

*Drishti*  
**CURRENT  
AFFAIRS TODAY**

Year 6 | Issue 02 | Total Issues 62 | July 2021 | ₹100

**SPECIAL  
SUPPLEMENT**  
**Art & Culture**



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

*Extensive Current Affairs Coverage:  
Article 311; Community Transmission; Maratha  
Reservation; Israel-Palestine; International Day for  
Biological Diversity; and much more....*

# IAS Mains Test Series 2021

## General Studies

English & Hindi Medium

### Pack I

24 Tests

### Pack II

12 Tests

## Hindi Literature Optional Paper

Pack I: 16 Tests

## Sociology Optional

English Medium Only

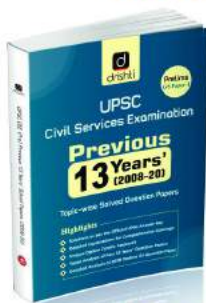
Pack I: 11 Tests

To register: Download **Drishti Learning App** or Visit- [www.drishtiias.com](http://www.drishtiias.com)



Call: 8010440440 / 8750187501

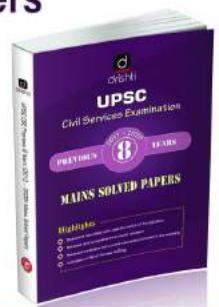
## UPSC CSE Prelims Previous 13 Years' Solved Papers



- Solutions as per the official UPSC answer key.
- Detailed explanations.
- Division of questions into various sections, such as polity, history, economy, geography, etc.
- Unique Option Centric approach.
- Trend analysis of the questions.

## UPSC CSE Mains Previous 8 Years' Solved Papers

- A book comprising solved papers of previous eight years (2013-2020) Mains of UPSC CSE.
- The questions are segregated paper-wise and have been identified with specific topics.
- The detailed and comprehensive model answers coupled with examples.
- Includes a five-step formula for honing the art of answer writing.







### Editor-in-Chief & CMD

Dr. Vikas Divyakirti

### Director

Dr. Taruna Verma

### Dy. Executive Editor

Rishikesh

### Editorial Team

Vivek Hari Singh (News Editor),  
Dipanshu Saini, Savitri Bishnoi,  
Nisha Jindal, Pawan Kumar Singh

### Editorial Support

Debabrat Gogoi, Gaurav Bana,  
Rabmeet Kaur, Georgi Mathan Ninan,  
Yashwant Singh Rana

### Typesetting and Designing

Jitender Ruhela, Jitesh,  
Amit Kumar Bansal, Vivek Pal, Anil Kumar,  
Poonam Saxena, Medha, Karuna Aggarwal,  
Lokesh Pal, Rajo Kamti, Deepika Grover

### Managerial Support (Senior)

Mohd. Aftab Alam, Ajay Sharma,  
Aditi Verma, Gopal Rai, Avinash Kumar

### ©Copyright

**Drishti Publications**, (A Unit of VDK Publications Pvt. Ltd.), All Rights Reserved. The use, publication, translation or storage in a system where it can be reused or transferred in any form or by any method (electronic, mechanical, photo copy, recording or any other means) of any section published in this magazine, cannot be done without the prior permission of the publisher.

### Printed by

M.P. Printers, B-220, Phase-2, Noida,  
Uttar Pradesh and Published for Owner, Printer & Publisher Vikas Divyakirti, H-203, Signature View Apartments, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Editor: Vikas Divyakirti

### CONTACT FOR ADVT. AND BUSINESS

Ajay Karakoti (CFO)

☎(0-81303 92355)

### CONTACT FOR CIRCULATION

Srikant Kukreti

☎(0-9599084248)

### CONTACT FOR SUBSCRIPTION

☎(0-9599084248)

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,

*The last few weeks have been very difficult for the country. Except for a few states, the whole nation was gasping for breath and the health infrastructure was reeling under the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 patients. Such was the brunt of the second wave of the coronavirus that a good chunk of the victims even failed to get a decent cremation. This holds a good lesson for us all. In hindsight, it becomes clear that we have been very lackadaisical, oblivious and complacent when it came to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. This has cost us very dearly. We must not forget this lesson, lest we are doomed to suffer more.*

*This lesson is also relevant for a civil services aspirant. To illustrate, when the second wave of the COVID-19 was on its high, the Prelims for Civil Services Examination 2021 was around 45 days away. Then, the Union Public Service Commission deferred the examination to 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. This gave all the aspirants a good amount of preparation time i.e. of around three months. We should not drain this precious time in nonchalance, inactivity and complacency. One must utilise the upcoming few weeks thriftily i.e. with Prelims-appropriate behaviour.*

*The aspirants must devote their time to study and revise things holistically and attempt as many mock tests as possible. Practising mocks is key to clear this examination. A common adage says, "Sweat more in practice, bleed less in war." Moreover, the competition in this examination is so high that when you are not practising, someone else is doing it and getting better.*

*With this perspective, we present this edition of Drishti Current Affairs Today. It comprises a special supplement on Art & Culture, a subject of immense importance for the Prelims.*

*We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.*

With Best Wishes

(Dr. Vikas Divyakirti)

### CONTACT US

For suggestions/feedback, write to :

**Executive Editor,**

Drishti Current Affairs Today, Drishti Publications, 641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

**Phone: 87501 87501, WhatsApp: 81303 92355**

**Email: dcat@groupdrishti.com**



Drishti IAS (DCAT page): facebook.com/drishtientg/



Drishti IAS: t.me/dailycadrishtiiias

### DISCLAIMER

- The views expressed in the articles in this magazine are of the individual writers. It is not necessary that the editor or the publisher shares the same viewpoint. It is our endeavor to include articles from writers believing in diverse ideologies so that our readers can benefit from the diversity of views on any subject.
- The information, facts and news items published in this booklet have been thoroughly examined and validated. If, by any chance, any discrepancy in any information or fact is found, the publisher, the editor or the book printer is in no way responsible for the damage(s) caused to any person or organization.
- The images and maps used in this magazine are for representational purposes only.
- We believe that the information provided in this book has been fundamentally written by our content developers. In case of a copyright violation, the publisher, the editor or the book printer would not be held responsible under any circumstance(s).
- All legal disputes are subject to the Delhi jurisdiction only.

# Contents

## 05 Current Affairs

- Polity & Governance (7)
- Nation & States (16)
- Economic Scenario (26)
- International Relations (39)
- Environment & Ecology (51)
- Science & Technology (62)
- History, Art & Culture (71)
- Social Issues (76)
- Did You Know? (81)

## 85 Academic Vitamins

- **Economic and Political Weekly (85)**
  - Anti-Defection Law (85)
  - Exclusive Commons (86)
  - Social Security Code, 2020 and Rules (88)
  - Ambedkar, Gandhians and the Indian Village (89)
- **Yojana (91)**
  - NITI Aayog: Redefining Federalism (91)
  - One Nation-One Election (92)
  - Challenges in Federalism and the Way Forward (94)
  - Progress in Human Development Since Independence (95)
- **Kurukshetra (96)**
  - Promoting a Culture of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (96)

- Empowering the Nation Through Nari Shakti (98)

### ○ **Down to Earth (100)**

- Uneasy spring (100)
- Arctic Rush (100)
- Agrarian Biopsy (101)
- A Continuing Challenge (101)
- Dumped by the Rich (102)

## 103 Essay

### 104 Learning Through Maps

- Map 1 (104)
- Map 2 (105)

## 106 To The Point

- COVID-19 Vaccination (106)
- Cyclones (107)

## 108 Target Mains

### 113 Supplement: Art & Culture





# CURRENT AFFAIRS

(Coverage from 24<sup>th</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> May)

## CONTENTS

### Polity & Governance

7-15

- Chandler Good Government Index (7)
- SC & Election Commission of India (8)
- Article 311 of the Constitution (10)
- Legislative Council in West Bengal (11)
- Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 (12)
- World Press Freedom Day 2021 (13)
- Waiving Intellectual Property Protection for Covid-19 Vaccines (14)
- India Resists Community Transmission Tag (15)

### Nation & States

16-25

- Overcrowding of Prison (16)
- Oxygen Crisis: Covid-19 (18)
- Participation of Women & Youth in State Assemblies (19)
- Maratha Reservation Struck Down: SC (20)
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (21)
- NITI Aayog's Report for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat (22)
- Rural Development Schemes (23)
- MLA-LAD Scheme (25)

### Economic Scenario

26-38

- Report On Global Remittances: World Bank (26)

- Asian Development Outlook 2021: ADB (27)
- India's Sovereign Rating (27)
- RBI's Measures to Fight Covid-Second Wave (28)
- RBI Report on Asset Reconstruction Companies (30)
- Crop Diversification (31)
- Increased Subsidy on DAP (32)
- Personal Guarantors Liable for Corporate Debt (33)
- Proposal for Gold Exchange (34)
- SWAMIH Fund (35)
- Corporate Social Responsibility Expenditure (36)
- PowerGrid Infrastructure Investment Trust (37)
- Infrastructure Status for Convention Centres (38)

### International Relations

39-50

- Al-Aqsa Mosque & Sheikh Jarrah: Israel-Palestine (39)
- Launch of Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (40)
- The Armenian Genocide (41)
- BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) Meeting (42)
- G7 Foreign Ministers' Meet (43)
- Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Border Tension (44)
- India-EU Leaders' Meeting (46)
- Farzad-B Gas Field: Iran (47)

- Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Mongolia (48)
- India Receives Taiwan's Assistance (49)

## Environment & Ecology

51-61

- Global Forest Goals Report 2021: UN Report (51)
- Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions (52)
- Third Arctic Science Ministerial (54)
- International Day for Biological Diversity (55)
- Financial Sector & Climate Change (56)
- Delhi Air Pollution (57)
- Cyclone Tauktae (58)
- Assam Earthquake (59)
- Green Initiatives: Saudi Arabia (60)

## Science & Technology

62-70

- Nomenclature & Classification of Corona Variants (62)
- White Fungus (63)
- Antimicrobial Resistance: Threat to Global Health Security (64)
- Positron: The Antimatter Counterpart of the Electrons (65)
- 5G Trial (66)
- Recent Findings about Venus (68)
- NASA's OSIRIS-REx Mission (69)
- Tianwen-1: China's Mars Mission (70)

## History, Art & Culture

71-75

- Six Sites in Tentative List of World Heritage Sites (71)
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale (72)

- Birth Anniversary of Maharana Pratap (73)
- Rabindranath Tagore (73)
- Malerkotla: The 23rd District of Punjab (74)

## Social Issues

76-80

- Immunisation Agenda 2030 (76)
- Social Security Code 2020 (77)
- India's Brain Drain in Health Sector (78)
- International Labour Day (79)
- Covid leaves Orphaned Children Vulnerable to Trafficking (80)

## Did You Know?

81-84

- Sunderlal Bahuguna (81)
- Chipko Movement (81)
- Kyasanur Forest Disease (81)
- A-76: World's Largest Iceberg (81)
- Coviself: Self Testing Kit (82)
- International Museums Day (82)
- Medicine from the Sky Project: Telangana (82)
- SVAMITVA Scheme (83)
- China's Permanent Space Station (83)
- MACS 1407: Variety of Soybean (83)
- Python-5 Missile (83)
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (83)
- Ct Value: Covid-19 Test (84)
- Project Dantak (84)
- Basava Jayanti: Birth Anniversary of Guru Basaveshwara (84)



# Polity & Governance

## Chandler Good Government Index

Recently, India has been ranked **49<sup>th</sup>** in the **Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI)**.

- **Finland** has topped the list.

### Key Points

#### ■ About:

- The CGGI is released by the Chandler Institute of Governance which is a private nonprofit organization headquartered in Singapore.
- The Index classifies **104 countries** in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
- Each country is measured across over 50 open data points. The index focuses on **seven pillars**:
  - ◆ Leadership and foresight.
  - ◆ Robust laws and policies.
  - ◆ Strong institutions.
  - ◆ Financial stewardship.
  - ◆ Attractive marketplace.
  - ◆ Global influence and reputation.
  - ◆ Helping people rise.

#### ■ Objective:

- It supports government leaders and public officers worldwide in nation building and strengthening public institutional capacity through training, research and advisory work.
- It also shares tools and frameworks for effective policymaking, and empowers nations to provide better public services for citizens.

#### ■ Performance of South Asian Countries:

- India ranked 49<sup>th</sup>, Sri Lanka 74<sup>th</sup>, Pakistan 90<sup>th</sup> and Nepal 92<sup>nd</sup>.

#### ■ Indian Initiatives for Good Governance:

- **Good Governance Index:**
  - ◆ It has been launched by the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions** to determine the status of governance in the country.
  - ◆ It assesses the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.

#### • Good Governance Day:

- ◆ It is celebrated annually on **25<sup>th</sup> December** to mark the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ◆ Its aim is to create awareness of accountability in government among the citizens of India.

#### • National e-Governance Plan:

- ◆ It has the vision to “make all government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man.”

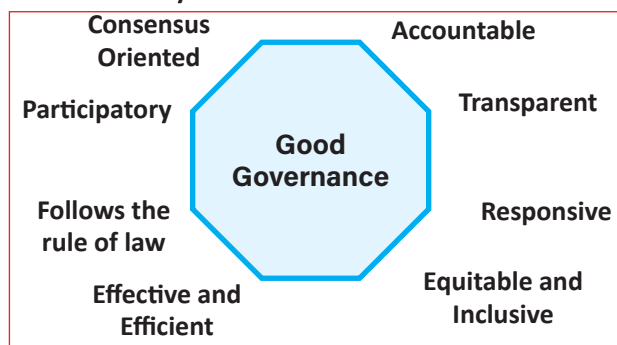
#### • Right to Information Act, 2005:

- ◆ It plays an effective role in ensuring transparency in governance.

#### • Other Initiatives:

- ◆ Setting up of NITI Aayog, Make in India programme, Lokpal, etc.

#### ■ Eight Characteristics of Good Governance as Identified by the United Nations:



### Governance

#### ■ About:

- It is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented).
- Governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance.

# Nation & States

## Overcrowding of Prison

The **Supreme Court (SC)** of India has ordered the **interim release of eligible prisoners** in view of the uncontrolled second surge in the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

- The Court's order aims to decongest jails and a measure that **protects the right to life and health of the prisoners**.

### Key Points

#### ■ Important Points of Supreme Court Order:

- Emphasised the need to adhere to the norms it had laid down in **Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014)** case.
  - ◆ Under this case, the police were asked not to effect unnecessary arrests, especially in cases that involve jail terms **less than seven years**.
- Authorities in all districts in the country to give effect to **Section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C)**.
  - ◆ Under the Section 436A of the Cr.P.C, the undertrials who have **completed half of the maximum prison term** prescribed for the offence may be released on **personal bond**.
- Suggested the legislature to consider the idea of **placing convicts under house arrest** to avoid overcrowding of prisons.
  - ◆ The **occupancy rate in prisons** climbed to 118.5% in 2019. Moreover, a **very large sum of the budget** is used for the maintenance of prisons.
- Ordered all States to **take preventive steps** as well as **constitute high-powered committees** to determine the class of prisoners who could be released on bail or parole for a specified period.

#### ■ Status of Indian Prisons:

- Indian prisons face **three long-standing structural constraints**:
  - ◆ Overcrowding,
  - ◆ Understaffing and underfunding and
  - ◆ Violent clashes.

- The **Prison Statistics India 2016**, published by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** in 2019 highlights the plight of prisoners in India.

- ◆ **Under-trial Population**: India's under-trial population remains among the highest in the world and more than half of all undertrials were detained for less than six months in 2016.
- ◆ The report highlights that at the end of 2016, there were 4,33,033 people in prison, of whom **68% were undertrials**.
- ◆ This suggests that the high proportion of undertrials in the overall prison population may be the result of **unnecessary arrests** and **ineffective legal aid** during remand hearings.
- ◆ **People Held Under Preventive Detention**: There is the rise in the number of people held under **administrative (or 'prevention') detention laws** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ◆ A 300% increase, with 431 detainees in 2016, compared to 90 in 2015.
- ◆ Administrative, or 'preventive', detention is used by authorities to detain persons without charge or trial and circumvent regular criminal justice procedures.
- ◆ **Unawareness about Section 436A of C.R.P.C.:** There is a gap between the number of prisoners eligible to be released and actually released, under Section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- ◆ In 2016, out of 1,557 undertrials found eligible for release under Section 436A, only 929 were released.
- ◆ Also, research by Amnesty India has found that prison officials are frequently unaware of this section and unwilling to apply it.
- ◆ **Unnatural Deaths in Prison**: The number of "unnatural" deaths in prisons has doubled between 2015 and 2016, from 115 to 231.
- ◆ The rate of suicide among prisoners also increased by 28%, from 77 suicides in 2015 to 102 in 2016.



# Economic Scenario

## Report On Global Remittances: World Bank

According to the latest edition of the **World Bank's Migration and Development Brief**, despite **Covid-19**, **remittance flows** remained **resilient in 2020**, registering a smaller decline than previously projected.

### Key Points

- **Remittance Inflow of India:**
  - **India, being at top, received over USD 83 billion** in remittances **in 2020**, a drop of **just 0.2 per cent** from the **previous year**, despite a pandemic that devastated the world economy.
    - ◆ India's remittances **fell by just 0.2% in 2020**, with much of the decline due to a **17% drop in remittances from the United Arab Emirates**, which offset resilient flows from the United States and other host countries.
    - ◆ **In 2019**, India had received **USD 83.3 billion** in remittances.
- **Global Remittances**
  - **China is second** in terms of global remittances **in 2020**.
    - ◆ China received **USD 59.5 billion** in remittances **in 2020**.
  - **India and China** are **followed** by **Mexico**, the **Philippines**, **Egypt**, **Pakistan**, **France** and **Bangladesh**.
- **Remittance outflow:**
  - **Remittance outflow** was the maximum from the **United States (USD 68 billion)**, followed by **UAE**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Switzerland**, **Germany**, and **China**.
- **Reason for the Steady Flow of Remittances:**
  - **Fiscal stimulus** that resulted in **better-than-expected economic conditions** in host countries.
  - Shift in flows from **cash to digital** and from informal to formal channels.
  - **Cyclical movements in oil prices** and **currency exchange rates**.

## Remittance

- **A remittance is money** sent to another party, usually one in another country.
- Remittances represent one of the **largest sources of income** for people in **low-income and developing nations**. It **often exceeds** the amount of **direct investment and official development assistance**.
- **India is the world's biggest recipient of remittances**. Remittances bolsters India's **foreign exchange reserves** and helps fund its **current account deficit**.

### World Bank

- **About**
  - The **Bretton Woods Conference** held in 1944, created the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** along with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
    - ◆ The **IBRD** later became the **World Bank**.
- **Members:**
  - It has **189 member countries**.
  - **India** is also a **member country**.
- **Major reports:**
  - **Ease of Doing Business**.
  - **Human Capital Index**.
  - **World Development Report**.
- **Its Five development institutions:**
  - **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**: provides loans, credits, and grants.
  - **International Development Association (IDA)**: provides low- or no-interest loans to low-income countries.
  - **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**: provides investment, advice, and asset management to companies and governments.
  - **Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**: insures lenders and investors against political risk such as war.
  - **International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**: settles investment-disputes between investors and countries.

### World Bank's Migration and Development Brief

- This is prepared by the **Migration and Remittances Unit, Development Economics (DEC)**- the premier research and data arm of the **World Bank**.
- The **brief** aims to provide an update on key developments in the area of **migration and remittance flows** and related policies over the **past six months**.
- The brief is **produced twice a year**.

# International Relations

## Al-Aqsa Mosque & Sheikh Jarrah: Israel-Palestine

Recently, Israeli armed forces attacked **Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Haram esh-Sharif in Jerusalem**, ahead of a march by Zionist nationalists commemorating Israel's capture of the eastern half of the city in 1967.

- The threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of **Sheikh Jarrah** escalated the crisis further.
- **Zionism** is a worldwide Jewish movement that resulted in the establishment and development of the state of Israel and that now supports the state of Israel as a Jewish homeland.



### Key Points

- **Al-Aqsa Mosque:**
  - It is one of the holiest structures in the Islamic faith. It sits inside a 35-acre site known by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, and by Jews as the Temple Mount.

- ◆ The site is part of the Old City of Jerusalem, **sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims.**

- It is believed to have been **completed early in the eighth century** and faces the Dome of the Rock, the golden-domed Islamic shrine that is a widely recognized symbol of Jerusalem.
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO**, has classified the **Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.**

### ■ Conflict over Jerusalem:

- Jerusalem has been at the centre of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. According to the original 1947 **United Nations (UN)** partition plan, Jerusalem was proposed to be an international city.
- But in the **first Arab Israel war of 1948**, the **Israelis captured the western half of the city**, and **Jordan took the eastern part**, including the Old City that houses Haram al-Sharif.
- Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the **Six-Day War 1967** and annexed it later.
  - ◆ Since its annexation, **Israel has expanded settlements in East Jerusalem.**
- Israel sees the whole city as its **“unified, eternal capital”**, whereas the **Palestinian leadership** across the political spectrum have maintained that they would not accept any compromise formula for the future Palestinian state unless **East Jerusalem is its capital.**

### ■ Sheikh Jarrah Issue:

- Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of their homes when the State of Israel was created in historical Palestine in 1948.
  - ◆ Twenty-eight of those **Palestinian families moved to Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem to settle there.**
- In 1956, when East Jerusalem was ruled by Jordan, the Jordanian Ministry of Construction and Development and the **UN Relief and Works Agency facilitated the construction of houses for these families in Sheikh Jarrah.** But Israel would capture East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967.



# Environment & Ecology

## Global Forest Goals Report 2021: UN Report

According to the **United Nations' Global Forest Goals Report 2021**, Covid-19 pandemic has **aggravated the challenges** faced by countries in managing their forests.

- The Report has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. It provides an initial overview of **progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030**.

### Key Points

#### ■ Findings of the Report:

##### ● Covid-19 leading to Systemic Vulnerabilities and Inequalities:

- ◆ More than just a health crisis, Covid-19 is driving **losses of lives and livelihoods**, extreme poverty, inequality, and food insecurity, and it has put the 'Future We Want' further out of reach.

##### ● Impact of Covid-19 on Global Output:

- ◆ It is estimated that world gross product fell by an estimated 4.3% in 2020. It is the sharpest contraction of global output since the Great Depression.

##### ● Covid-19 is Threatening the Lifeline that Forests Provide:

- ◆ An estimated 1.6 billion people, or **25% of the global population**, rely on forests for their subsistence needs, livelihoods, employment, and income.
- ◆ Of the extreme poor in rural areas, 40% live in forest and savannah areas, and approximately 20% of the global population, especially women, children, landless farmers, and other vulnerable segments of society look to forests to meet their food and income needs.

##### ● Impact of Covid-19 on Forest Dependent Population:

- ◆ On the economic front, forest-dependent populations have faced job loss, reduced income, diminished access to markets and

information, and for many women and youth, a contraction in seasonal employment.

- ◆ Socially, many of these populations are already marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, least able to access critical socio-economic safety nets.
- ◆ Many forest dependent populations, especially those in remote or hard to reach places, have faced difficulties accessing healthcare or find that government assistance programmes and basic services are disrupted.

#### ● Increased Pressure on Forest:

- ◆ Pandemic driven health and socio-economic outcomes have **increased pressure on forests**.
- ◆ To ease their growing vulnerability, many indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as returning migrants and urban workers, have retreated deeper into the woods to seek food, fuel, shelter, and protection from the risks of Covid-19.

#### ● Biodiversity Crisis:

- ◆ Among its many findings, the '**Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**' of the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** highlighted that **one million species were at risk of extinction** and that 100 million hectares of tropical forest were lost from 1980 to 2000.
- ◆ At the same time, climate change is jeopardizing the resilience of forest ecosystems and their ability to support ecosystem services worldwide.
- ◆ Though forests offer nature-based solutions to overcome these concurrent global challenges, they have also never been more at risk.

#### ■ Suggestions:

- The resilient recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic along with responses to the climate and biodiversity crises must be rooted in the world's forests.

# Science & Technology

## Nomenclature & Classification of Corona Variants

Recently, India's Health Ministry said that a new **double mutant variant** of the **coronavirus** had been detected in addition to many other strains or **Variants of Concern (VOCs)** found in 18 states in the country.

### Key Points

#### ■ Virus Variant:

- Variants of a virus have **one or more mutations that differentiate it from the other variants** that are in circulation. While most mutations are deleterious for the virus, **some make it easier for the virus to survive**.
- The **SARS-CoV-2 (Corona)** virus is **evolving fast because of the scale at which it has infected people around the world**. High levels of circulation mean it is easier for the virus to change as it is able to replicate faster.
- The **original pandemic virus (founder variant)** was **Wu.Hu.1** (Wuhan virus). In a few months, variant **D614G** emerged and became globally dominant.

#### ■ Classification:

- The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** classifies variants into three categories:
  - ◆ **Variant of Interest (VOI):** A variant with specific genetic markers that have been associated with **changes to receptor binding, reduced neutralization by antibodies generated against previous infection or vaccination, reduced efficacy of treatments, potential diagnostic impact, or predicted increase in transmissibility or disease severity**.
  - ◆ An example of VOI is the **B.1.617 variant** of the virus which has **two mutations**, referred to as **E484Q** and **L452R**.
- This variant is classified as a **VOI** by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** as well.
  - ◆ Both are separately found in many other coronavirus variants, but they have been **reported together for the first time in India**.

- ◆ **Variant of Concern (VOC):** A variant for which there is **evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease** (e.g., increased hospitalizations or deaths), **significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies** generated during previous infection or vaccination, **reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures**.

- ◆ The **B.1.1.7 (UK variant)**, **B.1.351 (South Africa Variant)**, **P.1 (Brazil Variant)**, **B.1.427**, and **B.1.429** variants circulating in the US are classified as VOCs.

- ◆ **Variant of High Consequence:** A variant of high consequence has **clear evidence that prevention measures or medical countermeasures have significantly reduced effectiveness** relative to previously circulating variants.

- So far, the CDC has **not found variants of high consequence in circulation in the US**.

#### • Variants Under Investigation (VUI):

- ◆ **Public Health England (PHE)** says that if the variants of SARS-CoV-2 are considered to have **epidemiological, immunological or pathogenic properties**, they are raised for formal investigation.
- ◆ At this point, the variants emerging from the **B.1.617 lineage** are designated as **VUI**.

#### ■ Nomenclature:

- Phylogenetic Assignment of Global Outbreak Lineages (PANGOLIN):
  - ◆ It was developed to implement the dynamic nomenclature of SARS-CoV-2 lineages, known as the Pango nomenclature.
  - ◆ It uses a **hierarchical system based on genetic relatedness** – an invaluable tool for genomic surveillance.
  - ◆ It uses **alphabets (A, B, C, P) and numerals starting with 1**. Variant lineages are at the emerging edge of the pandemic in different geographies. **Lineage B is the most prolific**.



# History, Art & Culture

## Six Sites in Tentative List of World Heritage Sites

Recently, **six Indian places** have been **added to the tentative list of UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)** world heritage sites.

- The submissions were made by Archaeological Survey of India, which is responsible for the conservation and preservation of Indian monuments.

### Key Points

#### ■ Tentative List:

- As per Operational Guidelines, 2019 of UNESCO, it is **mandatory to put any monument/site on the Tentative List (TL) for one year** before it is considered for the final nomination dossier.
  - ◆ Once the nomination is done, it is sent to the World Heritage Centre (WHC).
- India has **48 sites in the TL as of now**.

#### ■ World Heritage Site:

- Any of various areas or objects inscribed on the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List**.
- The sites are designated as having **"outstanding universal value"** under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972.
  - ◆ The World Heritage Centre is the Secretariat to the 1972 Convention.
- It provides a framework for international cooperation in preserving and protecting cultural treasures and natural areas throughout the world.
- There are **three types of sites: Cultural, Natural, and Mixed**.
  - ◆ **Cultural heritage sites** include hundreds of historic buildings and town sites, important archaeological sites, and works of monumental sculpture or painting.
  - ◆ **Natural heritage sites** are restricted to those natural areas that have excellent ecological

and evolutionary processes, unique natural phenomena, habitats of rare or endangered species etc.

- ◆ **Mixed heritage sites** contain elements of both natural and cultural significance.

- India has **38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site**. The **latest one** included is **Jaipur city, Rajasthan**.

#### ■ About New Six Places in TL

##### ● Satpura Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh):

- ◆ Home to 26 species of the Himalayan region including reptiles, and 42 species of Nilgiri areas. It is the largest tiger-occupied forest and also has the largest tiger population.

##### ● Ghats of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh):

- ◆ The ghats date back to the **14<sup>th</sup> century** but most were rebuilt, along with Varanasi, in the **18<sup>th</sup> century by Maratha rulers**.
- ◆ They have special significance in Hindu mythology, and are primarily used for bathing and Hindu religious rituals.

##### ● Megalithic Site of Hire Benkal (Karnataka):

- ◆ This 2,800-years-old megalithic site is one of the **largest prehistoric megalithic** settlements where some funerary monuments are still intact.
- ◆ The granite structures are burial monuments that may also have served many ritual purposes. Due to the extremely valuable collection of Neolithic monuments, the site was proposed for recognition.

##### ● Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra:

- ◆ There are around 12 to 14 forts in Maharashtra dating back to the era of the **17<sup>th</sup> century Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji**.
- ◆ These forts offer new insight in various forms of architecture including rock cut features, construction of perimeter walls in layers on

# Social Issues

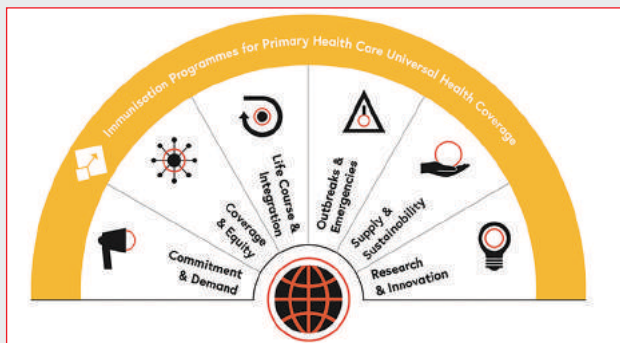
## Immunisation Agenda 2030

Recently, the **United Nations** and other agencies have launched the **Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030)** during the **World Immunisation Week**.

- It will contribute to achieving the **UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals specifically SDG 3** i.e. **Good Health and Well being**.
- Covid-19 pandemic has affected routine immunization globally.

### Key Points

- **About the Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030):**
  - It sets an ambitious, overarching global vision and strategy for vaccines and immunization for the decade 2021–2030.
  - The IA2030 is based on learnings from the **Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP)**. It aims to address the unmet targets of the GVAP that were initially to be fulfilled as part of the global immunisation strategy of the **‘Decade of vaccines’ (2011–2020)**.
    - ◆ GVAP was developed to help realize the vision of the Decade of Vaccines, that all individuals and communities enjoy lives free from vaccine preventable diseases.
  - It is based on a conceptual framework of seven strategic priorities, to ensure that immunization fully contributes to stronger primary health care and attainment of **universal health coverage**.
  - **It is underpinned by four core principles:** It puts people in the centre, is led by countries, implemented through broad partnerships, and driven by data.



### ■ Targets of IA2030:

- As part of this new immunisation programme, global agencies like the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **UNICEF** and others have set a target of avoiding 50 million vaccine-preventable infections in this decade.
- It also intends to **reduce the number of zero-dose children by 50%**.
  - ◆ Zero-dose children are those who have received no vaccines through immunisation programmes.
- To achieve 90% coverage for essential vaccines given in childhood and adolescence.
- To complete 500 national or subnational introductions of new or under-utilized vaccines - such as those for Covid-19, rotavirus, or human papillomavirus (HPV).
- The UN agencies aim to ensure through IA2030 that the benefits of immunisation are shared equitably among and within countries.

### ■ Priority Section of the Population:

- The new programme will focus on a **‘bottoms-up’ approach**, in contrast to the GVAP that followed a ‘top-down’ one.
- It will give priority to populations that are not currently being reached, particularly the most marginalised communities, those living in fragile and conflict-affected settings and mobile populations, such as those moving across borders.

### ■ India’s Initiatives on Immunization:

- Recently, the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 scheme** has been rolled out to cover children and pregnant women who missed routine immunisation during the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - ◆ The Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as **‘Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI)’** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In 1985, the Programme was modified as **‘Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)’**.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Sunderlal Bahuguna

- Recently, **Sunderlal Bahuguna (1927-2021)**, the Gandhian who was the driving force behind the **Chipko movement** died due to Covid-19.
- He is known for coining the Chipko slogan '**ecology is permanent economy**'.
  - After the Chipko movement in the 1970s, he gave the message across the globe that ecology and ecosystem are more important. He was of the opinion that ecology and economy should go together.
- Campaigned **against the Tehri Dam on River Bhagirathi**, a mega-project with devastating consequences. He undertook one of India's longest fasts after Independence, over 56 days.
- Took 4,800 km Kashmir to Kohima padayatra (foot march) in the early 1980s to bring attention to the entire Himalayan region.
- Supported women-led movements against the liquor mafia in the hills, and for the **Beej Bachao Andolan**, a movement to save Himalayan agricultural biodiversity from being wiped out by the unsustainable, chemical-intensive Green Revolution.
- He was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2009.

### Chipko Movement

- It was a **non-violent agitation** which originated in **Uttar Pradesh's Chamoli district (now Uttarakhand) in 1973**.
- The name of the movement 'chipko' comes from the word 'embrace', as the villagers **hugged the trees and encircled them** to prevent being hacked.
- It is best remembered for the **collective mobilisation of women** for the cause of preserving forests, which also brought about a change in attitude regarding their own status in society.
- It's biggest victory was making people aware of their rights to forests, and how grassroots activism can

influence policy-making regarding ecology and shared natural resources.

- It led to a **ban on commercial felling of trees** above 30 degrees slope and above 1,000 msl (mean sea level) in 1981.

### Kyasanur Forest Disease

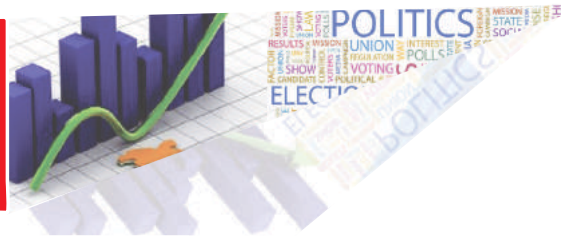
- A new **point-of-care test** has been found to be highly sensitive in the **rapid diagnosis** of **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)**- also known as **Monkey Fever**.
- It is caused by **Kyasanur Forest disease Virus (KFDV)**, which primarily **affects humans and monkeys**.
- It was **first identified in 1957** in a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka. Since then, between **400-500 human cases per year** have been reported.
- In nature, the virus is **maintained mainly in hard ticks (*Haemaphysalis spinigera*)**, monkeys, rodents and birds.
- Characterised by chills, frontal headache, body ache, and high fever for five to 12 days with a case fatality rate of 3 to 5%.
- There is no specific treatment for monkey fever.

### A-76: World's Largest Iceberg

- An enormous iceberg '**A-76**' has calved from the western side of the **Ronne Ice Shelf**, lying in the **Weddell Sea, in Antarctica**.
- This newly calved berg '**A-76**' (around **4320 sq km in size**) has surpassed the now **second-place A-23A**, about **3,380 sq km** in size and also floating in the **Weddell Sea**.
- An iceberg is ice that **broke off from glaciers or shelf ice** and is floating in open water.
- **Calving** is the glaciological term for the **mechanical loss (or simply, breaking off) of ice** from a **glacier margin**.



# ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY



SUMMARY OF EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES: 27 FEBRUARY, 6, 13 AND 20 MARCH

## Anti-Defection Law

Two recent observations of the Supreme Court have the potential of being a game-changer in Indian politics, with regard to the power of the speaker in determining questions of defection resulting in the disqualification of a member of the legislature.

### Recent case

- In the case of *Hon'ble Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly v Prithviraj Meena*, the Supreme Court raised a pertinent question about whether the “voice of dissent” of elected legislators gets subverted by the threat of disqualification under the anti-defection provisions contained in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.
- This case deals with the imbroglio in the Rajasthan assembly when the Speaker issued anti-defection notices to 18 members of legislative assembly (MLAs) belonging to the Sachin Pilot-led faction of the Congress party who had carried out a rebellion of sorts against the incumbent Ashok Gehlot government.
- The writ petition deals with very significant questions of law, including the nature and scope of Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule which defines defection to include “voluntarily giving up the membership of a political party” and the justifications for rendering a virtual finality to the speaker’s decisions and determinations on questions of defection.
- Significant question marks over the speaker’s role were also raised in the Supreme Court judgment in the case of *Keisham Meghachandra Singh v Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly*, a judgment delivered on 21 January 2020 (followed by an order on 18 March 2020).
- The case primarily deals with the issue that the question of determination as to whether a legislator should be disqualified should at all be vested with the speaker who continues to be a de jure or de facto member of the political party which had given him the ticket to contest the election.

- In both these cases, there appears one underlying common thread, namely the discomforts of the judiciary with the position that the speaker, acting in a quasi-judicial capacity, becomes the final arbiter of such questions of disqualification due to defection.
- More importantly, the contours of the “voice of dissent” in a political system where the whips and the high-commands reign supreme also deserve further crystallisation, especially in view of the fact that the Supreme Court in *Ravi S Naik v State of Maharashtra (1994)* had quite liberally interpreted Paragraph 2(1)(a) to suggest that the term “voluntary giving up of membership” should not be restricted to formal acts of resignation from the party alone, but should also be inferred from the member’s behaviour as to whether his actions would, in the eyes of the speaker, amount to anti-party activities.

### Tenth Schedule and the Speaker

- The Tenth Schedule was incorporated into the Constitution by the Constitutional (Fifty-Second Amendment) Act, 1985. Prior to its introduction, the Constitution had no reference to a “political party” in its text.
- The Tenth Schedule had unequivocally asserted the centrality of the role of the speaker in determining questions of defection and concomitant disqualification.
- The introduction of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was challenged in the case of *Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu (1992)*.
  - The grounds of challenge were two-fold, one procedural and the other substantive.
  - In a Constitutional Bench of five judges, a majority of 3:2 decided that the amendment did not alter the basic structure of the Indian Constitution and was **therefore constitutionally valid in substance**.

### Problematic disqualifications

- Although the majority in *Kihoto Hollohan* ruled in favour of the constitutional validity of the Tenth



## GIST OF MAJOR ARTICLES FROM THE MAY 2021 ISSUE

**NITI Aayog: Redefining Federalism**

NITI Aayog has endeavoured to pursue its twin mandate of promoting cooperative and competitive federalism through partnerships with States for designing and reviewing development plans. It has a key role in helping India undertake reforms and implement policy initiatives in a scalable and impactful manner through partnerships with States.

***Development of federalism in India***

- The enduring legacy of the State is defined by numerous factors including political capital and will, administration and policing as well as hard and soft power.
- Of these, the State defines its role through the most important tool at its disposal - formal institutions.
- They reflect the approach of the State towards understanding and solving the socio-economic development challenges of the time.
- One such institution which exemplified India's approach to development in the post-independence era was the Planning Commission.
  - In 2015, this mantle was passed onto the NITI Aayog.
- However, the mandate and approach of the two institutions, with the same overarching goal of developing India, could not be more different.
- This departure in approach is reflected in the Cabinet Resolution constituting NITI Aayog which includes a quote from Mahatma Gandhi - "Constant development is the law of life and a man who always tries to maintain his dogmas in order to appear consistent drives himself into a false position".

***Difference between******Planning Commission and NITI Aayog***

- The Planning Commission operated through the lens of Five-Year Plans, using financial resources as the primary lever for guiding development.

- NITI Aayog, on the other hand, is driven primarily through intellectual firepower as well as the mandate and capability of forging meaningful partnerships with State Governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and innovators for accelerating the pace of India's development.
- While the Planning Commission acted as a fund disburser, NITI Aayog works as a thought partner with all stakeholders, especially the States, which are the principal agents for fostering economic development in the country.

***Initiatives of NITI Aayog*****■ Indices**

- The indices on water, education, health, innovation, export preparedness, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have attracted significant positive attention.
- Similarly, the Composite Water Management Index details how States have progressed on water-related issues over time, including recognising the high-performers as well as identifying areas for deeper engagement and investment by all States.
- The 'School Education Quality Index' aims to institutionalise a focus on improving education outcomes (learning, access, equity) in India.

**■ Initiatives**

- The Aspirational Districts Programme aims to raise the human development indicators in selected districts to the national averages by focusing on governance improvement and achieving effective convergence among Government agencies and organisations on the ground.
- NITI has also implemented the SATH – 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital' program in 3 States, the best practices from which are being replicated in other States as well.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of NITI for promoting innovation and



## GIST OF MAJOR ARTICLES FROM THE MAY 2021 ISSUE

### Promoting a Culture of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

It is a known fact that Indian scientists, thinkers, and innovators are well known across the world who have made several significant scientific discoveries. India is considered as one of the major scientific centres in the world that have been excelling in the fields of mathematics, warfare, geometry, astronomy, medicine, space science, physics, chemistry, botany, etc.

#### Key points

- One of the oldest civilisations in the world, the Indian civilisation has been an active contributor to the global science and technology arena.
- Science and technology plays a pivotal role in the development of a nation, be it economic, social, or overall development.
- India has a good network of science and technology institutions and a sizable pool of highly skilled manpower.
- India has been steadily rising in the Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings and was ranked at 48<sup>th</sup> position in 2020 from 52<sup>nd</sup> position in 2019.
- Multi-national Companies like Samsung, Bosch, Microsoft, CISCO, etc. have started focusing on India to leverage the capability in scientific and technological areas that we have to offer.
- India is one of the youngest countries in 2020, with 64% of the population in the working-age group .
  - This provides a huge opportunity for the young, ambitious, and increasingly educated youth to become job creators rather than being job seekers.
- Radical technological advancements are transforming the world and giving rise to new technology and business innovations at an exponential rate.
  - Electronics miniaturisation has enabled a computer the size of a room to fit the size of our

pockets with the convergence of computing, storage, and communications at incredibly lower costs.

- Robotics and artificial intelligence are driving next-generation productivity and automation. Big data and analysis along with artificial intelligence enable electronic commerce and complex decisions thanks to advanced and user friendly tools.
- The Internet of Things (IoT) links cutting edge sensor technologies to conventional industries - from facilitating precision farming to water treatment and maintenance, climate change control, forecasting and disaster management, driverless cars and spacecraft.

#### India as the innovation nation

- India, as a country, is surrounded by challenges that demand innovative non-linear solutions for challenges which need to be addressed such as poverty, education, healthcare, and the environment.
- India has a confluence of a unique demographic dividend of over 150+ million students entering into the workforce over the next few years, one of the fastest-growing major economies of the world, and affordable, advanced, accessible technologies enabling rapid prototyping and deployment of innovations in every sphere of life.
- The Government of India is taking major steps to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide. For example, Atal Innovation Mission to help transform a nation of job seekers to a nation of researchers, innovators, and job creators.
- Science, technologies and innovations have been largely responsible for rapid economic growth in developed countries, for instance mobile devices and recent technological developments in the ICT sector hav enabled billions of people to connect and open the door to unlimited possibilities in fields such as AI, IoT, Robotics, 3D Printing, Quantum Computing, etc.



# DOWN TO EARTH



## GIST OF MAJOR ARTICLES FROM 30 APRIL AND 15 MAY ISSUES

### Uneasy spring

The world is heating up even in La Niña years that are associated with cooler temperatures.

#### Key changes

- In Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the rhododendron has painted the hills red and pink more than four weeks ahead of schedule.
- Mango trees across the country this year are laden with dense clusters of greenish-white and pinkish flowers.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, almond, peach and gul-tour (a yellow flowering herb), too, have flowered earlier than usual. But rather than spreading cheer, this early arrival of spring has raised concerns among scientists.
- Such early flowering is usually associated with long exposure to light and heat, which is now sweeping the subcontinent.
- India recorded its third-hottest January and February overall in 2021. In terms of minimum temperatures, the first two months were the second hottest on record after 2016, suggests data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- Maximum temperatures soared 5-7°C above normal in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand on January 9.
- But more than the rising temperatures, what has confounded scientists is their occurrence despite the prevailing La Niña conditions, which typically bring in strong cold winds from the Pacific Ocean and keep the mercury low across the subcontinent.

#### La Nina

- La Niña is one of three phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), an important climate phenomenon over the tropical Pacific Ocean that influences rainfall and temperature patterns around the world.
- ENSO oscillates between La Niña and the warm El Niño phases, along with a neutral phase in the middle of the continuum.

- Though the La Niña event appears to have peaked in October-November 2020, there is a 65% likelihood that La Niña conditions will persist during February-April 2021.
- The current La Niña year, which began in 2020, is the warmest on record.

#### Conclusion

What seems to have brought about the changes in the seasons' timeline is global warming supplemented through anthropogenic activities. Global weather phenomena have been hampered leading to sharp variations in regional temperatures.

### Arctic Rush

Rising temperature and melting Arctic ice are changing global geopolitics.

#### Key points

- Rising global temperature is melting Arctic sea ice, making a piece of the planet accessible for the first time in living memory.
- On their way, the tourists would often encounter cargo liners on exploration missions—each clearing the way for future routes to exploit the frozen pole.
- The period between 2005 and 2010 was the warmest since record-keeping began in 1840.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 estimated that the Arctic will have an ice-free summer by the end of this century.
- The Arctic's vast reservoirs of fossil fuel, fish and minerals, including rare earth materials, are now accessible for a longer period.
- Unlike Antarctica, which is protected from exploitation by the Antarctic Treaty framed during the Cold War and is not subject to territorial claims by any country, there is no legal regime protecting the Arctic from industrialisation, especially at a time when the world craves for more and more resources.

# 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—62

#### Topic:

*'A person who values privileges above principles soon loses both.'*

#### 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 **20<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**. 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—62

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

Name of participant: ..... Mobile no. ....

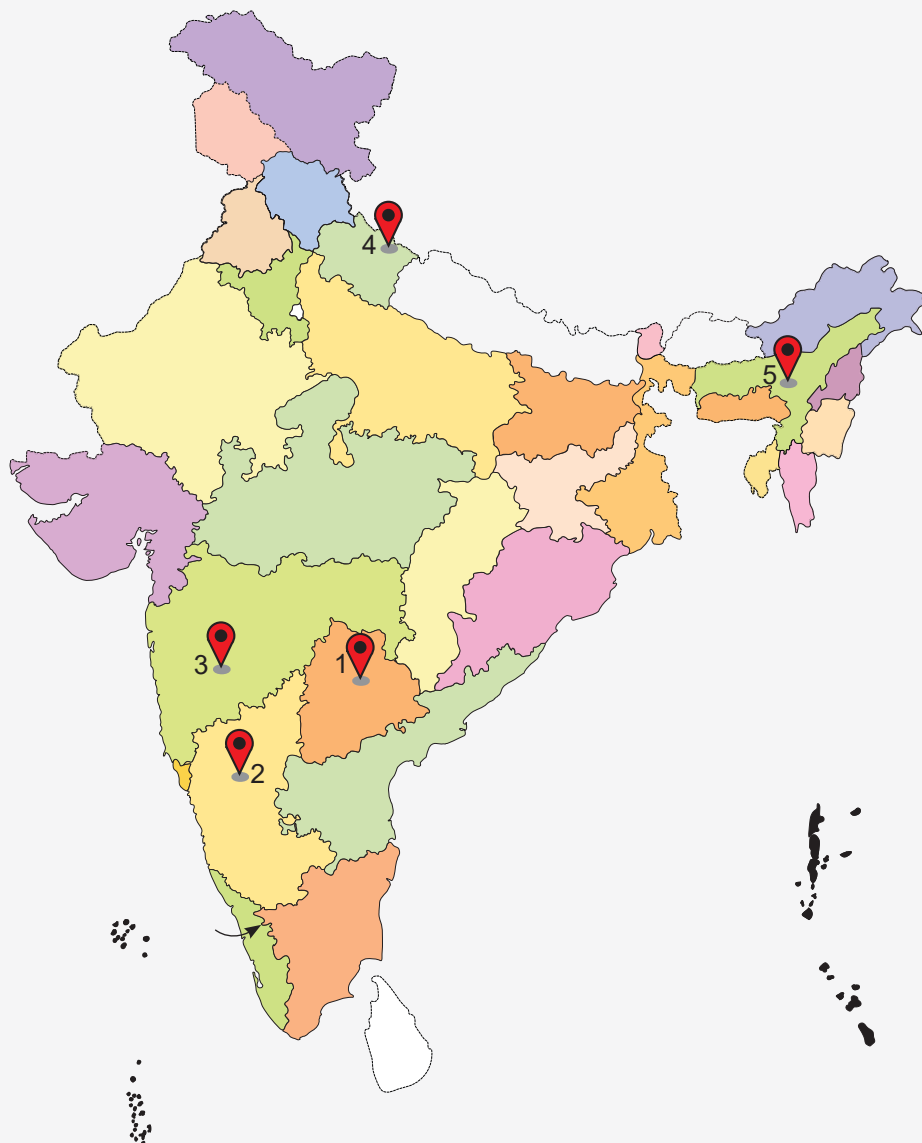
Address: .....  
.....

Pin code: ..... Email ID: .....



# LEARNING

## MAP-1



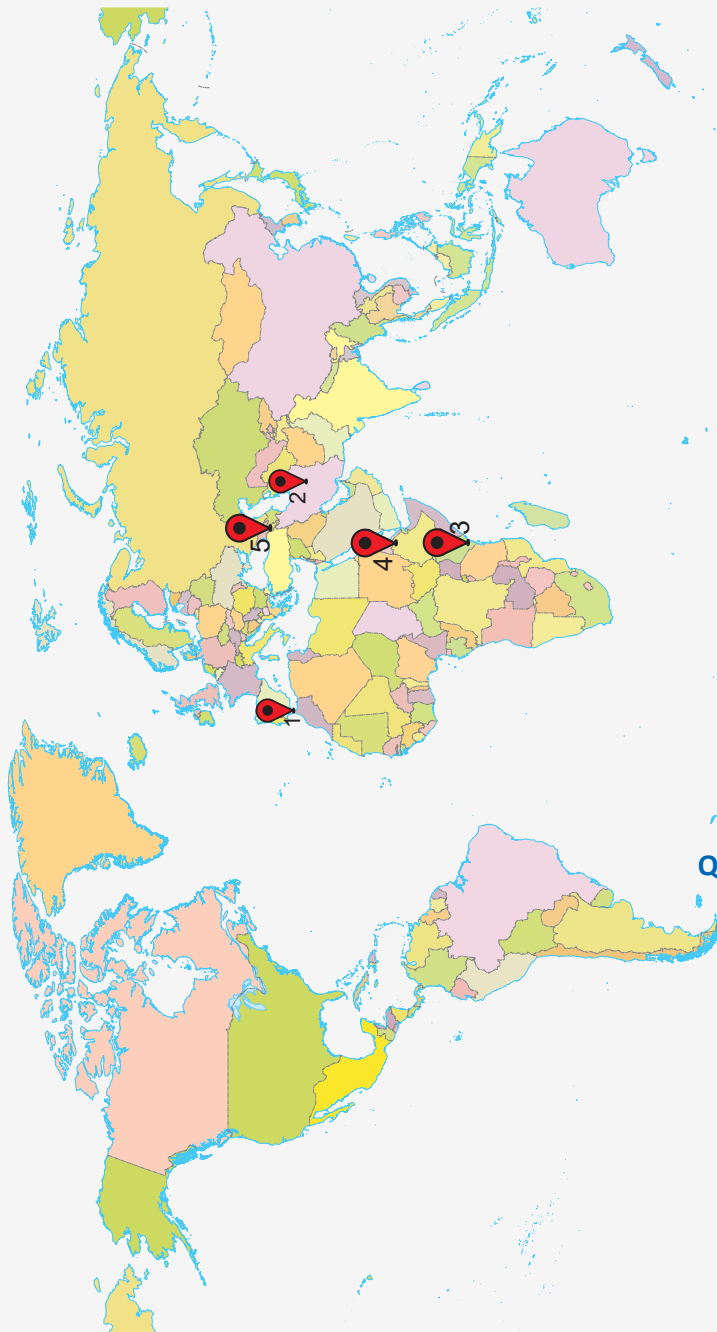
### Questions

1. Identify the State which has started the 'medicine from the sky' initiative.
2. Identify the state of the 'HakkiPikki' tribe which was recently seen in the news.
3. Identify the place where India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre will be set up.
4. Identify the state of Badrinath Dham which will be developed as Spiritual Smart Hilltown.
5. Identify the 'fault zone' where a powerful earthquake was recently reported in North-East India?

*(Answers : Refer to Page No. 162)*



# THROUGH MAPS



## Questions

1. Identify the city of Spanish autonomous territory in North Africa which has recently witnessed huge immigration.
2. Identify the country which recently launched a supercomputer called Simorgh.
3. Identify the region where the oldest human burial was discovered recently.
4. Identify the region of Ethiopia that has been witnessing war for over six months.
5. Identify the country where the mass killings by Ottoman Turks took place and recently the US President officially recognised it as an act of genocide.

*(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.

## COVID-19 Vaccination

The COVID-19 vaccination process is underway around the world.

### What is a vaccination?

- Vaccination is the process of putting the vaccine in the body that teaches it to recognize new diseases. It stimulates the body to make antibodies against antigens of pathogens.
- Vaccine is a product that stimulates a person's immune system to produce immunity against a specific disease, so that the person shall not be infected from it.

### Different COVID-19 vaccines

- There are three main approaches to designing a vaccine. Their differences lie in whether they use:
  - a whole germ (virus or bacterium);
  - just the parts of the germ that triggers the immune system; or
  - just the genetic material that provides the instructions for making specific proteins.
- **The whole-microbe approach:** It can take three ways i.e.
  - **Inactivated vaccine**, which uses inactivated or killed forms of the disease-carrying virus or bacterium. Example: COVAXIN by Bharat Biotech.
  - A **live-attenuated vaccine** uses a living but weakened version of the virus.
  - **Viral vector vaccine** uses a safe virus to deliver specific sub-parts – called proteins – of the germ so that it can trigger an immune response without causing disease. Example: Covishield.
- **The subunit approach:** A subunit vaccine is one that only uses the very specific parts (the subunits) of a virus or bacterium that the immune system needs to recognize. The subunits may be proteins or sugars. Example: Novavax.
- **The genetic approach:** It includes a nucleic acid vaccine that uses a section of genetic material that provides

the instructions for specific proteins, not the whole microbe. Examples: Vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna.

### COVID-19 vaccination in India

- A centralized decision-making body, the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) decides the parameters for selecting appropriate COVID-19 vaccines.
- The government also started cascade training sessions at different levels for doctors, vaccinators, cold chain handlers, and data-entry operators with the launch of the vaccine.
- A new digitized platform CO-WIN was developed. It seeks to register the potential vaccine recipients and guides them through the respective vaccination centres. It also helps keep a track to provide future doses of the vaccine.
- Nevertheless, the lacunae remain such as the vaccine hesitancy and lack of awareness with respect to benefits of vaccination. Besides, cold chain points in our country are distributed unevenly with respect to population size and there is wide disparity between urban and rural areas.

### Vaccine diplomacy

- India was one of the first nations in the world to engage in "vaccine diplomacy," as a measure to assist poor and developing countries that may not otherwise have access to vaccines. India has rolled out the Vaccine Maitri programme keeping in mind the neighbourhood first initiative.
- All these are in congruence with India's historically coveted role in worldwide vaccine production. India has long been known for its prolific pharmaceutical industry, especially given that it is the world's largest producer of vaccines.
- However, the idea of vaccine diplomacy has its own challenges. There has been demand that domestic populations be served first to quell infection rates locally, prior to sending shipments abroad.

D C A T

# TARGET MAINS

## General Studies-I

**Question 1.** “The essence of Jyotiba Phule’s revolution lay in his rationality”. Discuss.

**Answer:** Jyotiba Phule occupies a unique position among the social reformers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Phule’s views and philosophy were based on facts, reality, experiences and observation. In that sense his philosophy was not utopian but realistic.

**He was rational in several ways:**

- Jyotiba Phule established the Satyashodhak Samaj which sowed the seeds of development of the masses and propounded the spread of rational thinking.
  - The movement carried on by the Samaj was the first of its kind to reach the remote villages. He carried on the social reform movements based on social equality.
- He didn’t wage an armed revolution against Brahmanism, but decided to attack where it hurt the most: the Brahmanical knowledge system and the belief system - the traditions and myths of the Brahmins.
- He used the method of ‘rational insult’ to decode the Brahmanical knowledge and liberate people from it.
  - He considered the shudras and ati-shudras to be not just bodily slaves, but also mental slaves who cease to recognise the form of slavery that is being imposed on them.
  - He questioned Brahmanical texts in a rational way. For example, how did the creator Brahma manage the time to reproduce the four varnas since to reproduce four purusha of four varnas from four body parts one has to go through menstruation for around 16 days in a month?
  - This way he turned the Aryan theory upside down - filled a sense of pride and belonging among the lower castes, gave them a history on which they could build an egalitarian future.

- Jyotiba Phule nurtured a favourable perspective of the British Rule in India because he thought that it at least introduced the modern notions of justice and equality into the Indian society. He also criticized the economic policy of the British rule in many respects that was unfavorable to the poor peasants.
- He was a founder of many movements - movement against discrimination; movement of dalit mobilisation; movement of women’s education; peasant’s movement; and movement against blind faith.

Thus, Jyotiba Phule was a rationalist who used logical reasoning to question Hinduism and also the Brahmanical texts to raise his voice against varna system, inequality and social disorder.

**Question 2.** The coronavirus is threatening the survival of some of the world’s most endangered indigenous communities. In light of the above statement, discuss the impacts of the pandemic on India’s indigenous communities.

**Answer:** Indigenous people are distinct social and cultural groups that share collective ancestral ties to the lands and natural resources where they live, occupy or from which they have been displaced.

- They experience a high degree of socio-economic marginalization and are at disproportionate risk in public health emergencies, becoming even more vulnerable during this global pandemic.
- There are chances of their whole community getting diminished as they even lack basic disease resistant capabilities to such communicable diseases.

**Impacts of pandemic on India’s indigenous communities:**

- Due to restrictions posed by lockdown, these communities have not been able to earn their livelihoods.
- Basic health services are very poor in tribal areas, and the pandemic adds the fuel to the fire.
- During the pandemic, indigenous people become more vulnerable, because they lack access to effective monitoring and early-warning systems.



limit of 4%. However, it has been difficult to achieve the dual objective of higher growth and lower inflation. It is advisable to not look at just one indicator, rather at multiple indicators and making financial stability as the underlying theme.

**Question 9.** *What do you mean by Zoonosis? Do you think rising animal-human interaction has been the main cause of the increasing number of such infections? Substantiate.*

**Answer:** A zoonosis is an infectious disease that has jumped from a non-human or animal to humans. Zoonotic pathogens may be bacterial, viral or parasitic, or may involve unconventional agents and can spread to humans through direct contact or through food, water or the environment.

**Human - animal interaction as the reason for spread of zoonotic disease:**

- Markets selling the meat or its by-products are particularly at high risk due to the large number of new or undocumented pathogens known to exist in some wild animal populations.
- Agricultural workers in areas with a high use of antibiotics for farm animals may be at increased risk of pathogens resistant to current antimicrobial drugs.
- People living adjacent to wilderness areas or in semi-urban areas with higher numbers of wild animals are at risk of disease from animals such as rats, foxes or raccoons.
- Urbanization and the destruction of natural habitats increases the risk of zoonotic diseases by increasing contact between humans and wild animals.

**Other reasons for spread of zoonotic diseases:**

- The influence of geoclimatic change on zoonotic disease epidemiology is evident as it creates new ecological niches for vectors hence altering temporal and spatial distribution of disease.
- The ease of transmission of emerging pathogens is facilitated by intercontinental travel. Efficient air and land travel links make disease containment difficult as illustrated by the SARS-coronavirus outbreak.

To prevent the spread of such zoonotic diseases, it is necessary to develop capacity and promote practical, evidence-based and cost-effective tools and mechanisms for zoonoses prevention, surveillance and detection through reporting, epidemiological and laboratory investigation, risk assessment and control, and assisting countries in their implementation.

**General Studies-IV**

**Question 10.** *What does the following quote mean to you?*

“When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

**Answer:** This quote is about not giving up. It is about succeeding by facing all the adversity.

Franklin D. Roosevelt had a lot of rough times in his life. He contracted Polio as an adult, and guided the USA through the Great Depression and World War II. And those were just a few of them.

In common parlance, life is never a bed of roses. One will find a lot of difficulty in his/her life, and that is obvious. Each of these difficulties has got a lot to reveal. They teach us the lessons for our lives.

When it all seems to be lost, and one is at the end of the rope, the quote says to hold on, and help oneself by adding a knot at the end. Be patient and cling on to the knot tied at the end of the rope. It will certainly lead to success. Life does not give favorable situations all the time. There are times when one will feel like losing hope and that is when one should tie a knot and continue fighting.

To illustrate, an honest civil services aspirant prepares with all the zeal to get selected into the civil services. There have been instances when unfortunately, the attempts could not get converted into a rank in the final list. Even if all the attempts get exhausted, the aspirant should not lose hope because life does not end there. One can contribute to society in several ways, though civil services is one of the most sought after ways.

# ART AND CULTURE

## Section - 1: Architecture 114

- Indus Valley Civilization 114
- Art and Architecture of the Mauryan Period 116
- Schools of Art in the Post-Mauryan Age 118
- Art and Architecture of the Gupta Age 119
- Temple Architecture 120
- Architecture of South India 121
- Regional Schools of Architecture 123
- Architecture of Medieval India 124
- Architecture of Modern India 125

## Section - 2: Paintings, Music, Dance, Theatre and Puppetry 126

- Paintings 126
- Indian Music 130
- Indian Dances 132
- Indian Theatre 136
- Puppetry 137

## Section - 3: Philosophy in India, Language and Literature 138

- Schools of Philosophy 138
- The Heterodox School of Philosophy 140
- Language 144
- Literature 145

## Section - 4: Miscellaneous 150

- Tribes of India 150
- Martial Arts 153
- Handicrafts of India 153

## Practice Questions (Art and Culture) 156

## Section - 1: Architecture

Architecture is the art of building. Over the millennia, the art of building has evolved from simple shelters to complex skyscrapers.

### Key features

- Architecture not only provides worldly needs of shelter, workspace and storage but also represents human ideals in buildings like courthouses, government buildings and manifestations of the spirit in churches and temples.
- Traditional architecture has survived over thousands of years in one form or another, while contemporary design offers new approaches in how we use materials and technology to shape the look of our environment.
- The origin of Indian architecture can easily be traced back 5000 years to the Indus Valley Civilization.

## INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- The Indus Valley Civilization was an urban civilization that prospered during the Bronze Age (2500-1500). It was one of the contemporaries of the Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.
- The remnants of this civilization have been extensively excavated. There are major sites like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, and there are minor sites like Banawali and Kalibangan.

### Building

- The settlement was divided into two sections, one smaller but higher and the other much larger but lower. Archaeologists designate these as the Citadel and the Lower Town respectively.
- The Citadel owes its height to the fact that buildings were constructed on mud-brick platforms. It was walled, which meant that it was physically separated from the Lower Town.
- The Lower Town was also walled. Several buildings were built on platforms, which served as foundations.
- The “**Great Granary**” in Mohenjo-Daro was built on a raised platform. It also had air ducts in its design. These were measures to protect grain from flood, pests and from rotting.

- Bricks, sun-dried or baked, used in buildings were of a standardised ratio. Such bricks were used at all Harappan settlements.

### Drainage system

- Roads and streets were laid out along an approximate “**grid**” pattern, intersecting at right angles. It seems that streets with drains were laid out first and then houses were built along with them.
- If domestic wastewater had to flow into the street drains, every house needed to have at least one wall along a street.
- They also used arches in their buildings but only as underground foundations or when building drains and not as structural designs for the standing buildings.

### Public bath

- A watertight pool called the **Great Bath**, perched on top of a mound of dirt, was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides.
- There were two flights of steps on the north and south leading into the tank, which was made watertight by setting bricks on edge and using a mortar of gypsum.
- There were rooms on three sides, in one of which was a large well. Water from the tank flowed into a huge drain.
- It is believed that this tank would have been used for special religious functions where water was used to purify and renew the well being of the bathers.
- The ‘college of priests’ is the name given to the large building that stood adjacent to the Great Bath.

### Personal Dwellings

- Generally, rooms were built around a central courtyard and front doors rarely faced the main street. Some two-storied houses were also found suggesting the presence of a middle or elite class.
- These types of houses had wells, bathrooms and were mostly ventilated suggesting a high degree of urban opulence.



### Portuguese School of Architecture

- The Portuguese brought the Iberian Style of architecture to India.
- They introduced the patio style of building houses and also built Baroque Churches.
- **For example**, St. Cathedral (Goa), Castella de Aguanda (Mumbai).

### French School of Architecture

- The French built planned cities like Pondicherry (Puducherry) using Cartesian grids.
- They introduced anonymous architecture in India.
- **For example**, the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Puducherry).

### British School of Architecture (Indo-Gothic Style)

- It is called the Victorian style of architecture and it fused Indian, Persian and Gothic styles.
- Its features were – elaborate and large constructions, thinner walls, large windows, pointed arches and were constructed using concrete, iron and steel.

- **For example**, Victoria Memorial (Kolkata) Gateway of India (Mumbai).

### British School of Architecture (Neo-Roman Style)

- After 1911, the British introduced the Neoclassical style of architecture in India.
- Its features were – anonymous designs, fusion of many styles, limited artistic expressions, compromise on utility, overuse of oriental motifs, introduction of the upturned dome and the emphasis on circular buildings.
- **For example**, Rashtrapati Bhavan and Supreme Court (Delhi).

Post-independence India saw the decline of the architecture traditions as the constructions focused primarily on the utility and economic viability of the buildings. The concept of modern economic buildings was introduced and it broke the continuity in the architectural traditions of the preceding ages.

#### Laurie Baker

He is known as the 'Architect of the Poor' as he designed mass housing projects in Kerala. His construction style used locally available material and was eco-friendly. He also introduced the now-common method of using filler slabs to replace steel while constructing homes.

## Section - 2: Paintings, Music, Dance, Theatre and Puppetry

### PAINTINGS

Painting is one of the most delicate forms of art giving expression to human thoughts and feelings through the media of line and colour. Many thousands of years before the dawn of history, when man was only a cave dweller, he painted his rock shelters to satisfy his aesthetic sensitivity and creative urge.

#### Key features

- History of Indian paintings can be traced back to the primitive **rock paintings of Bhimbetka**, Hosangabad, Mirzapur and Panchmarhi. This followed the painted pottery of the Indus Valley Civilization, but the real beginning of the art of painting began from the Gupta Age.
- The paintings are primitive records of wild animals, war processions and hunting scenes. They are crudely but most realistically drawn. All these drawings bear a remarkable resemblance to the famous rock shelter paintings in Spain, which are presumed to be the work of Neolithic man.

- **Vishakhadutta's** famous Sanskrit play **Mudrarakshasa** also had mention of many paintings. It also mentions 6 principles/limbs of paintings:

<b>Rupabheda</b>	Variety of form
<b>Sadrishyan</b>	Portrayal of likeliness of the subject
<b>Bhava</b>	Creation of lustre with the colours
<b>Varnika Bhanga</b>	Mixing of colours to resemble the effects of modeling
<b>Pramanam</b>	Proportion of the object or subject
<b>Lavanya Yojanam</b>	Immersion of emotions

Under Akbar, the Portuguese introduced the idea of foreshortening thus giving the 3D effects to the pictures. Akbar established a place called **Karkhana** where artists from various countries came and collectively worked on producing paintings.

#### Wall paintings

- The tradition of wall paintings has been passed down from pre-historic times to us today. Paintings are done on walls to invoke the gods to bless the soil,

- The music is dominantly influenced by the classical music of the region and the theme of the puppet plays are drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas.
- **Ravana Chhaya, Odisha**
  - The puppets are in one piece and have no joints. They are not coloured, hence throw opaque shadows on the screen.
  - The puppets are made of deer's skin and are conceived in bold dramatic poses.

### Rod Puppets

- **Putul Nautch, West Bengal**
  - They are carved from wood and follow the various artistic styles of a particular region.
  - The Bengal rod-puppets, which survive are about 3 to 4 feet in height and are costumed like the actors of Jatra, a traditional theatre form prevalent in the State.

### Yampuri, Bihar

- These puppets are made of wood. Unlike the traditional Rod puppets of West Bengal and Odisha, these puppets are in one piece and have no joints.
- As these puppets have no joints, the manipulation is different from other Rod puppets and requires greater dexterity.

### Glove Puppets

#### ■ Pavakoothu, Kerala

- It came into existence during the 18<sup>th</sup> century due to the influence of Kathakali, the famous classical dance-drama of Kerala, on puppet performances.
- The musical instruments used during the performance are **Chenda, Chengiloa, Ilathalam** and **Shankha**.
- The theme for Glove puppet plays in Kerala is based on the episodes from either the Ramayana or the Mahabharata.

## Section - 3: Philosophy in India, Language and Literature

### SCHOOLS OF PHILOSOPHY

#### Key Points

- The tradition of philosophy is as old as the tradition of literature in the Indian context. Some of the earliest works were in fact philosophical works that questioned the mysteries of life.
- In answering these questions the philosophical traditions often merged with religious and social traditions, thereby helping create a new social and political order on the lines of Varna division.
- Even though there were many different strands of philosophical thought, yet the four basic goals of human life were agreed upon without much confusion.
  - The goal of Artha (wealth) was dealt with in the Arthashastra,
  - The goal of Dharma (social regulation) was described in the Dharmashastra,
  - The goal of Kama (sexual pleasure) was elaborated in the Kamashastra or the Kamasutra and
  - The goal of Moksha (salvation) was tackled in many Darshana texts.
- The common theme running across these different schools of ancient philosophy was

the attainment of salvation or the freedom from the cycle of birth and death.

- It was only on the methods advocated for the attainment of salvation that these schools disagreed upon. Based on these disagreements, the ancient Indian schools of philosophy are classified.
- The ancient philosophy of India can be broadly divided into two major strands – **the Orthodox School** and the **Heterodox School**. Both Schools are further subdivided into six and three major schools respectively.

### The Orthodox School of Philosophy

- The Orthodox School believed in the supremacy of the Vedas. They believed that the ancient scriptures were the guide to human salvation. The authenticity of the ancient texts was not questioned.
- It was during the later Vedic period that definite ideas and philosophies about the true nature of the soul or *atman* and the cosmic principle or *brahman* who represented the ultimate reality were developed.
- These Vedic philosophical concepts, later on, gave rise to six different schools of philosophies called **Shada Darshana**.

- The most important text in Punjabi literature is **Adi Granth**, the religious book of the Sikhs.
- The tenth guru of Sikhs, **Guru Gobind Singh** contributed to the **Adi Granth** and also wrote poetry in Punjabi known as **Savaiyyas**.
- **Guru Nanak** was the first poet in Punjabi. Some other contemporary poets, mostly Sufi saints, used to sing in this language.
- These Sufis or their followers used the Persian script if they wanted to commit their poetry to writing. In this list, the first name is that of **Farid**. His poetry has found a place in the **Adi Granth**.

### Marathi

- The earliest Marathi poetry and prose is by **Saint Jnaneshwar** (Gyaneshwar) who lived in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote a long commentary on the **Bhagavad Gita**. He was the one who started the **kirtan** tradition in Maharashtra.
- He was followed by **Namdev** (1270- 1350), **Gora**, **Sena** and **Janabai**. All these sang and popularised the Marathi language.
- Almost two centuries later, **Eknath** (1533-99) wrote the commentaries on the **Ramayana** and the **Bhagavad Purana**. His songs are very popular all over Maharashtra.
- The closing years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw an upsurge in the Marathi literature. It was a nationalist movement that made Marathi prose popular and prominent. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** (1857-1920) started his **Journal Kesari** in Marathi.

- **Hari Narayan Apte**, **V S Chiplunkar**, **M G Ranade**, **K T Telang** etc. were some of the important writers and poets of that period.

### Kashmiri

- Kashmir shot into literary prominence, when **Kalhana** wrote **Rajatarangini** in Sanskrit but this was in the language of the elite.
- For locals, Kashmiri was the popular dialect.
- **Lal Ded**, who lived in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was probably the first to sing in the Kashmiri language. She was a Shaivite mystic.
- After Islam spread in this area, the Sufi influence also came to be visible. The later literary works in Kashmir were dominated by **Dogri**, due to the passing of political power of Kashmir to the **Dogra** family.

### Assamese

Although Assamese literature was dominated by court chronicles called **Buranjis**, several poetry and other literary works have also been composed by writers such as **Shankardev**, **Padmanaba Gohain Barua**, etc.

### Gujarati

- Various popular names are attached with Gujarati literature like **Narsinh Mehta**, **Govardhan Ram**, **SaraswatiChandra**, etc.
- The literature reached its zenith with the writings of **Dr K M Munshi**, who wrote many fiction and non-fiction works such as **Prithvi Vallabha**.

## Section - 4: Miscellaneous

### TRIBES OF INDIA

India is home to an estimated more than five thousand unique anthropological groups. These groups are also of different racial stocks like **Negritos**, **Australoids**, **Mongoloids**, **Mediterranean** and **Nordics**, etc. These groups are sometimes called **tribal groups** or **race groups**.

### Bhils

- The **Bhil** are one of the largest tribal groups, living in **Chhattisgarh**, **Gujarat**, **Karnataka**, **Madhya Pradesh**, **Maharashtra**, **Andhra Pradesh** and **Rajasthan**.

- The **Bhil** are known to be **excellent** archers coupled with deep knowledge about their local geography.

### Munda

- The **Mundas** are a tribe belonging to the **Chotanagpur** plateau, spread across **Jharkhand**, **Chhattisgarh**, **Madhya Pradesh**, **Odisha**, **Tripura** and **West Bengal**.
- They observe many festivals, the most important being the **Magha** or **Ba**, a thanks-giving festival celebrated in spring.
- Buried ancestors are treated as guardians spirits of the 'khunt' or the genealogical family, symbolized by **sasandiri**, the burial stone.



## Jarawa

- The Jarawa is an adivasi indigenous group belonging to the Andaman Islands. Jarawas speak the Jarawa language which is an Ongan language.

- They live in parts of South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands, and their present numbers are estimated at between 250–400 individuals.

## Festivals of India

List of Indian Festivals		
State	Festival	Description
Assam	Bihu (Bohaag, Magh and Kaati Bihu)	These are seasonal festivals held to celebrate the agricultural calendar viz. sowing (Bohaag), transplanting (Kaati) and harvesting (Magh).
Arunachal Pradesh	Torgya Monastery Festival	It is a monastic festival held to celebrate the destruction of the evil spirits and harmful forces.
Meghalaya	Behdienkhlam Festival	It is an important festival of the Jaintias held to seek good health, prosperity and a good harvest. Literally it means 'to drive away evils and plague'.
Manipur	Ningol Chakouba	Literally meaning to invite a married daughter for lunch at her mother's home, it is a festival that celebrates the special homecoming with a feast of various delicacies.
Mizoram	Chapchar Kut	It is a spring festival celebrated in Mizoram to mark the successful clearing of the jungles in preparation for the Jhum cultivation.
Nagaland	Hornbill Festival	This festival is the celebration of the Naga cultural heritage where the various Naga tribes showcase their traditions under one roof.
Tripura	Kharchi Puja	In Tripuri language, it literally means to cleanse the land and the people of all sins. It involves the worship of the Fourteen Gods which is the dynastic deity of the Tripuri people.
Assam	Ambubachi Mela	Held in the Kamakhya Temple, in Assam, it is also called the 'Mahakumbh of the East'. It is also the biggest festival in India associated with the cult of fertility worship.
Ladakh	Losar festival	The festival is marked by making offerings to the Gods, both in Gompas and their shrines. It has its origin in the 15 <sup>th</sup> century, celebrates the Ladakhi or Tibetan New Year.
Kerala	Onam	It is a harvest festival, and falls in the Malayalam calendar month of <i>Chingam</i> , which overlaps with August–September. The festival is celebrated to commemorate King Mahabali.
Kerala	Thrissur Pooram	It is held at the <b>Vadakkunnathan Temple</b> in Thrissur annually on the Pooram day – the day when the moon rises with the Pooram star in the Malayalam Calendar month of Medam.
Tamil Nadu	Pongal	It is a harvest festival of South India, particularly in the Tamil community. It is observed at the start of the month <i>Tai</i> according to Tamil solar calendar, and this is typically about January 14.
Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	Bathukamma	It is a floral festival celebrated as per Satavahana calendar for nine days starting Bhadrpada Pournami usually in September–October. Bathukamma is a beautiful flower stack, arranged with different unique seasonal flowers, most of them with medicinal values.
Jharkhand	Karma festival	<b>Karma</b> is a harvest festival dedicated to the worship of Karam-Devta (Karam-Lord/God), the god of power, youth, and youthfulness.
Punjab	Lohri	It is celebrated on 13 <sup>th</sup> January every year. It marks the ending of winters as the Sun moves from Winter Solstice to Equinox.

### List of Tribal Festivals

Festival and Tribe	Region	Festival	Region
Kail Poldhu festival, Kodava Tribe	Coorg, Karnataka	Mopin festival, Galo Tribe	Arunachal Pradesh
Sarhul festival	Jharkhand	Tusu festival, Kurmi Tribe	Jharkhand, West Bengal
Thisam Phanit, Naga Tribe	Manipur	Bhagoria haat festival, Bhil Tribe	Madhya Pradesh
Bhoramdeo Mahotsav	Chhattisgarh	Chavang Kut, Kuki-Chin-Mizo Tribe	Manipur
Boori Boot, Nyishi Tribe	Arunachal Pradesh	Nongkrem Dance festival, Khasi Tribe	Meghalaya
Baneshwar festival, Bhil Tribe	Rajasthan	Tshukhenyi Festival, Chakasang Tribe	Nagaland
Dree festival, Apatani Tribe	Arunachal Pradesh	Moatsu festival, Ao Tribe	Nagaland

## Practice Questions (Art and Culture)

1. Which of the following showed the greatest uniformity in Harappan settlements?

- (a) Town planning
- (b) Building
- (c) Bricks
- (d) Religious practices

2. Which metal has so far not been discovered in Harappan sites?

- (a) Copper
- (b) Gold
- (c) Silver
- (d) Iron

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Indus Valley Civilisation:

- 1. It was predominantly a secular civilisation and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
- 2. During this period cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Which one of the following is not the characteristic feature of the Harappan settlements?

- (a) Doorways and windows generally faced the side lanes and rarely opened into the main streets
- (b) Houses generally had separate bathing areas and toilets
- (c) The citadel was walled but the lower towns were not walled
- (d) Drains and water chutes from the second storey were often built inside the wall

5. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about seals found in Harappa civilization?

- 1. Seals were primarily made of silver and gold.
- 2. Un-inscribed seals were found at Rakhigarhi.
- 3. Seals were only used for trade and commerce.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. The script of the Indus Valley Civilisation was:

- (a) Boustrophedon
- (b) Brahmi
- (c) Nagri
- (d) None of these

7. Consider the following pairs:

River	Place
A. Ghaggar	1. Mohenjodaro
B. Ravi	2. Kalibangan
C. Indus	3. Lothal
D. Bhogava	4. Harappa

Select the answer from the codes given below:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	3	4	1	2
(c)	3	1	4	2
(d)	2	4	1	3

8. Which one of the following statements regarding Harappan Civilisation is correct?

- (a) The Harappan script was first deciphered by James Prinsep.
- (b) The inhabitants of Harappa had neither knowledge of copper nor of bronze.
- (c) The Harappan Civilisation was rural-based.
- (d) The inhabitants of Harappa grew and used cotton.

9. Which one of the following sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation had an ancient dockyard?

- (a) Kalibangan
- (b) Lothal
- (c) Rangpur
- (d) Harappa

10. The site of Harappa is located on the bank of the river:

- (a) Saraswati
- (b) Indus
- (c) Beas
- (d) Ravi

11. Which of the following was conspicuous by its absence in the terracottas of Indus Civilisation?

- (a) Sheep
- (b) Buffalo
- (c) Cow
- (d) Pig

12. Which one of the following was *not* known to the Harappans?

- (a) Construction of wells
- (b) Construction of pillars
- (c) Construction of drains
- (d) Construction of arches

13. Consider the following pairs:

Place	Finding
A. Lothal	1. Ploughed field
B. Kalibangan	2. Dockyard
C. Dholavira	3. Terracotta replica of a plough
D. Banawali	4. An inscription comprising ten large-sized sign of the Harappan script

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	2	1	4	3
(c)	1	2	4	3
(d)	2	1	3	4



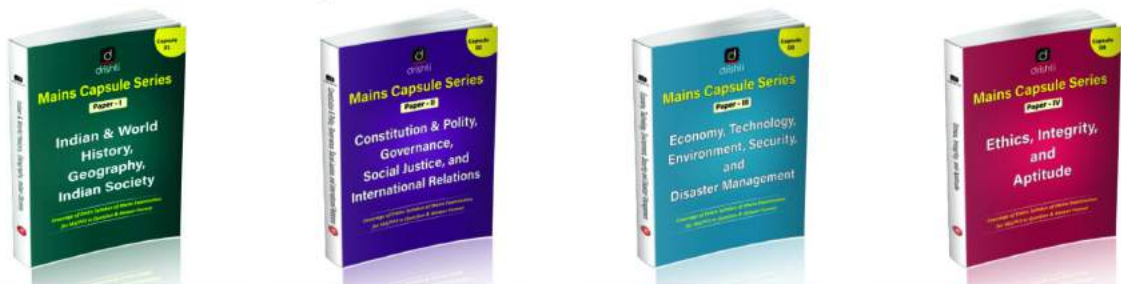
## Prelims Practice Series

*A six book series focussed on Prelims stage of various competitive examinations*



## Mains Capsule Series

*A four book series focussed on Mains stage of civil services examination*



**Capsule – 01 :** Indian & World History, Geography, Indian Society

**Capsule – 02 :** Constitution & Polity, Governance, Social Justice, and International Relations

**Capsule – 03 :** Economy, Technology, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

**Capsule – 04 :** Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude



At [www.drishtiiias.com](http://www.drishtiiias.com)  
or call 8448485520

Also Available at  
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) & [Flipkart](https://www.flipkart.com) 

Address: 641, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Opp. Signature View Apts, Delhi-9

Contact Us at: 011-47532596, 87501 87501, 8130392356



Drishti IAS: English



@drishtieng



drishtiiasenglish



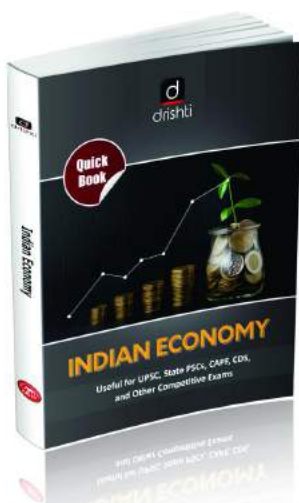
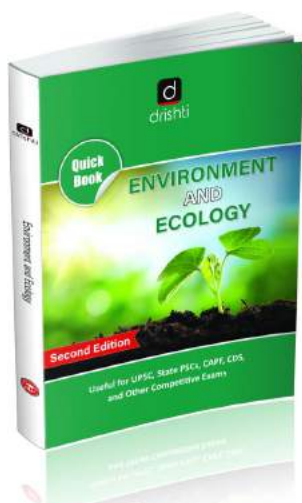
@drishtiiaseng





drishti

## Drishti IAS brings the Quick Book series



- A concise revision material comprising examination centric contents.
- A one stop solution for UPSC, State PSCs and other competitive exams.
- Covers basic concepts supplemented with contemporary developments.
- Structured content using infographics, flow charts, bullet points and examples to enable easy retention.
- Practice Questions at the end of each chapter.



At [www.drishtiias.com](http://www.drishtiias.com)  
or call 8448485520

Also Available at  
[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) & [Flipkart](http://Flipkart)

Address: 641, 1st Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Opp. Signature View Apts, Delhi-9

Contact Us at: 011-47532596, 87501 87501, 8130392356



Drishti IAS: English



@drishtieng



drishtiiasenglish



@drishtiiaseng



Now you can also order your copies of 'Drishti Current Affairs Today' at [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)