills of artisans, making provision for common facilities and strengthening the cluster governance systems.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

- To generate self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector in rural and urban areas of the country.
- The implementation is through credit-linked subsidy.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal agency at the national level and Khadi and Village Industry Boards (KVIB) and District Industry Centres (DIC) in the states.

Udyami Mitra Portal

- It is an enabling platform aimed at instilling ease of access to MSMEs financial and non-financial service needs.

- **Components:**
 - Medical assistance
 - Advocacy/Counselling

Nai Udaan

- To provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and State Public Service Commissions.
- It seeks to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the State Governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the Civil Services.

Padho Pardesh

- This is a Central Sector Scheme to provide interest subsidy to the student belonging to the communities declared as minority communities on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies to pursue approved courses of studies abroad at Masters and M.Phil/PhD levels.
- The scheme is implemented by the designated Bank as per MoU between the Bank and Ministry of Minority Affairs.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

- To enable persons with disabilities to gain universal access, equal opportunity for development, independent living and participation in an inclusive society in all aspects of life.
- **Components:**
 - Built up environment
 - Transportation eco-system
 - Information & Communication eco-system
- Accessibility audit of all the international airports, domestic airports, major railway stations.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

- To provide physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.

- To address disabilities like low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disability.
- It is a central sector scheme. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".
- Implementation by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Swachhta Udyami Yojana

- The Scheme extends financial assistance for Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Pay and Use Community Toilets in Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode and Procurement and Operation of Sanitation related Vehicles.
- It has twin objective of cleanliness and providing livelihood to Safai Karamcharis and liberated Manual Scavengers to achieve the overall goal of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan".
- National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is the implementing agency.
- **NSKFDC provides concessional loan:**
 - To Entrepreneurs among safai karmacharis and identified manual scavengers including women beneficiaries.
 - For viable community toilet projects and sanitation related vehicles.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Adopt a Heritage Project

- This project is a key initiative of Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India (ASI).
- It seeks to entrust heritage sites/monuments to public/private sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities.
- They would become '**Monument Mitras**' and adopt the sites.

Swadesh Darshan

- To develop **theme-based** tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.

- Under the scheme, fifteen thematic circuits have been identified. These are North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Sufi Circuit and Tirthankar Circuit.

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation (PRASAD) Drive

- To identify and develop pilgrimage tourist destination on the principles of high tourist visits, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.
- Under the PRASAD scheme some of the important sites that have been identified for development include: Amritsar, Ajmer, Dwarka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kedarnath, Kamakhya and Patna.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Seva Bhoj Yojna

- It envisages to reimburse the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) paid by Charitable Religious Institutions on purchase of specific raw food items.
- The charitable religious institutions include Temples, Gurudwara, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Matth, Monastries etc.
- The objective of the scheme is to lessen the financial burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions who provide food free of cost without any discrimination.
- Such institutions applying for financial assistance are required to produce a certificate from District Magistrate indicating that they are involved in charitable religious activities.
- These institutions must be distributing free food to public for last 3 years on daily/monthly basis.
- In case of misuse of funds, it provides for penalties such as blacklisting the organisation, recovering the financial assistance with penal interest apart from taking criminal action as per law.

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

- **Objectives:** To foster holistic development and welfare of tribal population in India by addressing issues of infrastructure and human development.
- **Components:**
 - Provision for a better standard of living and quality of life.
 - Improving access to and quality of education.
 - Generating resources for long-term and sustainable growth.
 - Bridging infrastructural gaps.
 - Protection of tribal culture and heritage.

Young Entrepreneurs of TRIFED (YET)

- Young Entrepreneur Development Programme of TRIFED plans to expand sale operations by empanelling young sales-men/women.
- They will undertake house to house campaign for sale of tribal products and paid a commission of 10% on net sales.
- Every tribal product will have a Tribal Craft Mark to validate its genuineness and authenticity.

Van Dhan Scheme

- It is an initiative for targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest produce.
- Under the scheme, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers are being trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the Jungle.
- It also aims at build upon the traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT for value addition.
- It also focussed on setting-up of tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in predominantly forested tribal districts.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

- TRIFED came into existence in 1987.
- It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- TRIFED has its registered and Head Office located in New Delhi.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

National Nutrition Mission (NNM)

- The NNM is known as Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- The objective is to improve the nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The Scheme targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- It seeks convergence with various other programmes related to women and child.

POSHAN Atlas

- In order to tackle malnutrition, the government is developing an atlas to map crops and food grains grown all over the country.
- This is done to promote regional cropping pattern and nutrition rich food in the local areas.
- The initiative will aid Poshan Abhiyan.
- The atlas is to be developed along with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Deenadayal Research Institute, Chittrakoot.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme (BBBPS)

- To address the issue of decline in child sex ratio and to ensure survival, protection and education of the girl child.
- **Components:**
 - Prevent gender biased sex selective elimination
 - Ensure survival and protection of the girl child
 - Ensure education of the girl child
- It is being implemented in a coordinated effort by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

UJJAWALA Scheme

- **Objectives**
 - To prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes etc.

- To facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
- To provide rehabilitation services.
- To facilitate reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large.
- To facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

Swadhar

- To cater to primary needs of women in difficult circumstances such as destitute widows, women prisoners released from jail and without family support, women survivors of natural disasters, trafficked women/girls, mentally challenged women etc.
- The package of services include provision for food, clothing, shelter, health care, counselling and legal support, social and economic rehabilitation through education, awareness generation, skill up gradation etc.

Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

- To provide skills that give employability and entrepreneurship capabilities to women.
- The grant is given to an institution/organization including NGOs directly and not the States/UTs.

Sakhi

- It is a one-stop centre for providing medical, legal and rehabilitation facilities for women subjected to any kind of violence.
- These centres are established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance both in private and public spaces.

Gender Champions Scheme

- Gender socialization begins early. Creating positive social norms in educational institutions that value girls and their rights is important to improve the well-being of girls and achieve long-term and sustainable social change.
- The Gender Champions Scheme seeks to make young boys and girls gender sensitive and create positive social norms which value the rights of women and girls.

bank accounts directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.

- The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on an average, a woman gets ₹6,000.

Sexual Harassment electronic–Box (SHe-Box)

- It is an online complaint management system for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace by women, including government and private employees.
- Once a complaint is submitted to the SHe-Box portal, it directly reaches the concerned authority having jurisdiction to take action in the matter.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik

- UDAN/Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) seeks to facilitate affordable regional air connectivity to unserved and underserved airports of the country.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency.
- The Scheme offers concessions to the airlines to encourage them to fly on regional routes.
- The maximum airfare has been capped at ₹2500 for a one-hour journey of approximately 500 kilometre on an aircraft or for a 30-minute journey on a helicopter.
- A Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) is created to subsidise operations under the RCS.
- RCS will be made operational only in states and at airports which are willing to provide concessions required under the Scheme.

Digi Yatra

- DigiYatra envisages a connected ecosystem enhancing the seamless travel experience for the passengers and simultaneously improving the security-based digital processing of passengers at airports.
- It is aimed at biometric based digital processing of passengers at Airports.

NABH Nirman

- The NextGen Airports for Bharat (NABH) Nirman initiative is aimed at building of airport capacity.

- It seeks to improve passenger amenities, promoting cargo handling facilities and early operationalisation of new airports under UDAN scheme.

The three key aspects of NABH Nirman are:

- fair and equitable land acquisition,
- long-term master plan for airport and regional development and
- balanced economics for all stakeholders.

MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

ACROSS Scheme

- Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) scheme aims at improving skill of weather and climate forecasting through sustained observation and research and development.
- Its objective is to provide a reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society.
- It pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry and addresses different aspects of weather and climate services, which includes warnings for cyclone, storm surges, heat waves, thunderstorms etc.
- Each of the above aspects is incorporated as 9 sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme “ACROSS”.
- The schemes will be implemented in an integrated manner by 4 institutes:
 - India Meteorological Department (IMD),
 - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM),
 - National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and
 - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).

O-SMART

- Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART) is an umbrella scheme for the development of ocean activities.
- It encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It aimed at stepping up ocean research and setting up early warning weather systems.

■ The important deliverables under the scheme are:

- Strengthening of ocean observations, modelling, ocean services for fishermen,
- Setting up marine coastal observatories for tracking marine pollution in 2018,
- Setting up Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant (OTEC) in Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.
- Setting up of the state-of-the-art Early Warning Systems to deal with ocean disasters like tsunami, storm surges.
- The technologies developed under this Scheme will help in harnessing the vast ocean resources of both living and non-living resources from the seas.

Sagar Vani

- Sagar Vani is an integrated information dissemination system that primarily serves fishermen community with advisories and alerts towards their livelihood as well as their safety at sea.
- The information to be disseminated is given by INCOIS under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- Services will be disseminated in local languages using advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities.
- It uses power of television and cable network mediums for alert dissemination services.
- The system also has the facility to provide access to various stakeholders, NGOs, State Fishery Departments, Disaster Management Authorities to further disseminate these information and alerts.

Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva

- The scheme is implemented by India Meteorological Department in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research etc.
- It is launched to issue crop and location-specific weather based agro advisories for the benefit of farmers.
- The Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) under the GKMS is operated to prepare biweekly (Tuesday and Friday) weather-based bulletins.

Deep Ocean Mission

- This Mission aims to explore the deepest regions of the oceans surrounding the country as part of an exercise to promote sustainable use of the vast living and non-living ocean resources that remain untapped.
- It is an integrated programme in which several scientific departments such as Department of Science and Technology, ISRO, Department of Biotechnology, Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Indian Council of Agricultural Research would work together.
- A major thrust of the Mission will be to look for metals and minerals in the Central Indian Ocean Basin and exploitation of Polymetallic Nodules which are scattered on the sea bed.

SAFAR

- The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) is a national initiative to measure the air quality of metropolitan cities, by measuring the overall pollution level and the location-specific air quality of the city.
- The system is indigenously developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and is operationalized by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- It has a giant true colour LED display that gives out a real-time air quality index on a 24x7 basis with colour-coding (along with 72 hours advance forecast).
- SAFAR is an integral part of India's first Air Quality Early Warning System operational in Delhi that will monitor all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction, UV radiation, and solar radiation.

MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

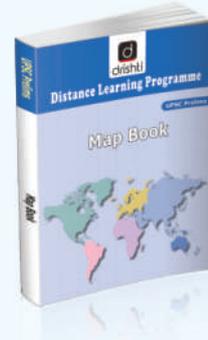
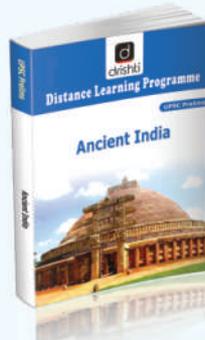
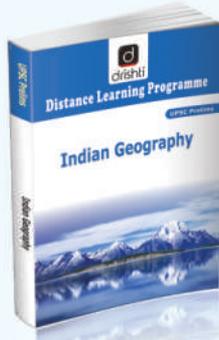
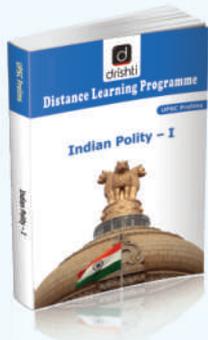
FAME India Scheme

- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME) was launched in 2015.
- Its objective is to support hybrid/electric vehicles market development and Manufacturing eco-system.

Distance Learning Programme (DLP)

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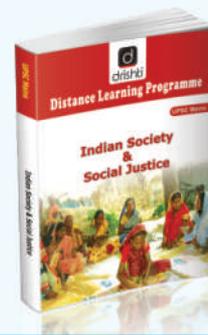
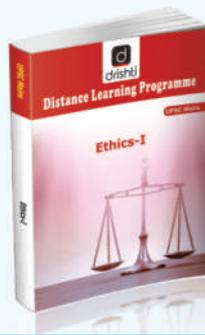
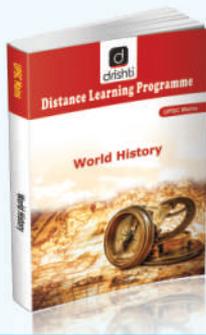
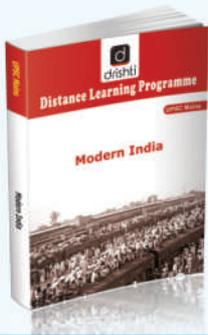


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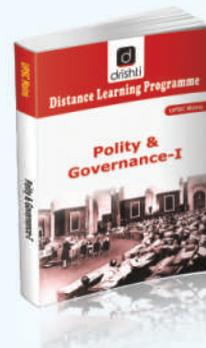
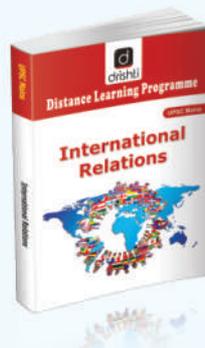
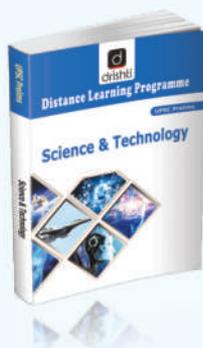
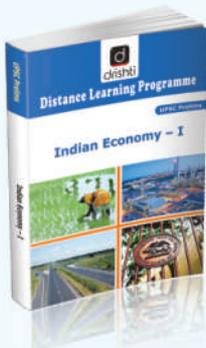


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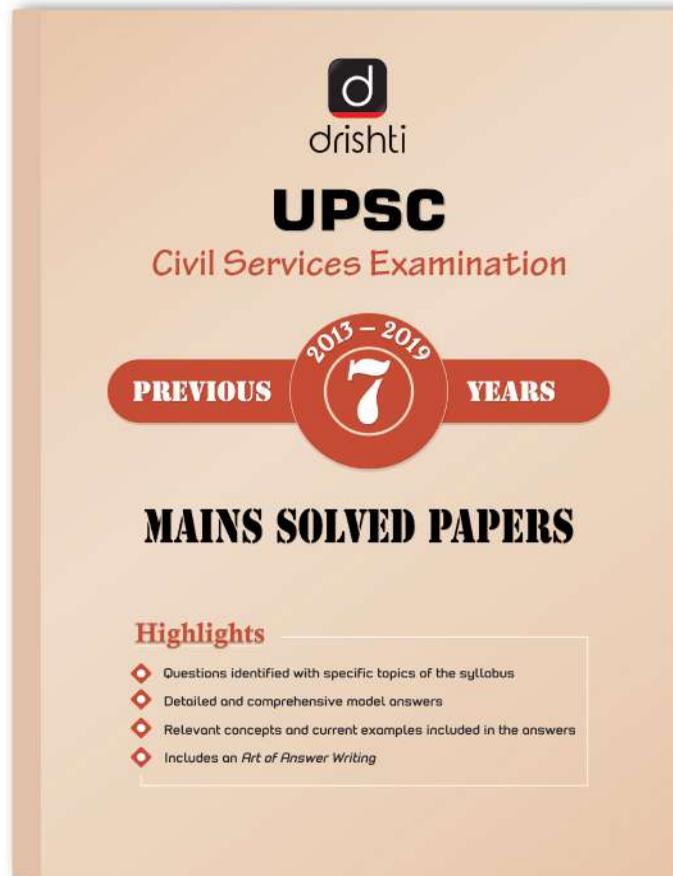
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