

# NIMBUS TIMES

**PM HISTORIC VISIT TO  
VLADIVOSTOK RUSSIA**



**GOVT SCHEME  
FOR FARMERS**



**IAF INDUCTED US MADE  
APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTER**



## IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

ART & CULTURE

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

ECONOMY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SOCIAL ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

CURRENT AFFAIRS (100 MCQ)

HP CURRENT AFFAIRS

HPSAS MODEL TEST PAPER

**USEFUL FOR UPSC AND STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS**

## **PREFACE**

This booklet of Current Affairs is an attempt so as to help the Civil Services Aspirants in their process of learning, understanding and analyzing each and every aspect of the current issue in the easiest possible manner. In order to make the understanding of the current affairs a long lasting affair and to help students score good marks in the examination; a balance between factual content and analytical approach has been maintained in this booklet.

**The booklet has been meticulously designed to suit the needs of Civil Service Aspirants appearing in IAS and State PSC examinations.** In addition, it would benefit all those who are preparing for other competitive examinations or such individuals who are knowledge starving and have a passion to learn more.

Owing to nature of the booklet, the Nimbus Academy Team has prepared the material with the help of the facts and the information provided by various Ministries of Govt. of India and merging those with the concepts developed by the subject matter experts.

**Reader's suggestions and feedback directed towards improvements are welcome and can be e-mailed at [nimbusias@gmail.com](mailto:nimbusias@gmail.com)**

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# POLITY

## THE MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 15, 2019 by the Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety. The Act provides for grant of licenses and permits related to motor vehicles, standards for motor vehicles, and penalties for violation of these provisions.
- **Compensation for road accident victims:** The central government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour. **The Bill defines golden hour as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.** The central government may also make a scheme for providing interim relief to claimants seeking compensation under third party insurance. **The Bill increases the minimum compensation for hit and run cases as follows: (i) in case of death, from Rs 25,000 to two lakh rupees, and (ii) in case of grievous injury, from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000.**
- **Compulsory insurance:** The Bill requires **the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.** It will be utilised for: (i) treatment of persons injured in road accidents as per the golden hour scheme, (ii) compensation to representatives of a person who died in a hit and run accident, (iii) compensation to a person grievously hurt in a hit and run accident, and (iv) compensation to any other persons as prescribed by the central government. **This Fund will be credited through:** (i) payment of a nature notified by the central government, (ii) a grant or loan made by the central government, (iii) balance of the Solatium Fund (existing fund under the Act to provide compensation for hit and run accidents), or (iv) any other source as prescribed the central government.
- **Good samaritans:** The Bill defines a good samaritan as a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident. The assistance must have been (i) in good faith, (ii) voluntary, and (iii) without the expectation of any reward. Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.
- **Recall of vehicles:** The Bill allows the central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users. The manufacturer of the recalled vehicle will be required to: (i) reimburse the buyers for the full cost of the vehicle, or (ii) replace the defective vehicle with another vehicle with similar or better specifications.
- **National Transportation Policy:** The central government may develop a National Transportation Policy, in consultation with state governments. The Policy will: (i) establish a planning framework for road transport, (ii) develop a framework for grant of permits, and (iii) specify priorities for the transport system, among other things.
- **Road Safety Board:** The Bill provides for a National Road Safety Board, to be created by the central government through a notification. The Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including: (i) standards of motor vehicles, (ii) registration and licensing of vehicles, (iii) standards for road safety, and (iv) promotion of new vehicle technology.
- **Offences and penalties:** The Bill increases penalties for several offences under the Act. For example, the maximum penalty for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has been increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000. If a vehicle manufacturer fails to comply with motor vehicle standards, the penalty

will be a fine of up to Rs 100 crore, or imprisonment of up to one year, or both. If a contractor fails to comply with road design standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to one lakh rupees. The central government may increase fines mentioned under the Act every year by up to 10%.

- **Taxi aggregators:** The Bill defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state further they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

## ZONAL COUNCILS

### Why in News?

- 29th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council Held recently.

### Zonal councils:

Statutory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act 1956 and not constitutional bodies. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies.

**Aim:** to promote interstate cooperation and coordination.

### There are 5 Zonal councils namely:

1. **The Northern Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
2. **The Central Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
3. **The Eastern Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal.
4. **The Western Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
5. **The Southern Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**The North Eastern States** i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya (vii) Sikkim and (viii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.

### Composition of the Zonal Council:

**Chairman** – The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.

**Vice Chairman** – The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.

**Members**– Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.

**Advisers**– One person nominated by the Planning Commission (which has been replaced by NITI Aayog now) for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone.

**Union Ministers** are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

**The main objectives** of setting up of Zonal Councils are:

- Bringing out national integration;
- Arresting the growth of acute State consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies;
- Enabling the Centre and the States to co-operate and exchange ideas and experiences;

- Establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the States for successful and speedy execution of development projects.

#### **Difference between the Zonal Council and other forums of cooperation between Centre and States:**

- Though there are a large number of other fora like the National Development Council, Inter State Council, Governor's/Chief Minister's Conferences and other periodical high level conferences held under the auspices of the Union Government, the Zonal Councils are different, both in content and character. They are regional fora of cooperative endeavour for States linked with each other economically, politically and culturally. Being compact high level bodies, specially meant for looking after the interests of respective zones, they are capable of focusing attention on specific issues taking into account regional factors, while keeping the national perspective in view.

## **PROHIBITION OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES ORDINANCE**

- Union Cabinet approves Promulgation of *the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) Ordinance, 2019.*

#### **Provisions of the Ordinance:**

- Any production, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale (including online sale), distribution or advertisement (including online advertisement) of e-cigarettes shall be a cognizable offence.
- It shall be punishable with an imprisonment of up to one year or fine up to Rs. 1 lakh or both for the first offence; and imprisonment of up to three years and fine up to Rs. 5 lakh for a subsequent offence.
- Storage of electronic-cigarettes shall also be punishable with an imprisonment up to 6 months or fine up to Rs 50,000 or both.
- The owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes on the date of commencement of the Ordinance will have to suomoto declare and deposit these stocks with the nearest police station.
- The Sub-Inspector of Police has been designated as the Authorized Officer to take action under the Ordinance.
- The Central or State Governments may also designate any other equivalent officer(s) as Authorized Officer for enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance.

#### **What are Electronic-cigarettes?**

- The Ordinance defines electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) as battery-operated devices that heat a substance, which may or may not contain nicotine, to create vapour for inhalation. These e-cigarettes can also contain different flavours such as menthol, mango, watermelon, and cucumber. Usually, e-cigarettes are shaped like conventional tobacco products (such as cigarettes, cigars, or hookahs), but they also take the form of everyday items such as pens and USB memory sticks.
- Unlike traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes do not contain tobacco and therefore are not regulated under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003. This Act regulates the sale, production, and distribution of cigarettes and other tobacco products in India, and prohibits advertisement of cigarettes.

#### **Why prohibit e-Cigarettes?**

- Their use has increased exponentially and has acquired epidemic proportions in developed countries, especially among youth and children.
- Apart from nicotine, e-cigarettes may also be used for delivery of other psychoactive substances.
- Widespread use and unchecked proliferation of e-cigarettes and the like devices would seriously undermine and derail Government's efforts to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use.



## NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR TECHNOLOGY (NEAT) SCHEME

- Ministry of HRD announces National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme for using better technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- AICTE would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme.

### Objective:

- To use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.

### How it works:

- This requires development of technologies in Adaptive Learning to address the diversity of learners.
- There are a number of start-up companies developing this and MHRD would like to recognise such efforts and bring them under a common platform so that learners can access it easily.
- MHRD proposes to create a National Alliance with such technology developing EdTech Companies through a PPP model.
- MHRD would act as a facilitator to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students.
- MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.
- EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal. They would be free to charge fees as per their policy.
- As their contribution towards the National cause, they would have to offer free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution through NEAT portal.
- MHRD would distribute the free coupons for learning to the most socially/economically backward students.
- MHRD proposes to launch and operationalise NEAT in early November 2019.

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SAFETY ACT (PSA)

### Why in News?

- Farooq Abdullah, Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, has been booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

### What is the J&K Public Safety Act?

- The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), received the assent of the J&K Governor on April 8, 1978,
- It is often referred to as a “draconian” law.

### Brief History:

- The Act was introduced by the government of Sheikh Abdullah as a tough law to prevent the smuggling of timber and keep the smugglers “out of circulation”.

### Provisions of the Act:

- The law allowed the government to **detain any person above the age of 16 without trial for a period of two years.**
- The PSA allows for administrative detention for up to two years** “in the case of persons acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State”, and for administrative detention up to one year where “any person is acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order”.

- Detention orders under PSA can be issued by Divisional Commissioners or District Magistrates. The detaining authority need not disclose any facts about the detention “which it considers to be against the public interest to disclose”.
- Section 22 of the Act provides protection for any action taken “in good faith” under the Act: “No suit, prosecution or any other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done or intended to be done in good faith in pursuance of the provisions of this Act.”
- Under Section 23 of the Act, the government is empowered to “make such Rules consistent with the provisions of this Act, as may be necessary for carrying out the objects of this Act”.

#### Concerns:

- However, right from the beginning, the law was misused widely, and was repeatedly employed against political opponents by consecutive governments until 1990.
- After the emergence of militancy, the J&K government frequently invoked the PSA to crack down on separatists.
- In the aftermath of the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in July 2016, hundreds of youths in the Valley were detained under PSA, with extendable detention periods. In August 2018, the Act was amended to allow individuals to be detained under the PSA outside the state as well.
- The global human rights organisations such as Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) and Amnesty International have noted in their reports that responses by various government authorities to applications filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 suggest that no Rules have so far been framed to lay down procedures for the implementation of the provisions of the PSA.
- In August 2018, the Act was amended to allow individuals to be detained under the PSA outside the state as well. The detaining authority need not disclose any facts about the detention “which it considers to be against the public interest to disclose”.
- The terms under which a person is detained under PSA are vague and include a broad range of activities like “acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State” or for “acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order”.
- The vagueness provided in the act gives unbridled powers to the authorities. The detainees, therefore, are effectively debarred from contesting the legality of their detention.
- **PSA does not provide for a judicial review of detention.** To checkmate the J&K High Court orders for release of persons detained under the act the state authorities issue successive detention orders. This ensures prolonged detention of people.
- PSC has been used against human rights activists, journalists, separatists and others who are considered as a threat to the law & order.
- **Right to dissent is stifled by these Acts.**

## COLLEGIUM OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES

- The recent controversy over the transfer of the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, to the Meghalaya High Court has once again brought to the fore a long-standing debate on the functioning of the ‘Collegium’ of judges.

#### What is the Collegium system?

- The Collegium System is a system under which appointments/elevation of judges/lawyers to Supreme Court and transfers of judges of High Courts and Apex Court are decided by a forum of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.'

- There is no mention of the Collegium either in the original Constitution of India or in successive amendments. Constitution says judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed by the President and speaks of a process of consultation.
- The Collegiums System of appointment of judges was born through “**three judges case**” which interpreted constitutional articles on October 28, 1998.

#### **About the Three Judges Case:**

- **First Judges Case’ (1981)** ruled that the “consultation” with the CJI in the matter of appointments must be full and effective. However, the CJI’s opinion should have primacy.
- **Second Judges Case (1993)** introduced the Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”. It added that it was not the CJI’s individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the Supreme Court.
- **Third Judges Case (1998):** SC on President’s reference expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

#### **Procedure followed by the Collegium:**

- The President of India appoints the CJI and the other SC judges.
- For other judges of the top court, the proposal is initiated by the CJI.
- The CJI consults the rest of the Collegium members, as well as the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs.
- The consultees must record their opinions in writing and it should form part of the file.
- The Collegium sends the recommendation to the Law Minister, who forwards it to the Prime Minister to advise the President.
- The Chief Justice of High Courts is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States.
- The Collegium takes the call on the elevation.

#### **Appointment of CJI for High Courts:**

- High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.
- The proposal, however, is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues.
- The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister.

#### **Common criticism made against the Collegium system:**

- The administrative burden of appointing and transferring judges without a separate secretariat or intelligence-gathering mechanism dedicated to collection of and checking personal and professional backgrounds of prospective appointees;
- A closed-door affair without a formal and transparent system;
- The limitation of the collegium's field of choice to the senior-most judges from the High Court for appointments to the Supreme Court, overlooking several talented junior judges and advocates.

#### **Attempts to reform:**

- The attempt made to replace it by a ‘National Judicial Appointments Commission’ was struck down by the court in 2015 on the ground that it posed a threat to the independence of the judiciary.

#### **Reforms needed:**

- A transparent and participatory procedure, preferably by an independent broad-based constitutional body guaranteeing judicial primacy but not judicial exclusivity.
- It should ensure independence, reflect diversity, demonstrate professional competence and integrity.

- Instead of selecting the number of judges required against a certain number of vacancies, the collegium must provide a panel of possible names to the President to appointment in order of preference and other valid criteri

## 6TH SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Writes to Union Home Minister & Union Tribal Affairs Minister Conveying Its recommendation to Include Union Territory of Ladakh Under 6th Schedule of Constitution of India.

### About the population of Ladhak:

The total tribal population in Ladakh region is more than 97%. The region is inhabited by following Scheduled Tribes, namely:

- |          |         |            |           |            |             |
|----------|---------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 1. Balti | 2. Beda | 3. Bot,    | 4. Boto   | 5. Brokpa, | 6. Drokpa,  |
| 7. Dard, | 8. Shin | 9. Changpa | 10. Garra | 11. Mon    | 12. Purigpa |

### About the 6th schedule:

- It deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
- If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.
- **Composition:** Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.
- **Term:** The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.
- Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.
- **Powers of councils:** The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the governor.
- **Village councils:** The district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
- **Powers and functions:** The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district. It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But, such regulations require the assent of the governor. The district and regional councils are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.
- **Exceptions:** The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts and autonomous regions or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
- The governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. He may dissolve a district or regional council on the recommendation of the commission

# ECONOMY

## EXTERNAL BENCHMARK-BASED LENDING MUST: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday made it mandatory for **all banks to link floating rate loans — to retail customers and loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) —** to an external benchmark.
- **Move aimed at faster transmission of monetary policy rates; new norms to come into effect from October 1** as the banks have been reluctant to cut interest rates despite the RBI lowering the repo rate by 110 basis points (bps) between February and August.
- Some banks have already started to link home and auto loan rates to the repo rate, which is an external benchmark.
- The norms for external benchmark linking of interest rates was scheduled to be operational from April 1, but was deferred.
- **At present, interest rates on loans are linked to a bank's marginal cost of fund-based interest rate (MCLR).**
- **Banks can choose from one of the four external benchmarks —** repo rate, three-month treasury bill yield, six-month treasury bill yield or any other benchmark interest rate published by Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd.
- Adoption of multiple benchmarks by the same bank is not allowed within a loan category.
- Banks have also, crucially, been given the leeway to determine their spread over the benchmark rate with a caveat that changes to the credit risk premium can only be made when the borrower's credit assessment undergoes a substantial change.

### About MCLR:

#### What Is MCLR?

MCLR (marginal cost of funds based lending rate) is the lowest interest rate that a bank or lender can offer.

### Difference Between MCLR And Base Rate

The MCLR is a reference rate or internal benchmark for the financial institution. Marginal cost of funds based lending rate defines the process used to determine the minimum home loan rate of interest. The MCLR method was introduced in the Indian financial system by the Reserve Bank of India in the year 2016. The MCLR system has replaced the base rate system that was introduced in the year 2010. Thus, renewal of credit limits and sanctioning of loans is done as per MCLR norms.

## INTERESTING, BUT RISKY: ON RBI'S FLOATING RATE LOANS DIKTAT

### RBI's diktat to banks could spur borrowing but may pressure lenders' margins

- In 2015, then Governor Raghuram Rajan decided that the system used by banks to price their loans needed to be changed and so introduced the Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) regime.
- In October 2017, an internal study group of the RBI recommended the adoption of external benchmarks to ensure effective policy transmission, after observing that the MCLR too had failed to deliver.
- **Policymakers, in fact, have been so vexed with poor transmission —** against a total of 75 basis points (bps) reduction in the RBI's repo rate between February and June, the weighted average lending rate on fresh rupee loans at banks eased only by 29 bps — **that Monetary Policy Committee member**



**Chetan Ghate in August cited the issue as reason to oppose the proposed 35-bps cut and instead voted for a 25-bps reduction.**

- Though the latest move will surely lower the interest cost on new floating rate loans availed by borrowers to buy cars or homes, **it may force banks to start cutting the interest rate they pay deposit holders or risk seeing their margins shrink.**
- And while the RBI wants to try and nudge an uptick in credit for beleaguered personal consumption and borrowing by beleaguered MSMEs, the success of the measure will ultimately be determined by a regaining of confidence by consumers to spend and a conviction by industry to invest.

## 10 PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS TO BE MERGED

- The merger of 10 public sector banks into four entities. This would take the number of banks in the country from 27 in 2017 to 12.
- These bank mergers, and the ones already carried out, will lead to the creation of big banks with an enhanced capacity to give credit.
- These big banks, would also be able to compete globally and increase their operational efficiency by reducing their cost of lending.
- These banks were chosen for the mergers on the basis of ensuring that there is no disruption in the banking services, and that the banks should benefit from increased CASA [current account savings account] and greater reach.

**Apart from the mergers, a number of smaller reforms to the boards of the banks that are aimed at improving their efficiency and accountability.**

- In order to make the management accountable to the boards of the banks, a board committee would be made in charge of appraising the performance of officers of the rank of general managers and above, including the managing director.
- The banks have also been allowed to recruit chief risk officers from the market, at market-linked compensation to attract the best available talent.

### **The mergers:**

1. The largest of the mergers that of **Punjab National Bank with Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank. The amalgamated entity — to be called Punjab National Bank — will become the second-largest public sector bank in India, after the State Bank of India.** It will also become the second-largest bank in India in terms of its branch network, with a combined total of 11,437 branches.
2. The merger of **Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank**, which would render the merged entity the fourth-largest public sector bank.
3. The third merger is of **Union Bank of India with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank**, the merged entity the fifth largest public sector bank.
4. The fourth merger announced is of **Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank.**

### **Impacts of mergers:**

- There will be no retrenchment due to these mergers, as was shown in the case of the Bank of Baroda merger also. The employees received the best of the employee benefits and the admin staff was redeployed for business.
- Following all these mergers, the country will have a total of 12 public sector banks, half of which—Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Bank, State Bank of India, and Bank of Baroda—will be able to compete at a global level.

### **Why the banks are merged:**

- **The bottom line is clear: to create banks of global level that can leverage economies of scale and balance sheet size to serve the needs of a \$5-trillion economy by 2025.**

- Mergers are driven by synergies — in products, costs, business, geographies or technology and the most important, cost synergies.
- **The biggest plus of the mergers is that they will create banks of scale** — there are too many banks in India with sizes that are minuscule by global standards with their growth constricted by their inability to expand.
- **While there may be some geographical synergies between the banks being merged, unless they realise cost synergies through branch and staff rationalisation, the mergers may not mean much to them or to the economy.** This is where the government's strategy will be tested. It is ***no secret that public sector banks are overstaffed.***
- There is also bound to be overlap in branch networks such as in the Canara-Syndicate Bank merger, especially in Karnataka and a couple of other southern States. Ditto with Punjab National Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce, both of which have strong networks in the north and the west.
- The success of these mergers, therefore, will hinge on how well these banks handle the sensitive issue of staff rationalisation.
- The All India Bank Employees Association has already raised the red flag.

#### **A brief history of Banking sector Consolidation**

- What the committee also recommended was shutting down the weaker banks and not merging them with the strong ones as is being done now. But this is obviously not an option politically even for a government with a brute majority in Parliament.
- Back in **1991, when PSBs had over 90% of the market share, the Narasimham Committee recommended a three-tier banking structure by merging PSBs**, which lead to a count of three large banks that would have international presence, about 8–10 national banks, and several regional banks.
- Following the Asian financial crisis in 1997, there were merger initiatives in many Asian countries, notably in Malaysia. As India remained unaffected by the crisis, and the regulators had just started licensing new private banks, there was no momentum to reorganise PSBs.
- Since the onset of reforms, there have been 32 bank mergers, involving private sector banks.
- In 2004, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forced the problem-ridden privately owned Global Trust Bank (GTB), which was licensed during the first phase of reforms, to merge with the public sector Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC).
- There is **only one instance of the merging of two PSBs: the takeover of New Bank of India by Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 1993.** The RBI had forced this merger under Section 45 of the Banking (Regulation) Act, 1949 as New Bank of India reached a precarious state of liquidity. The merger was messy in more ways than one. PNB had been a strong bank with an uninterrupted record of profits, but it suffered a net loss of ₹96 crore in 1996, following the merger. It had to face several problems and litigation relating to absorbing the staff of New Bank of India in its stream. It reportedly took PNB five years and more to get over the merger effect.
- **The government has already merged State Bank of India with its affiliate banks, and Bank of Baroda with Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank.**

#### **SBI Merger**

Three of the associated banks were stock-listed entities in which SBI had dominant holdings, while the remaining two were wholly owned by it.

- Known once as the “seven sisters,” the ABs had been established by princely states before the country's independence to serve local populations. These came under the fold of SBI after the government passed the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act in 1959.
- Thus, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ) (which was a merger of banks belonging to two princely states, Bikaner and Jaipur) came into being as SBI's subsidiary in 1963. Bank of Indore, originally

established by Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar in 1920, became State Bank of Indore. The bank set up by the princely state of Bhavnagar in 1902 became State Bank of Saurashtra. The last Hyderabad Nizam's bank, set up in 1941, was re-named State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH). Likewise, the banking outfits of the erstwhile princely states in Patiala, Travancore and Mysore became SBI's subsidiaries.

- **The Narasimham Committee had envisioned in 1991 that SBI should progressively merge all the seven subsidiaries with itself.**

Long thereafter, in 2008, State Bank of Saurashtra was the first to merge with SBI, and two years later, State Bank of Indore was integrated. The government issued a directive in June 2016 asking SBI to complete the merger of the remaining five ABs by March 2017.

## INDIA AMONG TOP 10 NATIONS IN GOLD RESERVES

**U.S. leads the pack with 8,134 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,367 tonnes**

- India has replaced the Netherlands to move into the list of top ten countries in terms of total gold reserves.
- According to the World Gold Council, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes, which is marginally higher than the Netherlands' reserves of 612.5 tonnes.

According to the latest release by the **World Gold Council**:

1. U.S.
2. Germany.
3. IMF
4. Italy
5. France
6. Russia
7. China
8. Switzerland
9. Japan
10. India

### About: World Gold Council

- The World Gold Council is the market development organisation for the gold industry.
- Aim: To stimulate and sustain demand for gold, provide industry leadership, and be the global authority on the gold market.
- The World Gold Council has been a key player in many of the initiatives that have driven that change, such as the liberalisation of the gold market in China and the rapid rise of demand in the East.
- The World Gold Council has broad experience and deep knowledge of the factors driving market change.
- **Members** are the world's largest and most forward-thinking gold mining companies.
- Based in the UK, with operations in India, China, Singapore and the US.

## FINANCE MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED MAJOR CHANGES IN CORPORATE INCOME TAX

- In order to revive growth in the broader economy Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced major changes in corporate income tax rates.
- This has been achieved through an **ordinance– the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2019.**

### What has the government done?

- Corporate tax rate to be 22 per cent without exemptions.

- No Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) applicable on such companies.
- Effective corporate tax rate after surcharge and cess to be 25.17 percent.
- To attract investment in manufacturing, local companies incorporated after October 2019 and till March 2023, will pay tax at 15 percent.
- That effective tax for new companies shall be 17.01 percent, including cess and surcharge. Companies enjoying tax holidays would be able to avail concessional rates post the exemption period.
- Will give MAT relief for those opting to continue paying surcharge and cess. MAT has been reduced to 15 percent from 18.5 percent for companies who continue to avail exemptions and incentives.
- To stabilise flow of funds into the market the enhanced surcharge announced in Budget 2019 will not apply on capital gains arising on sale of any security, including derivatives by foreign portfolio investors (FPI).
- For listed companies which made announcement for public buyback before July 2019 it is provided that tax on buyback on shares of such companies will not be charged.

#### Significance of the move:

- **The new corporate income tax rates in India will be lower than the other major economies** for example the prevailing income tax rates in the other economies are USA (27 percent), Japan (30.62 percent), Brazil (34 percent), Germany (30 percent) and is similar to China (25 percent) and Korea (25 percent).
- New companies in India will have to pay an effective tax rate of 17 percent which is equivalent what corporates pay in Singapore the most attractive global investment destination.
- Hence the goal is to turn India into an investors' darling, demonstrate the government's intent to walk the talk on economic management, restore investors' confidence and boost sentiments and demand.
- Alter the profitability dynamic of the Indian corporate ecosystem as the lower taxes should, ideally, result in higher profit margins.
- This should bolster their books, and some of these companies should be able to pass on the higher margins in the form of lower product prices to consumers.
- The resultant change in profitability will also prompt companies to invest more, thus raising their capital expenditure in the economy by the private sector.

#### Concerns over the rate cut:

- The amount of **revenue foregone for the government** will be to the tune of Rs 1.45 lakh crore a year thus raising the concerns over meeting the FRBM targets of reigning in the Fiscal Deficit target of 3.3 percent of GDP for 2019-20.
- This has triggered concerns of fiscal slippage, given that tax collections have been far below the budgeted estimates.
- There are also the concerns that the government might use the surplus transfers by the RBI to fund this expected revenue shortfall, thus increasing the opportunity costs.

### BHARAT BILL PAYMENT SYSTEM (BBPS)

- RBI has expanded the scope and coverage of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to include all categories of billers who raise recurring bills and payments (except prepaid recharges) as eligible participants, on a voluntary basis.
- However at present, the facility of payment of recurring bills through BBPS is available only in five segments i.e. direct to home (DTH), electricity, gas, water and telecom.

- Expansion of biller categories would increase the user base of Bharat Bill Pay along with providing an efficient, cost-effective alternative to existing systems and enhance consumer confidence and experience.

#### About BBPS:

The Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an RBI conceptualised system driven by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

It is a one-stop payment platform for all bills, providing an interoperable and accessible “Anytime Anywhere” bill payment service to customers across the country with certainty, reliability and safety of transactions.

Payments through BBPS may be made using cash, transfer cheques and electronic modes. Bill aggregators and banks, who will function as operating units, will carry out these transactions for the customers.

#### NPCI:

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is **an umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India.**
- It was set up with the guidance and support of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.
- NPCI, has been incorporated as a **“Not for Profit” Company** under the provisions of Section 25 of Companies Act 1956 (now Section 8 of Companies Act 2013), with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.
- The Company is focused on bringing innovations in the retail payment systems through the use of technology for achieving greater efficiency in operations and widening the reach of payment systems.
- The **ten core promoter banks** are State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Citibank N. A. and HSBC. In 2016 the shareholding was broad-based to 56 member banks to include more banks representing all sectors.

#### NPCI was established with following objectives –

- a) To consolidate and integrate the existing multiple systems into a nation-wide uniform and standard business process for all retail payment systems.
- b) To facilitate an affordable payment mechanism to benefit the common man across the country and propel financial inclusion.

## NIRVIK SCHEME

#### Key features of the scheme:

- Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has introduced ‘NIRVIK’ scheme to ease the lending process and enhance loan availability for exporters. The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 14 as a part of measures to boost exports.
- Under the new ‘NIRVIK’ scheme, which is also called the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS), the insurance cover guaranteed will cover up to 90 percent of the principal and interest.
- The insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit. The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) currently provides credit guarantee of up to 60 percent loss.

#### Enhanced Insurance Cover: Benefits

- The main aim behind introducing the scheme was to enhance accessibility and affordability of credit for exporters.



- The decision will help make Indian exports competitive and make ECGC procedures exporter friendly, benefiting MSME exporters with a new scheme for reimbursing taxes, reduced insurance cost and ease of doing business.
- The insurance cover is expected to bring down the cost of credit due to capital relief, less provision requirement and liquidity due to quick settlement of claims and will ensure timely and adequate working capital to the export sector.
- Under the 'NIRVIK' scheme, the gems, jewellery and diamond (GJD) sector borrowers with limit of over Rs 80 crore will have a higher premium rate in comparison to the non-GJD sector borrowers of this category due to the higher loss ratio.
- The ECGC insurance cover will provide additional comfort to banks as the credit rating of the borrower will be enhanced to AA rated account. The increased cover will ensure that foreign and rupee export credit interest rates are below 4 percent and 8 percent respectively for the exporters.

#### **NIRVIK scheme: Key Details**

- Increases the insurance cover for banks up to 90 percent for working capital loans and moderation in premium incidence for the MSME sector to provide additional support to the banks in the wake of a global slowdown and rising NPAs.
- The enhanced insurance cover will ensure that foreign and rupee export credit interest rates will be below 4 and 8 percent respectively for the exporters.
- It will catalyze the banks to enhance the volume of export credit lending, especially to the MSME Sector with optimal pricing due to capital and risk optimization.
- The existing insurance covers issued by the ECGC will continue for the existing customer banks and similar covers will also be made available to all other banks. All standard accounts covered under ECGC on the date of transition shall be eligible for the insurance cover under the ECIS.
- The insurance cover will include not only the principal outstanding but also the unpaid interest for a maximum of two quarters or the NPA date, whichever is earlier.
- The coverage has been increased to 90 percent from the present average of 60 percent for both principal and interest.
- It will also cover both pre-shipment and post-shipment advances unlike the present system, where two different documents are issued by the ECGC.
- The scheme also aims to simplify the procedure for settlement of claims and provisional payment of up to 50 percent within 30 days on production of proof of end-use of the advances in default by the Insured Bank.
- The scheme will be in force for a period of 5-years and on the conclusion, the standard ECGC covers will be made available to the Banks with its regular features.
- For accounts with limits below Rs 80 crore, the premium rates will be moderated to 0.60 per annum and for those exceeding Rs80 crore, the rates will be 0.72 per annum for the same enhanced cover.
- Further, the scheme will mandate inspection of bank documents and records by ECGC officials for losses exceeding Rs.10 crore as against the present Rs 1crore.
- The banks shall pay a premium to ECGC monthly on the principal and interest as the cover is offered for both outstandings.

#### **About: ECGC**

- The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) is a fully government-owned company that was established in 1957 to promote exports by providing credit insurance services.
- The ECGC provides Export Credit Insurance to Banks (ECIB) to protect the banks from losses on account of export credit at the Pre and Post-Shipment stage given to exporters due to the risks of insolvency or protracted default of the exporter borrower.

## NATGRID

- The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project wants to link social media accounts to the huge database of records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details among others.

### About NATGRID:

- The project aims **to allow investigation and law enforcement agencies to access real-time information from data stored with agencies** such as the Income Tax Department, banks, insurance companies, Indian Railways, credit card transactions, and more.
- It is a post Mumbai 26/11 attack counter terrorism programme that will utilise technologies like Big Data and analytics to study and analyse the huge amounts of data from various intelligence and enforcement agencies to help track suspected terrorists and prevent terrorist attacks.
- It will connect, in different phases, data providing organisations and users besides developing a legal structure through which information can be accessed by the law enforcement agencies.
- NATGRID's data sources include records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and financial transactions and telecommunications. The agencies concerned include the Intelligence Bureau, local police and revenue and customs departments.
- The database would be **accessible to authorised persons from 11 agencies**(Research and Analysis Wing, the Intelligence Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation, Financial intelligence unit, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and the Directorate General of GST Intelligence), on a case-to-case basis, and only for professional investigations into suspected cases of terrorism.
- However the NATGRID is facing opposition on charges of possible violations of privacy and leakage of confidential personal information.
- Its efficacy in preventing terror has also been questioned given that no state agency or police force has access to its database thus reducing chances of immediate, effective action.
- Intelligence agencies have also opposed amid fears that it would impinge on their territory and possibly result in leaks on the leads they were working on to other agencies.

### Why do we need NATGRID?

- The danger from not having a sophisticated tool like the NATGRID is that it forces the police to rely on harsh and coercive means to extract information in a crude and degrading fashion.
- After every terrorist incident, it goes about rounding up suspects—many of who are innocent. If, instead, a pattern search and recognition system were in place, these violations of human rights would be much fewer.
- Natgrid would also help the Intelligence Bureau keep a tab on persons with suspicious backgrounds.
- The police would have access to all his data and any movement by this person would also be tracked with the help of this data base.

# HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

## MEGALITHIC SWORD UNEARTHED FROM ROCK-CUT CAVE IN KOZHIKODE

- The State Archaeology Department in Kozhikode has unearthed what it calls a Megalithic era iron sword, a chisel and a few decorated pottery from a rock-cut cave at Pothuvachery in Kannur district. **105-cm sword is believed to be 2,500 years old.**

### About Megalith Age:

- A megalith is a large stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.
- Megaliths were constructed either as burial sites or commemorative (non-sepulchral) memorials. The former are sites with actual burial remains, such as dolmenoid cists (box-shaped stone burial chambers), cairn circles (stone circles with defined peripheries) and capstones (distinctive mushroom-shaped burial chambers found mainly in Kerala). The urn or the sarcophagus containing the mortal remains was usually made of terracotta.
- The Megalith age lasted from the Neolithic Stone Age to the early Historical Period (2500 BC to AD 200) across the world. In India, archaeologists trace the majority of the megaliths to the Iron Age (1500 BC to 500 BC), though some sites precede the Iron Age, extending up to 2000 BC.
- Megaliths are spread across the Indian subcontinent, though the bulk of them are found in peninsular India, concentrated in the states of Maharashtra (mainly in Vidarbha), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Around 2,200 megalithic sites can be found in peninsular India itself, most of them unexcavated. Even today, a living megalithic culture endures among some tribes such as the Gonds of central India and the Khasis of Meghalaya.
- In concordance with their belief in life after death, the megalithic people were in the habit of interring burial goods along with mortal remains. These can be broadly categorized as ceramic, iron and copper artefacts, beads of various raw materials, gold & silver ornaments, terracotta objects, objects of art and miscellaneous objects.
- The range of iron artefacts recovered indicate that the megalithic people practised a wide range of occupations and included carpenters, cobblers, bamboo craftsmen, lapidaries engaged in gemstone work, blacksmiths, coppersmiths and goldsmiths, proof of complex social organization. Beads made of various semi-precious stones and steatite have also been found. Bronze figurines of animals like buffaloes, goats, tigers, elephants and antelopes have been recovered from inside urn burials at the site of Adichanallur in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.
- Significantly, Roman coins have been found in some megalithic burials in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

## INDUS VALLEY SETTLERS HAD A DISTINCT GENETIC LINEAGE

- **A study of DNA** from skeletal remains excavated **from the Harappan cemetery at Rakhigarhi** argues that the hunter-gatherers of South Asia- people from Indus Valley Civilisation, who then became a settled people, have an independent origin.

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**Findings of the study:****Independent origin:**

- The hunter-gatherers of South Asia had an independent origin. They do not contain genome from either the Steppe region or ancient Iranian farmers.
- The same hunter-gatherer communities developed into agricultural communities and formed the Harappan civilisation.
- As the Harappans traded with Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Persian Gulf and almost all across South Asia, there was bound to be movement of people resulting in a mixed genetic history. India had a heterogeneous population right from the beginning of settled life.
- There was a movement of people from east to west as the Harappan people's presence is evident at sites like Gonur in Turkmenistan and Sahr-i-Sokhta in Iran.
- Researchers find no trace of the Anatolian-related ancestry that is a hallmark of the spread of farming to the west, but the Iranian-related ancestry they detected in South Asians comes from a lineage that separated from ancient Iranian farmers and hunter-gatherers before those groups split from each other.

**Significance of the study:**

- With these findings, the theory of the Harappans having Steppe pastoral or ancient Iranian farmer ancestry thus stands refuted. The finding also negates the hypothesis about mass migration during Harappan times from outside South Asia.

# INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

## INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS

- PM Modi visited Russia recently to participate in the 20th India-Russia annual summit with President Putin and was the chief guest at the fifth meeting of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).
- PM Modi, also became the first Indian prime minister to visit to the Russian Far East Region.

### Major takeaways of the visit:

- India also announced a **\$1 billion line of credit** for the development of the resource-rich the Far East region of **Russia**.
- **Russia to train four Indian astronauts for Gaganyaan.**
- In a major breakthrough in Indo-Russian defence ties, India will start manufacturing spare parts and components for the Russian military equipment under transfer of technology and set up joint ventures, as the two strategic partners tried to transform their existing buyer-seller relationship into one of collaboration.

### Our engagements with Russian Far East:

- India's connection to Russia's Far East go back a long way. **India was the first country to open a Consulate in Vladivostok.**
- The government has actively engaged East Asia as part of its 'Act East' policy.
- The Prime Minister, in the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, **also unveiled the "Act Far East"** policy to boost India's engagement with Russia's Far East region.
- **Indian firms have invested over \$7 billion in taking stake in Russian oil and gas fields. ONGC Videsh in 2001 acquired a 20 per cent stake in Sakhalin-1 oil and gas field in Far East Russia.**
- **OVL later bought Imperial Energy, which has fields in Siberia, as also stakes in Vankor oilfield in eastern Siberia. OC and its partners have picked up 29.9 per cent stake in a separate Taas-Yuryakh oilfield in East Siberia.**
- **Russian oil firm Rosneft in 2017 bought Essar Oil, which operates in Vadinar oil refinery in Gujarat and some 5,500 petrol pumps, for USD 12.9 billion.**

### About the Russian Far East:

- The Far East **lies in the Asian part of Russia, the easternmost territory of Russia, between Lake Baikal in Eastern Siberia and the Pacific Ocean** and is less developed than the country's European areas.
- President Putin has declared the development of the Russian Far East a 'national priority for the 21st century.

### Importance of the region:

- As part of '**Pivot to Asia**' strategy, President Vladimir Putin is inviting foreign countries to invest in this region. The country's outreach to Asian nations has especially gained momentum after the 2014 Crimea crisis spoiled its relations with the West.
- At least 17 countries have already invested in the Far East which, with its investment-friendly approach and vast reserves of natural resources, has the potential to strengthen India-Russia economic partnership in areas like energy, tourism, agriculture, diamond mining and alternative energy.
- Could assuage Russian fears about **the idea of an 'Indo-Pacific region'**, which signals India's willingness to work with the U.S. mainly to counter China's assertive maritime rise, has also left Russia



concerned. Moscow is apprehensive that the U.S. would exert pressure on India's foreign policy choices and that it could lose a friendly country and one of the biggest buyers of Russian military hardware.

- On its part, Russia also wants to make sure that China does not become a hegemon in the Eurasian region and is hence deepening cooperation with countries like India, Vietnam and Indonesia. Here, the Far East has the potential to become an anchor in deepening India-Russia cooperation; more so considering that New Delhi has expanded the scope of its 'Act East policy' to also include Moscow.
- **A lack of manpower is one of the main problems faced by the Far East and Indian professionals like doctors, engineers and teachers can help in the region's development.** Presence of Indian manpower will also help in balancing Russian concerns over Chinese migration into the region. Further, India, one of the largest importers of timber, can find ample resources in the region. Japan and South Korea have also been investing and New Delhi may explore areas of joint collaboration.

#### **A connection from the past:**

Some 48 years ago, when the U.S. and British Navies tried to threaten Indian security during the India-Pakistan war in 1971, the Soviet Union dispatched nuclear-armed flotilla from its Pacific Fleet based at Vladivostok in support of India. Ever since then, the city of Vladivostok, located in Russia's Far East, has had a special place in the hearts of Indians.

#### **Our engagements with Far East so far**

- A bilateral business dialogue was included in the business programme of EEF in 2017
- In 2018, India was one of the 18 countries for which Russia simplified electronic visas to encourage tourism in the Far East.
- India will also provide an annual grant of \$10,000 to fund the study of Indology at the Centre of Regional and International Studies at Far Eastern Federal University.
- Also, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Amity University and Far Eastern Federal University to intensify cultural and academic exchanges in the areas of research and education.

#### **State-to-province ties**

- India has also given due importance to **'paradiplomacy' where Indian States are being encouraged to develop relations with foreign countries.** States like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana and Goa would be collaborating with Russian Provinces to increase trade and investments.
- The two countries are also looking at the **feasibility of Chennai-Vladivostok sea route** that would allow India access to Russia's Far East in 24 days, compared to the 40 days taken by the current route via Suez Canal and Europe. This route would potentially add the required balance to peace and prosperity in South China Sea and could open new vistas for India, like the India-Russia-Vietnam trilateral cooperation.
- Great power rivalry is back in international politics, making it more unpredictable. In times when **U.S. President Trump is interested in 'deglobalisation' and China is promoting 'globalisation 2.0 with Chinese characteristics', it makes sense for India and Russia to increase their areas of cooperation and trade in order to hedge against disruptive forces and make their ties sustainable.**

#### **Indian companies eye Russian oil fields**

- A consortium of Indian oil firms is in talks to buy a significant stake in the eastern cluster oil fields in Russia with investments running into billions of dollars.
- **This comes after Indian oil firms have recovered more than one-third of their \$5 billion investments made in Russia within the last three years as dividend after accounting for capital expenditure and operational expenditure.**

- Indian energy **companies** have so far invested close to \$10 billion in acquiring stakes in hydrocarbon assets in Russia.

## REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

- The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) ministerial meeting of 10 members of ASEAN countries and their six FTA (free trade agreement) partners is being held in Bangkok, Thailand.

### About RCEP:

- RCEP is **proposed between** the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) (Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) **and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs** (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).
- RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.
- Aim:** RCEP aims to boost goods trade by eliminating most tariff and non-tariff barriers — a move that is expected to provide the region's consumers greater choice of quality products at affordable rates. It also seeks to liberalise investment norms and do away with services trade restrictions.

### Significance:

- When inked, it would become the world's biggest free trade pact. This is because the 16 nations account for a total GDP of about \$50 trillion and house close to 3.5 billion people. India (GDP-PPP worth \$9.5 trillion and population of 1.3 billion) and China (GDP-PPP of \$23.2 trillion and population of 1.4 billion) together comprise the RCEP's biggest component in terms of market size.

### India's concerns:

- Greater access to Chinese goods may have impact on the Indian manufacturing sector.
- India has got massive trade deficit with China, in fiscal year 2017-18, the trade deficit with China was \$63 billion, which will increase further under the RCEP therefore under these circumstances, India proposed differential market access strategy for China.
- However if India is out of the RCEP, it would make its exports price uncompetitive with other RCEP members' exports in each RCEP market, and the ensuing export-losses contributing to foreign exchange shortages and the subsequent extent of depreciation of the rupee can only be left to imagination.
- Apart from China, India is also losing out to financial and technological hub of Singapore, agriculture and dairy majors Australia and New Zealand, plantations of South East Asian countries, and pharmaceutical trade with China and the US.
- The free movement of investments will benefit investors in the US, Singapore, Japan and China, but very few Indians will be taking advantage of this.

## SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

- The first Conference on Military Medicine for Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Member States will be held in New Delhi from 12-13 September 2019.
- The conference will also be 1st military co-operation event hosted by India under SCO Defence Co-operation Plan 2019-2020, after India became an SCO member country in 2017.
- Objective of Conference:** To share best practices in field of military medicine, build capacities and overcome common challenges.

**About SCO:**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, **also known as the Shanghai Pact**, is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded in 2001 in Shanghai.
- **Founding members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The cooperation was renamed to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation after Uzbekistan joined the organisation in 2001.
- **The SCO's main goals are:** strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.
- **The organisation has two permanent bodies** — the **SCO Secretariat based in Beijing** and the Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent**.
- The SCO Secretary-General and the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO RATS are appointed by the Council of Heads of State for a term of three years. Rashid Alimov (Tajikistan) and Yevgeny Sysoyev (Russia) have held these positions, respectively, since 1 January 2016.
- **Currently** the SCO comprises **eight member states**, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- **The SCO counts four observer states**, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Mongolia;
- **The SCO has six dialogue partners**, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Republic of Turkey, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

# SOCIETY

## MEMBER-COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION HAVE RESOLVED TO ELIMINATE MEASLES AND RUBELLA DISEASES BY 2023

- A resolution to eliminate the diseases was adopted at the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in Delhi.
- Eliminating measles will prevent 500,000 deaths a year in the region, while eliminating rubella/ CRS would avert about 55,000 cases of rubella and promote health and wellbeing of pregnant women and infants.

### About: Measles

- **Measles** is particularly **dangerous for the poor**, as it **attacks malnourished children and those with reduced immunity**.
- It can cause serious complications, including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhoea, ear infection and pneumonia.
- **Bhutan, DPR Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste have eliminated measles.**

### Symptoms:

Measles signs and symptoms appear around 10 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Signs and symptoms of measles typically include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Inflamed eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers on a red background found inside the mouth on the inner lining of the cheek — also called Koplik's spots
- A skin rash made up of large, flat blotches that often flow into one another

### Rubella:

- Rubella, also called German measles or three-day measles, is a contagious viral infection best known by its distinctive red rash.
- Rubella is not the same as measles (rubeola), though the two illnesses do share some characteristics, including the red rash. **However, rubella is caused by a different virus than measles, and is neither as infectious nor usually as severe as measles.**
- **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste have controlled rubella.**

### Symptoms:

- The signs and symptoms of rubella are often so mild they're difficult to notice, especially in children.
- If signs and symptoms do occur, they generally appear between two and three weeks after exposure to the virus. They typically last about one to five days and may include:
- Mild fever of 102 F (38.9 C) or lower
- Headache
- Stuffy or runny nose

- Inflamed, red eyes
- Enlarged, tender lymph nodes at the base of the skull, the back of the neck and behind the ears
- A fine, pink rash that begins on the face and quickly spreads to the trunk and then the arms and legs, before disappearing in the same sequence
- Aching joints, especially in young women.

## PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA

### Why in News?

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a scheme of the Government for pregnant women and lactating mothers has enrolled one crore beneficiaries.
- The total amount disbursed to the beneficiaries under the scheme has crossed Rs. 4,000 crores.
- Top five states in implementation: Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Rajasthan.

### About PMMVY:

#### Objective:

- Providing partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child.

#### Beneficiaries:

- All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding PW&LM who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force for first child in family.
- They receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three installments on fulfilling the respective conditionality, viz. early registration of pregnancy, ante-natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000.

#### Funding:

- The scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which cost sharing ratio between the Centre and the States & UTs with Legislature is 60:40 while for North-Eastern States & three Himalayan States; it is 90:10. It is 100% Central assistance for Union Territories without Legislature.

## PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA – URBAN

### Why in News?

Cumulative no. of Houses Sanctioned Under PMAY (U) now more than 90 Lakhs.

### About PMAY- Urban:

- Launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) in Mission mode.
- It envisions provision of Housing for All by 2022, when the Nation completes 75 years of its Independence.

#### Objective:

- Construct two crore houses across the nation by 2022.
- Covers the entire urban area consisting of 4041 statutory towns with initial focus on 500 Class I cities in 3 phases



**Intended beneficiary:**

- Beneficiaries include Economically weaker section (EWS), low-income groups (LIGs) and Middle-Income Groups (MIGs). The annual income cap is up to Rs 3 lakh for EWS, Rs 3-6 lakh for LIG and Rs 6 to 18 lakhs for MIG.
- The beneficiary family should not own a pucca house either in his/her name or in the name of any member of his/her family in any part of India.

**Salient features:**

- The Mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers through following **programme verticals**:
  1. **Slum rehabilitation** of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource.
  2. Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker section through **credit linked subsidy**.
  3. Affordable Housing in **Partnership with Public & Private sectors**.
  4. Subsidy for **beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement**.
- Credit linked subsidy component will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme while other three components will be implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- EWS category of beneficiaries is eligible for assistance in all four verticals of the Missions whereas LIG and MIG categories are eligible under only Credit linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) component of the Mission.
- The houses constructed/acquired with central assistance under the mission should be in the name of the female head of the household or in the joint name of the male head of the household and his wife, and only in cases when there is no adult female member in the family, the house can be in the name of male member of the household.
- Flexibility to States for choosing best options to meet the demand of housing in their states
- Central grant of Rs. one lakhs per house, on an average, will be available under the slum rehabilitation programme
- National Housing Bank and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) have been designated as Central Nodal Agency (CAN) for implementation of CLSS.
- Geo-tagging for monitoring the progress of construction of houses, Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to ensure electronic fund flow and Technology Sub-Mission to implement new construction technologies, have been introduced.
- Government has also sanctioned 'infrastructure status' for the affordable housing sector, giving a boost to PMAY.

**Challenges ahead:**

1. Government has to mobilise Rs 1 lakh crore in the next three years for achieving its target of building 1 crore houses.
2. Other headwinds include: unavailability of land in prime areas, low participation of private developers on account of brand dilution and bidding mechanism.
3. Also there are issues of stringent cost and time schedules resulting in low yields, increasing construction costs due to absence of bulk sourcing of materials, and lack of new technology that impacts productivity, cost efficiency and quality.

## PM – KISAN SCHEME

- The government has opened the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKisan) portal for self-registration by farmers.
- Thus allowing self-enrolment is expected to help farmers in other States whose names have been missed out. Many States have been slow in enrolling farmers for various reasons.

### About: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:

- The new Central Sector Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to provide income support to all Small and Marginal landholding farmer families to supplement their financial needs for procuring various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs.
- Under the Scheme, the entire financial liability towards transfer of benefit to targeted beneficiaries will be borne by Government of India.

### What are the benefits of the Scheme:

- Under the scheme, Landholder Farmer families with total cultivable holding upto 2 hectares shall be provided a benefit of Rs.6000 per annum per family payable in three equal installments, every four months.

### Eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme:

- All landholding farmer families having cultivable landholding upto 2 hectare, whose names appear in the land records of States/UT as on 01.02.2019, are eligible to get benefit under the scheme.
- However, out of these, **the following are ineligible** to get the benefits :
  - (a) All Institutional Land holders; and
  - (b) Farmer families in which one or more of its members belong to following categories:-
    - i. Former and present holders of constitutional posts.
    - ii. Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils, former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.
    - iii. All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices /Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies (Excluding Multi Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees)
    - iv. All superannuated/retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs.10,000/-or more(Excluding Multi Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees)
    - v. All Persons who paid Income Tax in last assessment year.
    - vi. Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.

### How many times the benefit will be given in a year?

- The benefit will be provided in three equal installments of Rs. 2000/- each for every 4 months period into the bank account of all eligible beneficiaries.

### Will any individual or farmer family owning more than 2 hectare of cultivable land get any benefit under the scheme?

- No. Any individual or farmer family owning more than 2 hectare of cultivable land will not get any benefit under the scheme.

### What will happen if the beneficiary gives incorrect declaration for the implementation of the Scheme.

- In case of incorrect declaration, the beneficiary shall be liable for recovery of transferred financial benefit and other penal actions as per law.

**What is a small and marginal landholder family?**

It comprises of husband, wife and minor children up to 18 years of age, who collectively own cultivable land up to two hectare as per the land records of the concerned states.

**Significance of the scheme:**

Around 12 crore small and marginal farmer families are expected to benefit from this. It would not only provide assured supplemental income to the most vulnerable farmer families, but would also meet their emergent needs especially before the harvest season.

It would pave the way for the farmers to earn and live a respectable living.

**Similar programmes by states:**

1. Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana in Madhya Pradesh was sought to provide relief to farmers by providing the differential between MSPs and market prices.
2. The Rythu Bandhu scheme of the Telangana provides ₹4,000 per acre for every season to all the farmers of the state. Similar initiatives have also been framed in Jharkhand and Odisha.
3. Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) of Odisha is more complicated in design and implementation. It commits to give Rs 5,000 per SMF, twice a year, that is Rs 10,000 a year.

**Benefits of direct cash transfers:**

1. Immediate impact on reducing hunger and rural poverty.
2. Help households to overcome credit constraints and manage risk. This can increase productive investment, increase access to markets and stimulate local economies.
3. Income support can be used to make a repayment or at least activate a bank account which can then receive a loan.
4. Increase investment in agricultural inputs, including farm implements and livestock.
5. Serve as an important complement to a broader rural development agenda, including a pro-poor growth strategy focusing on agriculture.

**Challenges with cash transfers- criticisms:**

1. Cash transfers are not greatly superior in terms of leakages compared to other schemes of in-kind transfer such as the public distribution system (PDS).
2. A targeted cash transfer scheme envisions the role of the state to only providing cash income to the poor. This kind of approach seeks to absolve the state of its responsibility in providing basic services such as health, education, nutrition and livelihood.
3. Cash transfer scheme cannot be substituted for subsidies and other institutional support systems such as the National Food Security Act-powered public distribution system. In fact, such cash transfer schemes could be counterproductive and may lead to more distress.
4. Cash transfer is neither a substitute for the structural reforms needed in agriculture, nor does it adequately compensate the farmer for the risks and uncertainty of crop cultivation.
5. In the absence of proper tenancy records, it will benefit the absentee landlords.
6. It is no substitute for the lack of investment in agriculture, which has declined at 2.3% per annum in real terms.

## NATIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY (NRA)

- Finance Ministry has approved the proposal for creation of a National Recruitment Agency (NRA).

**Objective:**

- To streamline recruitment of some posts in the government along with various equivalent recruitment in public sector banks.

- A new National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will be set up to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for all various competitive examinations, in which an estimated 2.5 crore candidates appear annually.
- NRA will conduct preliminary examinations for all these recruitment, which are at present conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).
- It will then subsequently forward the list of qualifying candidates to the respective recruiting agencies to conduct the mains examinations.
- The basic idea behind this proposal is to shortlist qualifying candidates through a Common Eligibility Test before sending them for the mains examination.

#### **Need for a new agency:**

- To streamline recruitment process on subordinate-rank posts in the government.
- To reduce the burden of SSC and the IBPS, among others, from holding preliminary recruitment exams, which is an extensive exercise.

#### **Probable benefits of NRA**

- India is a growing country having largest number of people in the productive age. This centralisation of recruitment will reduce the duplication of efforts on the part of various government agencies and the candidates.
- From the Institutional perspective, there will be one point of contact for all the preliminary exam which will curtail the cost and time of the candidates. Moreover, it will expedite the examination and selection process.
- In the present scenario, candidates are submitting different fees for various exams but when NRA become operative, there will be only one exam and hence one-time submission of fees. It becomes more cost-effective on the part of the candidates.
- It will streamline the exam process and in turn, the candidates will be able to plan and prepare in a better way.
- It will reduce the turn around time of the result and hence provide the candidates for the mains exam in quick time. It will also help to reduce the burden of SSC and IBPS in the long run.

### **NATIONAL PENSION SCHEME FOR TRADERS AND SELF EMPLOYED PERSONS**

The scheme has been launched recently.

#### **About the scheme:**

- It is a pension scheme for the Vyaparis (shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons) with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore.
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme.
- The enrolment under the scheme is free of cost for the beneficiaries.
- The enrolment is based upon self-certification.
- It has a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The Central Government shall give 50 % share of the monthly contribution and remaining 50% contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Beneficiary is required to have an Aadhaar card and a saving bank/ Jan-dhan Account passbook only.
- He/ She should be within 18 to 40 years of age group.
- GSTIN is required only for those with turnover above Rs. 40 lakhs.
- The beneficiary should not be income tax payer and also not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS (Govt.)/PM-SYM.

**Significance:**

- This scheme will target enrolling 25 lakh subscribers in 2019-20 and 2 crore subscribers by 2023-2024. An estimated 3 crore Vyaparis in the country are expected to be benefitted under the pension scheme.

**Salmonella:**

- MDH masalas in US have tested positive for Salmonella.

**What is Salmonella?**

- Salmonella are germs (bacteria) that can cause food poisoning.
- Salmonella bacteria may be found in the gut of many animals, including farm animals and pets. Poultry (chickens, turkeys, etc) are especially likely to carry salmonella.
- So, salmonella can contaminate meat (including poultry), eggs, milk and other dairy products that we may eat.
- Infection usually causes relatively mild symptoms but complications, including lack of fluid in the body (dehydration), can occur in some cases.
- The usual treatment is to drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. Antibiotic medicines are occasionally needed in some people who are at extra risk of having complications.

**How do you get salmonella?**

- Salmonella germs (bacteria) may be found in the gut of many animals, including wild animals, farm animals and pets. Poultry (chickens, turkeys, etc) are especially likely to carry salmonella.
- So, salmonella can contaminate meat (including poultry), raw eggs from chickens which have not been vaccinated, milk and other dairy products that we may eat.
- Adequate cooking of meat (including poultry) usually kills salmonella bacteria. Humans can become infected if they eat undercooked meat that is contaminated with salmonella.
- Once you have salmonella, you may also spread the infection to your close contacts if you do not follow strict hygiene measures to prevent the spread of infection to others (see below).

**Salmonella symptoms**

- The typical symptoms are diarrhoea and stomach cramps. The diarrhoea can sometimes be bloody.
- You may also feel sick (have nausea) and be sick (vomit) and you can develop a high temperature (fever).
- Symptoms tend to come on within 12-36 hours of eating the contaminated food or being in contact with the infected animal. This time period before symptoms appear is known as the 'incubation period'.
- In most people, symptoms are relatively mild and improve within 4-7 days without any specific treatment.
- However, sometimes, symptoms can be more severe and/or complications can occur. If symptoms are severe, a lack of fluid in the body (dehydration) can occur.
- Nausea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12-72 hours after contracting the infection.

**Who is more vulnerable?**

- The children under the age of 5 are at highest risk for Salmonella infection.
- Older adults and people with weakened immune systems too, are likely to have severe infections.

## INDIA IODINE SURVEY 2018- 19 REPORT

- The India Iodine Survey report conducted by Nutrition International in collaboration with the AIIMS and the Indian Coalition for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) has been released.

**About the India Iodine Survey Report:**



- The survey tested the iodine content in samples of cooking salt from households to estimate the coverage of **iodised salt** (Iodised salt is salt with at least 15 parts per million of iodine.).
- Gujarat produces 71% of salt in the country, followed by Rajasthan at 17% and Tamil Nadu at 11%.
- 76.3% of Indian households consumed adequately iodised salt.
- Tamil Nadu (61.9%) has the lowest consumption of iodized salt** despite being the third biggest producer of salt in the country.
- It is followed by Andhra Pradesh (63.9%), Rajasthan (65.5%), Odisha (65.8%) and Jharkhand (68.8%).
- Only 13 out of 36 States have achieved Universal Salt Iodisation or have 90% of households with access to adequately iodised salt.
- The northeastern States are doing very well with respect to iodised salt consumption at the household level because of the distance they have from the three salt producing centres — Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- By and large most States get their salt from Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- Salt-producing States have access to common (or non-iodised) salt and, therefore, they start consuming it since it is readily available.

### Worth the salt?

On an average, in India, the household coverage with iodine content\* was 76.3%. A look at State-wise coverage

\*Iodised salt: not less than 15 parts per million (ppm)



Top five States	% of households covered	Bottom five States	% of households covered
J&K	99.80%	Tamil Nadu	61.90%
Nagaland	99.70%	A.P.	63.90%
Manipur	99.50%	Rajasthan	65.50%
Mizoram	99.20%	Odisha	65.80%
Meghalaya	98.40%	Jharkhand	68.80%

### The significance of Iodised Salt:

- Iodine is a vital micro-nutrient for optimal mental and physical development of human beings.
- India made fortification of salt with iodine mandatory for direct human consumption in 1992. This was relaxed in 2000 and then reimposed in 2005.**
- In 2011, the Supreme Court, too, mandated universal iodisation for the control of iodine deficiencies.**
- Deficiency of iodine can result in a range of disabilities and disorders such as goitre, hypothyroidism, cretinism, abortion, still births, mental retardation and psychomotor defects. .
- Children born in iodine deficient areas may have up to 13.5 IQ points less than those born in iodine sufficient areas.**

### Key recommendation

- The key recommendation of the study is to sustain the momentum so that iodine coverage does not fall below current levels. It also recommends that the States and the Centre work together to address the current gaps and look into issues that vary from one State to another, leading to adequately iodised salt not being produced.

## PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN MAAN DHAN YOJANA

- The Government of India has recently launched the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana** with an **aim to improve the life of small and marginal farmers of the country.**

### Salient features of the scheme:

- The scheme is **voluntary and contributory** for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years.
- A monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years. The spouse is also eligible to get a separate pension of Rs.3000/- upon making separate contributions to the Fund.

- **Initial contribution:** The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55 to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date i.e. the age of 60 years.
- The Central Government will also make an equal contribution of the same amount in the pension fund.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.
- If there is no spouse, then total contribution along with interest will be paid to the nominee.
- If the farmer dies after the retirement date, the spouse will receive 50% of the pension as Family Pension.
- After the death of both the farmer and the spouse, the accumulated corpus shall be credited back to the Pension Fund.
- The beneficiaries may opt voluntarily to exit the Scheme after a minimum period of 5 years of regular contributions.
- In case of default in making regular contributions, the beneficiaries are allowed to regularize the contributions by paying the outstanding dues along with prescribed interest.

## KRISHNA WATER DISPUTE

- The Maharashtra and Karnataka state governments agreed to jointly oppose Andhra Pradesh's application seeking a relook at the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal's 2010 order on water distribution between the riparian states.
- Thus the Krishna river dispute has taken a new turn.

### About the Krishna river dispute:

- The Krishna river is an east-flowing river which originates at Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra and merges with the Bay of Bengal, flowing through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- Together with its tributaries, it forms a vast basin that covers 33% of the total area of the four states.
- The dispute began with the erstwhile Hyderabad and Mysore states, and later continuing between successors Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- In 1969, the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) was set up under the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956, and presented its report in 1973.
- The report, which was published in 1976, divided the 2060 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of Krishna water at 75 per cent dependability into three parts:
  1. 560 TMC for Maharashtra.
  2. 700 TMC for Karnataka.
  3. 800 TMC for Andhra Pradesh.
- **Revised order:** At the same time, it was stipulated that the KWDT order may be reviewed or revised by a competent authority or tribunal any time after May 31, 2000.
- Afterward, as new grievances arose between the states, **the second KWDT** was instituted in 2004.
- **It delivered its report in 2010**, which made allocations of the Krishna water at 65 per cent dependability and for surplus flows as follows:
  1. **81 TMC for Maharashtra,**
  2. **177 TMC for Karnataka, and**
  3. **190 TMC for Andhra Pradesh.**

- In 2013, the KWDT issued a 'further report', which was again challenged by Andhra Pradesh in the Supreme Court in 2014.
- After the creation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the Water Resources Ministry has been extending the duration of the KWDT.
- Andhra Pradesh has since asked that Telangana be included as a separate party at the KWDT and that the allocation of Krishna waters be reworked among four states, instead of three. It is relying on Section 89 of The Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- The Maharashtra and Karnataka are opposing this stance of Andhra Pradesh as they holds that Telangana was created following bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, allocation of water should be from Andhra Pradesh's share which was approved by the tribunal.

## PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA (PMUY)

The 8,00,00,000<sup>th</sup> (8 croreth) PMUY connection has been release by Prime Minister in Sendra, Aurangabad, Maharashtra under the PMUY Scheme.

### About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

#### Objective:

- To provide 8 Crore (earlier target was 5 crore) deposit free LPG connections to women from BPL households to be achieved by 2020 (earlier target year was 2019)

#### Intended benefits:

- Any Below Poverty Line (BPL) family, whose information is included in the district BPL list prepared by the State government.
- Launch of this scheme will also provide a great boost to the 'Make in India' campaign as all the manufacturers of cylinders, gas stoves, regulators, and gas hose are domestic.
- Premature deaths will be prevented as Indoor air pollution is responsible for a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses in young children and women.

#### Salient features:

- Recently, government has extended the scope of beneficiaries, it will cover all the poor households of the country. Under this, new beneficiaries will be those among holders of both ration cards and Aadhaar, who will identify themselves as poor through self-declaration.
- LPG Connection is released in the name of adult woman of the BPL Family, subject to the condition that no LPG connection exists in the name of any family member of the household.
- Central Government will provide financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection.
- Consumers will have the option to purchase gas stove and refills on EMI (zero interest), recovered through LPG subsidy received by the beneficiary. No recovery of loan is effecting for initial 6 refills.

## BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

- WCD Minister Felicitates states and Districts Under BBBP Scheme.
- Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were felicitated for improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB).
- Ten districts selected for improvement in SRB were also felicitated during the programme.

### About BBBP:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched in January, 2015.

- It is a **tri-ministerial effort** of **Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.**

**Objectives:**

- Prevent gender biased sex selective elimination.
- Ensure survival & protection of the girl child
- Ensure education and participation of the girl child.
- A sustained social mobilization and communication campaign to create equal value for the girl child & promote her education.
- Enable inter-sectoral and inter-institutional convergence at district/block/grassroot levels.

**Salient features:**

- **Two components under the scheme include:**
  1. Advocacy and Media Campaign on Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao
  2. Multi-Sectoral intervention in selected Gender Critical Districts worse on CSR
- It's a Pan India Scheme, with 100% assistance from Central Government.
- It has no provision for individual cash transfer.
- **Digital Guddi-Gudda Board'** is a platform for dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Material on BBBP and to update monthly birth statistics. It has been adopted as a Best Practice under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme by The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**Significance and the need for scheme:**

- The trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) has been unabated since 1961. The decline from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011 is alarming. The social construct discrimination against girls on one hand, easy availability, affordability and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools on the other hand, have been critical in increasing Sex Selective Elimination of girls leading to low Child Sex Ratio.
- Child Sex Ratio is defined as number of girls per 1000 of boys between 0-6 years of age. Hence, a decline in the CSR is a major indicator of women disempowerment. The ratio reflects both, pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender biased sex selection and post birth discrimination against girls.

# SCIENCE & TECH/SECURITY

## HEPATITIS B

### Controlling the hepatitis B virus calls for universal vaccination of newborns

- On September 3, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand became the first four countries in the World Health Organization's southeast Asia region to have successfully controlled hepatitis B.
- The virus is said to be controlled when the disease prevalence is reduced to less than 1% among children less than five years of age.

### About Hepatitis B:

- **Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause both acute and chronic disease.**
- **The virus is most commonly transmitted from mother to child during birth and delivery, as well as through contact with blood or other body fluids.**
- **WHO estimates that in 2015, 257 million people were living with chronic hepatitis B infection (defined as hepatitis B surface antigen positive).**
- **In 2015, hepatitis B resulted in an estimated 887 000 deaths, mostly from cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (i.e. primary liver cancer).**

### Transmission

- Most commonly spread from mother to child at birth (perinatal transmission), or through horizontal transmission (exposure to infected blood), especially from an infected child to an uninfected child during the first 5 years of life.
- The development of chronic infection is very common in infants infected from their mothers or before the age of 5 years.
- Hepatitis B is also spread by needlestick injury, tattooing, piercing and exposure to infected blood and body fluids, such as saliva and, menstrual, vaginal, and seminal fluids.
- Sexual transmission of hepatitis B may occur, particularly in unvaccinated men who have sex with men and heterosexual persons with multiple sex partners or contact with sex workers.

### Symptoms

- Most people do not experience any symptoms when newly infected.
- However, some people have acute illness with symptoms that last several weeks, including **yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice), dark urine, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.**
- A small subset of persons with acute hepatitis can develop acute liver failure, which can lead to death.
- In some people, the hepatitis B virus can also cause a chronic liver infection that can later develop into cirrhosis (a scarring of the liver) or liver cancer.

### Who is at risk of chronic disease?

The likelihood that infection becomes chronic **depends on the age** at which a person becomes infected. Children less than 6 years of age who become infected with the hepatitis B virus are the most likely to develop chronic infections.

### In infants and children:

- 80–90% of infants infected during the first year of life develop chronic infections; and
- 30–50% of children infected before the age of 6 years develop chronic infections.

### In adults:

- Less than 5% of otherwise healthy persons who are infected as adults will develop chronic infections; and 20–30% of adults who are chronically infected will develop cirrhosis and/or liver cancer.



### Indian Efforts to curb Hepatitis B:

- Despite the introduction of hepatitis B vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme in 2002 and scaling-up nationwide in 2011, about one million people in India become chronically infected with the virus every year.
- According to the Health Ministry, as on February 2019, an estimated 40 million people in India were infected.
- Hepatitis B infection at a young age turns chronic, causing over 1,00,000 premature deaths annually from liver cirrhosis or liver cancer.
- A study published in 2013 found lower coverage of hepatitis B vaccine in eight of the 10 districts surveyed. But the coverage has witnessed an increase with the introduction of a pentavalent vaccine on a pilot basis in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in December 2011 and national roll-out in 2014-2015.
- According to the WHO, the coverage of hepatitis B third dose had reached 86% in 2015. **However, despite the high vaccination coverage, disease prevalence in children aged less than five years has not dropped below 1%.**
- One of the reasons for this is the sub-optimal coverage of birth dose in all infants within 24 hours of birth. Hepatitis B birth dose, given in the first 24 hours, helps prevent vertical transmission from the mother to child. The compulsion to increase birth dose to cut vertical transmission arises from two important reasons — about 70-90% newborns infected this way become chronic carriers of hepatitis B, and about 20-30% carriers in India are due to vertical transmission.
- But even seven years after the **Health Ministry approved the birth dose in 2008**, its coverage **remained low — 45% in 2015 and 60% in 2016 — according to a 2019 Health Ministry report.** Even in the case of institutional delivery, the birth dose vaccine coverage is low — 76.36% in 2017. Incidentally, institutional delivery accounts for about 80% of all deliveries in the country.
- The birth dose coverage when delivery takes place outside health-care institutions is not known. One of the reasons for the low coverage is the fear of wastage of vaccine when a 10-dose vial is used. Unfortunately, health-care workers are very often unaware of the WHO recommendation that allows hepatitis B open-vial policy. Opened vials of hepatitis B vaccine can be kept for a maximum duration of 28 days for use in other children if the vaccine meets certain conditions. There is also a need to increase public awareness about the merits of the birth dose.

## IAF INDUCTS EIGHT U.S.-MADE APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTERS

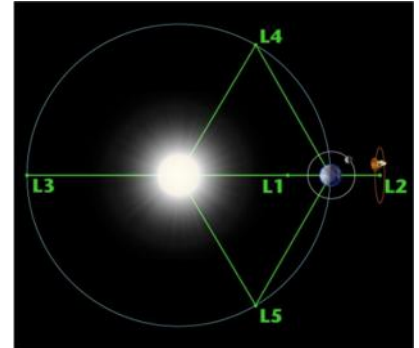
- **It is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world**
- Apache attack helicopters are being purchased to replace the Mi-35 fleet.
- The capability to shoot fire and forget anti-tank guided missiles, air-to-air missiles, rockets and other ammunitions, it also has modern Electronic Warfare (EW) capabilities to provide versatility to helicopters in a network-centric aerial warfare.
- The helicopter manufacturer Boeing said in a statement. India is the 16th nation to select the Apache and the AH-64E is the most advanced variant.
- India contracted 22 Apache helicopters from the U.S. government and Boeing in September 2015 and the entire fleet will be in service with the IAF by 2020.
- The government has also cleared the acquisition of six additional Apaches for the Indian Army which has been formally approved by the U.S.



- The helicopter is capable of delivering a variety of weapons which include air-to-ground Hellfire missiles, 70 mm Hydra rockets and air-to-air Stinger missiles, the IAF said in a statement. Apache also carries one 30 mm chain gun with 1,200 rounds as part of area weapon sub-system and to “add to the lethality of the helicopter” it carries fire control radar, which has a 360 degree coverage and nose mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems.

## ADITYA- L1 MISSION

- The Indian Space Research Organization is planning to launch Aditya-L1 mission to study the sun early in 2020.
- Aditya- L1 mission is India’s first solar mission.
- **Objectives:** It will study the sun’s outer most layers, the corona and the chromospheres and collect data about coronal mass ejection, which will also yield information for space weather prediction.
- **Significance of the mission:** The data from Aditya mission will be immensely helpful in discriminating between different models for the origin of solar storms and also for constraining how the storms evolve and what path they take through the interplanetary space from the Sun to the Earth.
- **Position of the satellite:** In order to get the best science from the sun, continuous viewing of the sun is preferred without any occultation/ eclipses and hence, Aditya- L1 satellite will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.



### What are Lagrangian points and halo orbit?

- Lagrangian points are the locations in space where the combined gravitational pull of two large masses roughly balance each other. Any small mass placed at that location will remain at constant distances relative to the large masses. There are five such points in Sun-Earth system and they are denoted as L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5. A halo orbit is a periodic three-dimensional orbit near the L1, L2 or L3.
- A Satellite placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses. Therefore, the Aditya-1 mission has now been revised to “Aditya-L1 mission” and will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1, which is 1.5 million km from the Earth. The satellite carries additional six payloads with enhanced science scope and objectives.

## GAGANYAAN

- ISRO, DRDO sign MoU to provide critical technologies for Gaganyaan the ‘Human Space Mission’.
- Under the agreement, the **technological capabilities existing in DRDO labs for defence applications will be customised to meet the requirements of ISRO’s human space mission**. DRDO will be providing critical technologies to ISRO such as space crew health monitoring and emergency survival kit, space food, parachutes for the crew module’s safe recovery and radiation measurement and protection.

### About Gaganyaan-The Indian Human Space Flight Programme:

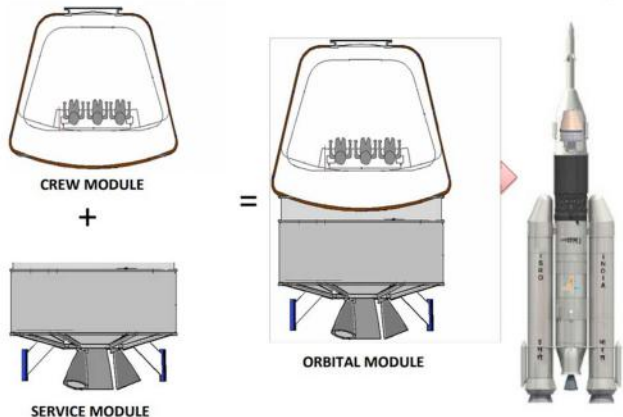
ISRO aims to launch its maiden Human Space Mission, Gaganyaan before the 75th anniversary of India’s independence in 2022.

### Objectives of the Mission:

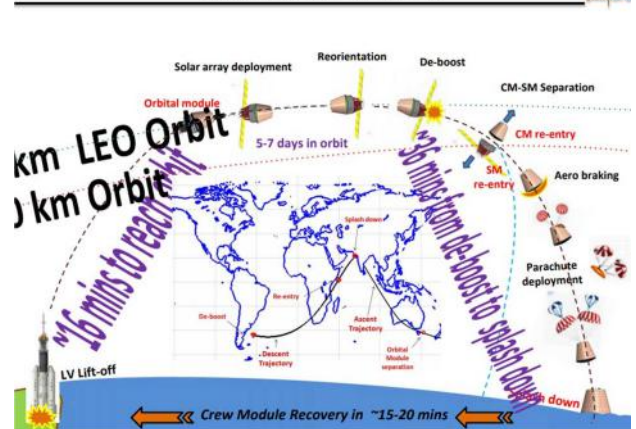
- Enhancement of science and technology levels in the country
- A national project involving several institutes, academia and industry

- Improvement of industrial growth
- Inspiring youth
- Development of technology for social benefits
- Improving international collaboration

### GAGANYAAN : SYSTEMS



### GAGANYAAN - MISSION



## SUBMARINE KHANDERI

### Why in news?

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited delivers second Scorpene submarine "**KHANDERI**" to Indian Navy.

### About Submarine Khanderi:

- **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)**, Mumbai, is manufacturing six Scorpene submarines under technology transfer from Naval Group of France under a 2005 contract worth \$3.75 bn.
- The submarine 'KHANDERI' is **named after the wide snouted Saw fish**, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean.
- Khanderi is the second submarine of **Project P75**, the first submarine of the project-INS Kalvari, was commissioned on 14 Dec 17.
- **Names of upcoming submarines:** Karanj, Vela, Vagir and Vagsheer
- Khanderi carries forward the legacy of her namesake, the a Soviet-origin Foxtrot class Submarine Khanderi which was India's second submarine and was **commissioned into the Indian Navy on 06th December 1968** and decommissioned on 18th October 1989 after more than 20 years of yeoman service to the nation.
- The Project, which began in 2005, involved significant Scorpene design and technology transfer from the French collaborators M/s Naval Group to our shipbuilding ecosystem.
- The consequent involvement of numerous Indian manufacturers makes the Project a true representation of the "Make in India" concept.
- The design incorporates modular construction technology in which the initial construction of submarine is undertaken in sections. These sections are joined together before putting the submarine to sea. The advantage of this technology is that it enables a faster and efficient pace of work during the construction phase.

## DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATIONS

- Amendments to District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Trust Rules, 2015, by Chhattisgarh government has made it more inclusive, people-centric and will also empower people affected by mining in the state, according to Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a New Delhi-based non-profit.

### Background:

- Chhattisgarh became the first state in July 2019, to amend DMF rules.
- The new rule mandates the inclusion of 10 Gram Sabha members directly from mining-affected areas in the DMF Governing Council (GC).
- In Scheduled Areas, at least 50 per cent of the Gram Sabha members must be from Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- To ensure better public accountability, a two-step social audit process has been mandated.
- Provisions have also been introduced for five-year plan, which can be subjected to a third party review if the secretary of the mines department considers it to be necessary.
- The rules have also specified 'sustainable livelihood' as a high priority issue, including for forest rights holders.

### About DMFs:

- DMFs were constituted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act 2015.
- They are non-profit trusts to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.
- Their manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.
- The various state DMF rules and the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Khestra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines stipulate some "high priority" issues for DMFs, including: Drinking water, Health, Women and child welfare, Education, Livelihood and skill development, Welfare of aged and disabled, Sanitation

## PRADHAN MANTRI KHANIJ KSHETRA KALYAN YOJANA (PMKKKY)

### Objective:

- To implement various developmental and welfare programs in mining affected areas.
- To minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socioeconomics of people in mining districts.
- To ensure longterm sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

### Intended beneficiary:

- People living in directly affected areas - where direct mining-related operations such as excavation, mining, blasting, beneficiation and waste disposal are located.
- Indirectly affected areas on account of economic, social and environmental consequences due to mining-related operations like by way of deterioration of water, soil and air quality etc
- Affected and Displaced Persons and families defined under Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

### Implementation:

- It will be implemented by the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF.



# ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

## PANEL TO STUDY URANIUM CONTAMINATION IN A.P.'S KADAPA DISTRICT

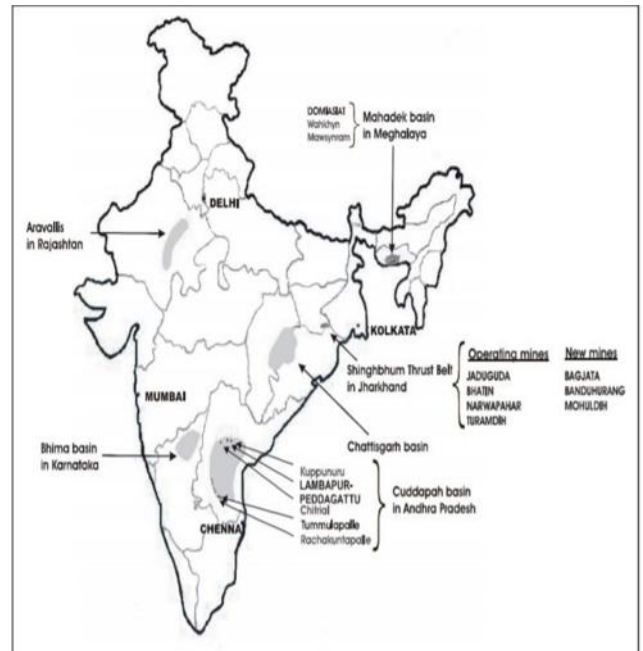
- The **Andhra Pradesh** government has ordered a full-fledged inquiry into a number of complaints about groundwater pollution caused by the uranium mining and processing project of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) at Tummalapalle in Vemula mandal of Kadapa district.

### About Uranium mining in India:

- The uranium ore mining and processing industry of the country began at Jaduguda in 1968.

### Uranium deposits of India:

- Jaduguda in Singhbhum Thrust Belt (in the state of Jharkhand, formerly part of Bihar) is the first uranium deposit to be discovered in the country in 1951.
- The Singhbhum Thrust Belt
- Cuddapah basin of Andhra Pradesh.
- In the Mahadek basin of Meghalaya in NorthEastern part of the country, sandsyone type uranium deposits has been found.
- Other areas in Rajsthan, Karnataka and Chattishgarh hold promise for developing into some major deposits.
- Uranium mining in India The uranium mining in India made an exciting beginning with the formation of Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. in 1967 under the Department of Atomic Energy.



## ATLANTIC MERIDIONAL OVERTURNING CIRCULATION (AMOC)

### Why in News?

- Since the past 15 years, Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) has been weakening this development could have dramatic consequences for Europe and other parts of the Atlantic rim. Warming up of Indian Ocean is said to be a key driver behind this.

### How it affects?

- Warming in the Indian Ocean generates additional precipitation, which, in turn, draws more air from other parts of the world, including the Atlantic.
- The higher level of precipitation in the Indian Ocean will reduce precipitation in the Atlantic and increase salinity in the waters.
- This saline water in the Atlantic, as it comes north via AMOC, will get cold much quicker than usual and sink faster, acting "as a jump start for AMOC, intensifying the circulation.
- AMOC last witnessed a slow down 15,000 to 17,000 years ago. It caused "harsh winters in Europe, with more storms or a drier Sahel in Africa due to the downward shift of the tropical rain belt.

- It aids in distributing heat and energy around the earth, as the warm water it carries releases heat into the atmosphere, and in absorbing and storing atmospheric carbon.

#### **What is the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation?**

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is sometimes referred to as the “Atlantic conveyor belt” — **is one of the Earth’s largest water circulation systems** where a large system of ocean currents that carry warm water from the tropics northwards into the North Atlantic.

#### **How does the AMOC work?**

- The AMOC moves like a conveyor belt, is driven by differences in temperature and salt content – the water’s density.
- As warm water flows northwards it cools and some evaporation occurs, which increases the amount of salt.
- Low temperature and a high salt content make the water denser, and this dense water sinks deep into the ocean.
- The cold, dense water slowly spreads southwards, several kilometres below the surface.
- Eventually, it gets pulled back to the surface and warms in a process called “upwelling” and the circulation is complete.
- This global process makes sure that the world’s oceans are continually mixed, and that heat and energy are distributed around the earth. This, in turn, contributes to the climate we experience today.

## **INDIA COOLING ACTION PLAN (ICAP)**

- India’s Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) has received appreciation from the UN on World Ozone Day.
- India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) envisions to synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.

#### **Significance of ICAP:**

- India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive Cooling Action plan which has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.
- Cooling requirement is cross sectoral and an essential part for economic growth and is required across different sectors of the economy such as residential and commercial buildings, cold-chain, refrigeration, transport and industries
- The overarching goal of ICAP is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society.
- This will also help in reducing both direct and indirect emissions.
- The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) provides an integrated vision towards cooling across sectors encompassing inter alia reduction of cooling demand, refrigerant transition, enhancing energy efficiency and better technology options with a 20 year time horizon.
- Cooling is also linked to human health and productivity. Linkages of cooling with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are well acknowledged. The cross-sectoral nature of cooling and its use in development of the economy makes provision for cooling an important developmental necessity. The development of ICAP has been a multi-stakeholder inclusive process encompassing different Government Ministries/Departments/Organizations, Industry and Industry Associations, Think tanks, Academic and R&D institutions.

#### **The goals emerging from the suggested interventions stated in ICAP are:**

The India Cooling Action seeks to



- i. reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,
- ii. reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
- iii. Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
- iv. recognize “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme,
- v. training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission. These actions will have significant climate benefits.

**The following benefits would accrue to the society over and above the environmental benefits:**

- i. Thermal comfort for all – provision for cooling for EWS and LIG housing,
- ii. Sustainable cooling – low GHG emissions related to cooling,
- iii. Doubling Farmers Income – better cold chain infrastructure – better value of produce to farmers, less wastage of produce,
- iv. Skilled workforce for better livelihoods and environmental protection,
- v. Make in India – domestic manufacturing of air-conditioning and related cooling equipment’s,
- vi. Robust R&D on alternative cooling technologies – to provide push to innovation in cooling sector.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER

- The International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer (or World Ozone Day) is observed every year on September 16 for the preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- World Ozone Day 2019 Theme: 32 Years and Healing.

**Why it is observed:**

- In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

**What you need to know about the Ozone layer?**

- Absorbs most of the Sun’s ultraviolet light which is harmful to human life and other life forms.
- Absorbs about 97 to 99% of ultraviolet rays and maintain the ozone-oxygen cycle.

**Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer:**

- Montreal Protocol, is the international treaty, adopted in Montreal on Sept. 16, 1987, that aimed to regulate the production and use of chemicals that contribute to the depletion of Earth’s ozone layer. Initially signed by 46 countries, the treaty now has nearly 200 signatories.
- In the early 1970s, it was discovered that chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) compounds combine with solar radiation and decompose in the stratosphere, releasing atoms of chlorine and chlorine monoxide that are individually able to destroy large numbers of ozone molecules.
- In 1978 CFC-based aerosols were banned in the United States, Norway, Sweden, and Canada.
- Further validation of the discovery came in 1985 when an ozone “hole” was found over Antarctica by the British Antarctic Survey.
- Shortly before these findings were to appear, representatives from 28 countries met to discuss the issue at the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.
- The meeting called for international cooperation in research involving ozone-depleting chemicals (ODCs) and empowered the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to lay the groundwork for the Montreal Protocol.
- The initial agreement was designed to reduce the production and consumption of several types of CFCs and halons to 80 percent of 1986 levels by 1994 and 50 percent of 1986 levels by 1999.
- The protocol went into effect on Jan. 1, 1989.

- Since then **the agreement has been amended** to further reduce and **completely phase out CFCs and halons**, as well as the manufacture and use of carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethane, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs), methyl bromide, and other ODCs.
- It is important to note that **ODC phase-out schedules differ between developed and developing countries**.
- The period for developing countries to come into compliance is slightly longer, owing to the fact that they have fewer technical and financial resources to introduce substitutes.
- In **developed countries the production and consumption of halons formally ended by 1994**, several other chemicals (such as CFCs, HBFCs, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl chloroform) were phased out by 1996, methyl bromide was eliminated in 2005, and HCFCs are scheduled to be completely phased out by 2030.
- In contrast, **developing countries** phased out CFCs, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and halons by 2010; they are scheduled to phase out methyl bromide by 2015 and eliminate HCFCs by 2040.
- The Antarctic ozone hole grew in size throughout the 1990s and the first decade of the 21st century.
- The ozone layer over the Arctic also thinned, although not as pronouncedly as over the Antarctic.
- Despite these findings, most scientists contend that the ozone layer will eventually recover. They note that the success of the treaty is exclusively responsible for the substantial decrease of ODCs available for release into the atmosphere. Signs of recovery might not become apparent until about 2020, however, because of natural variability. According to the World Meteorological Organization and the UNEP, the full recovery of the ozone layer is not expected until at least 2049 over middle latitudes and 2065 over Antarctica.

## 24TH WORLD ENERGY CONGRESS KICKS OFF IN ABU DHABI

- Abu Dhabi is hosting the 24th World Energy Congress with the theme of: 'Energy for Prosperity'.
- The last three World Energy Congresses took place in:
  1. 23rd World Energy Congress, 9-13 October 2016, Istanbul, Turkey
  2. 22nd World Energy Congress, 13-17 October 2013, Daegu, Republic of South Korea
  3. 21st World Energy Congress, 12-16 September 2010, Montreal, Canada

### About the World Energy Congress (THE ONLY GLOBAL CONGRESS THAT COVERS THE ENTIRE ENERGY SPECTRUM):

- It is the World Energy Council's global flagship event the world's largest and most influential energy event covering all aspects of the energy agenda.
- Running since 1924, the triennial World Energy Congress thus has the over 90-year history and the Congress has been staged in over 20 cities across the world.
- It offers a unique platform for global energy leaders to explore new energy futures, critical innovation areas, and new strategies.
- Held every three years and positioned as the flagship event of the World Energy Council, the Congress is the longest-running and most influential energy event in the world.

### About World Energy Council:

- Formed in 1923, the Council is the UN-accredited global energy body, representing the entire energy spectrum,

- Composed of more than 3,000 member organisations located in over 90 countries and drawn from governments, private and state corporations, academia, NGOs and energy-related stakeholders.
- **Roles:** Informs global, regional and national energy strategies by hosting high-level events, publishing authoritative studies, and working through its extensive member network to facilitate the world's energy policy dialogue.
- The World Energy Council was created in 1923, when visionary Daniel Dunlop brought together 40 countries to discuss the problems facing the global energy industry.
- Ever since, the World Energy Council has been non-governmental and non-commercial. Today, The World Energy Council has almost 100 national member committees. Its member list includes governments, businesses and expert organisations. The World Energy Congress, held over 20 times since the organisation's founding, is the world's premier energy gathering.

## KIGALI AMENDMENT TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

- In the 28th meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, negotiators from 197 nations have signed a historic agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, a capital city of a tiny African country, Rwanda on 15th October 2016.
- As per the agreement, these countries are expected to reduce the manufacture and use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by roughly 80-85% from their respective baselines, till 2045.
- This phase down is expected to arrest the global average temperature rise up to 0.5o C by 2100.
- It is a **legally binding agreement** between the signatory parties with non-compliance measures.
- It will come into effect from 1st January 2019 provided it is ratified by at least 20 member parties by then.
- It has divided the signatory parties into three groups-
  - i. The **first group** consists of rich and developed economies like USA, UK and EU countries who will start to phase down HFCs by 2019 and reduce it to 15% of 2012 levels by 2036.
  - ii. The **second group** consists of emerging economies like China, Brazil as well as some African countries who will start phase down by 2024 and reduce it to 20% of 2021 levels by 2045.
  - iii. The **third group** consists of developing economies and some of the hottest climatic countries like India, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia who will start phasing down HFCs by 2028 and reduce it to 15% of 2024-2026 levels till 2047.
- It also has a provision for a multilateral fund for developing countries for adaptation and mitigation.
- The Technology and Energy Assessment Panel (TEAP) will take a periodic review of the alternative technologies and products for their energy efficiency and safety standards.

### Why Is Kigali Agreement Significant

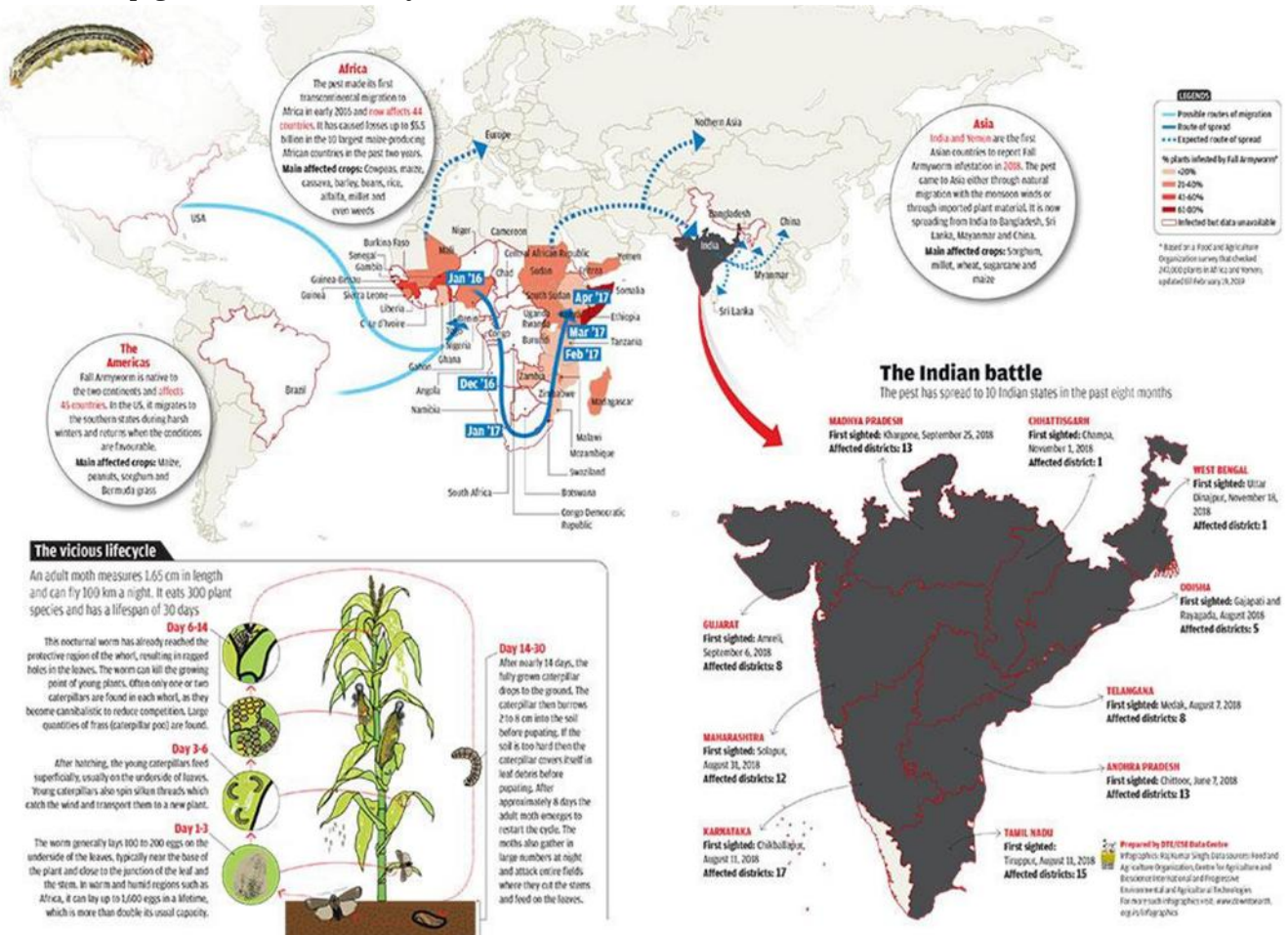
- It strengthens the Paris Agreement which sets an ambitious target of restricting the rise in global temperature below 20 Celsius, as compared to pre-industrial level.
- Unlike Paris agreement, it gives clear, concrete and mandatory targets with fixed timelines to the signatory parties to achieve their targets.
- It would prevent the emission of HFCs equivalent to 70 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## FALL ARMYWORM (FAW)

- Maize crops falling victim to fall armyworm in Bihar. Reports of the pest attacking crops have been reported from a number of districts in the state, India's third-largest maize producer.

### About the Fall Armyworm (FAW)

- It is a native of the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the Americas.
- First detected in the African continent in 2016. Since then, it has spread to other countries such as China, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.
- In India:** It was reported in India for the **first-time in Karnataka**. Within a span of only six months, almost 50 per cent of the country, including Mizoram, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal, has reported FAW infestations.
- The FAW is the polyphagous (ability to feed on different kinds of food) nature of the caterpillar and the ability of the adult moth to fly more than 100 km per night.
- Given its ability to feed on multiple crops — nearly 80 different crops ranging from maize to sugarcane — FAW can attack multiple crops.
- Similarly, it can spread across large tracts of land as it can fly over large distances. This explains the quick spread of the pest across India.
- Till date, India has reported FAW infestation on maize, sorghum (jowar) and sugarcane crops. Maize has been the worst affected as most maize-growing states in southern India have been affected by the pest.
- FAW infestation and drought has led to a shortfall of nearly 5 lakh tonnes in output, prompting the central government to allow import of maize under concessional duty. Maize is the third most important cereal crop grown in the country and the infestation, if not checked in time, can wreck havoc





## SNOW LEOPARD

- Conservation of snow leopards and preservation of people's cultural values can prevent land degradation of the Himalayan ecosystem, said experts at the ongoing 14th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- As the snow leopard is the apex predator in the region.
- Saving it will mean that we will need to save the prey base of herbivores too and to save the prey base will mean preserving the grassland that they feed on.
- This will automatically lead to the prevention of land degradation.

**About the Snow Leopard: {Snow leopards do not roar}**

### Conservation Status and Efforts:

- **Vulnerable on the IUCN-World Conservation Union's Red List** of the Threatened Species.
- In addition, the snow leopard, like all big cats, is listed on **Appendix I of the** Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (**CITES**), which makes trading of animal body parts (i.e., fur, bones and meat) illegal in signatory countries. It is also protected by several national laws in its range countries.
- **Global Snow Leopard Forum, 2013:** 12 countries encompassing the snow leopard's range (Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan).
- **Bishkek Declaration:** To protect the species and its environment.
- **Global Snow Leopard and Eco-system Protection Program:** It is a joint initiative of range country governments, international agencies, civil society, and the private sector. Goal — secure the long-term survival of the snow leopard in its natural ecosystem.

### Habitat and distribution

- Snow leopards live in the mountainous regions of central and southern Asia.
- In India, their geographical range encompasses a large part of the western Himalayas including the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas. The last three states form part of the Eastern Himalayas – a priority global region of WWF and the Living Himalayas Network Initiative.
- Snow leopards prefer steep, rugged terrains with rocky outcrops and ravines. This type of habitat provides good cover and clear view to help them sneak up on their prey. They are found at elevations of 3,000-5,000 metres or higher in the Himalayas.
- Habitat extends through twelve countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. China contains as much as 60% of all snow leopard habitat areas.
- It is the **State animal of Himachal Pradesh** and the **National Heritage Animal of Pakistan**.

## GREAT INDIAN BUSTARDS (GIB)

NGT has asked the states to prepare plan for protection of the Great Indian Bustard

### HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

- Historically, the great Indian bustard was distributed throughout Western India, spanning 11 states, as well as parts of Pakistan. Its stronghold was once the Thar desert in the north-west and the Deccan plateau of the peninsula.
- Today, its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat.

- Small population occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- Bustards generally favour flat open landscapes with minimal visual obstruction and disturbance, therefore adapt well in grasslands.

#### Conservation Status:

- Listed in **Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**,
- **Appendix I of CITES**,
- **Critically Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List** and the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).
- It has also been identified as **one of the species for the recovery programme** under the **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats** of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

#### Conservation Issues:

- The biggest threat to this species is hunting, which is still prevalent in Pakistan.
- This is followed by occasional poaching outside Protected Areas, collisions with high tension electric wires, fast moving vehicles and free-ranging dogs in villages.
- Other threats include habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion and mechanized farming, infrastructural development such as irrigation, roads, electric poles, as well as mining and industrialization.

## UNCCD COP 14 NEW DELHI

- For the first time ever India will be hosting the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019, to address the issue of land degradation and desertification.
- India will be taking over the COP presidency from China for the next two years until the next COP is hosted in 2021.
- India has revised its land rehabilitation targets at the summit.
- India has **raised by 10%** the amount of degraded land India has agreed to rehabilitate by 2030 **from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares**.
- This target would be achieved with an emphasis on “degraded agricultural, forest and other wastelands by adopting a landscape restoration approach.”
- The move will also help to address water scarcity, enhance water recharge in forests, slow down water run-off and retain soil moisture.

#### Background:

- India faces a severe problem of land degradation, or soil becoming unfit for cultivation. About 29% or about 96.4 million hectares are considered degraded.
- India became part of the **“Bonn Challenge”** at the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, and pledged to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020, and an additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India’s pledge was one of the largest in Asia.
- **Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.**



## Land in trouble

The decline in the productive capacity of land due to climatic factors and human intervention is land degradation. A look at important conclusions from the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, 2016, which was the latest survey done on the subject

**94.53**

million hectares (mha)  
Area of India undergoing the process of land degradation, as of 2003-05 – 28.76% of the total geographic area

**96.4**

million hectares (mha)  
Area of India undergoing the process of land degradation, as of 2011-13 – 29.32% of the total geographic area

**26 million hectares (mha)**

The number of hectares of degraded land which India now aims to rehabilitate by 2030, up from the previous commitment of 21 mn hectares



### About UNCCD:

- Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the **sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management**.
- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and people can be found.
- The new **UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework** is the most comprehensive global commitment **to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** in order to restore the productivity of the vast expanses of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable population to build a future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification, land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in the affected areas at all levels to achieve a land degradation-neutral world, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.
- The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.
- As the dynamics of land, climate and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources.

# IMPORTANT MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

1. **The DDCA has unveiled a new pavilion stand at the Feroz Shah Kotla to honour which cricketer?**
  - (a) Sachin Tendulkar
  - (b) Kapil Dev
  - (c) Virat Kohli
  - (d) MS Dhoni
2. **When is the World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) observed?**
  - (a) 11 September
  - (b) 12 September
  - (c) 10 September
  - (d) 13 September
3. **Which team bagged the 2019 Duleep Trophy title?**
  - (a) India Red
  - (b) India Blue
  - (c) India Green
  - (d) India Yellow
4. **PM Modi inaugurated India's second Multi-Modal Terminal (MMT) in which city?**
  - (a) Ranchi
  - (b) Joshimath
  - (c) Cuttack
  - (d) Sahibganj
5. **Which state government has announced the first agricultural export policy to double the income of farmers?**
  - (a) Uttar Pradesh
  - (b) Rajasthan
  - (c) Madhya Pradesh
  - (d) Andhra Pradesh
6. **Indian Railways signed an MoU with which organisation for facilitation of green initiatives?**
  - (a) Confederation of Indian Industries
  - (b) National Green Tribunal
  - (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
  - (d) None of the above
7. **9/11- 2019 marks \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary of America's worst terrorist attack**
  - (a) 15th
  - (b) 12th
  - (c) 13th
  - (d) 18th
8. **Nameri National Park is based in which state?**
  - (a) Assam
  - (b) Gujarat
  - (c) Uttar Pradesh
  - (d) Andhra Pradesh
9. **Kahalgaoon Super Thermal Power Station is in which state?**
  - (a) Haryana
  - (b) Bihar
  - (c) West Bengal
  - (d) Telangana
10. **The classical dance form Bharatanatyam originated from which state?**
  - (a) Tamil Nadu
  - (b) Andhra Pradesh
  - (c) Odisha
  - (d) Kerala
11. **Which of the following personalities has been bestowed with the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award?**
  - (a) Ravish Kumar
  - (b) Kiran Bedi
  - (c) Arvind Kejriwal
  - (d) Arnab Goswami
12. **Name the monthly pension scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for small and marginal farmers between the age of 18-40 years in Ranchi, Jharkhand on September 12, 2019.**
  - (a) "Kisan Maan- Adarsh Yojana"
  - (b) "Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana"
  - (c) "Kisan Maan-Sansad Yojana"
  - (d) "Kisan Maan-Pension Yojana"

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| <p><b>13. Which Committee has been constituted by the Union Government to oversee the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&amp;K) into Union Territories?</b><br/>         (a) Sanjay Mitra Committee<br/>         (b) Rajnath Singh Committee<br/>         (c) Amit Shah Committee<br/>         (d) Ajay Kumar Committee</p> <p><b>14. PM Modi inaugurated India's second Multi-Modal Terminal (MMT) in which city?</b><br/>         (a) Ranchi<br/>         (b) Joshimath<br/>         (c) Cuttack<br/>         (d) Sahibganj</p> <p><b>15. How many times has Spain's star tennis player Rafael Nadal won the US Open title?</b><br/>         (a) 17<br/>         (b) 18<br/>         (c) 19<br/>         (d) 20</p> <p><b>16. Which Legislative Assembly becomes India's first paperless assembly?</b><br/>         (a) Rajasthan Legislative Assembly<br/>         (b) Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly<br/>         (c) Bihar Legislative Assembly<br/>         (d) Jharkhand Legislative Assembly</p> <p><b>17. Name the new luxurious train of Sri Lanka (SL) which was produced under the 'Make in India' project of the Indian Railways.</b><br/>         (a) Podi Menike (Little Maiden) Express<br/>         (b) Udarata Menike Express<br/>         (c) Pulathisi Express<br/>         (d) Bradby Express</p> <p><b>18. The Jnanpith Award is given for outstanding contribution in which field?</b><br/>         (a) Arts<br/>         (b) Literature<br/>         (c) Music<br/>         (d) All the above</p> <p><b>19. Quito is the capital of which country?</b><br/>         (a) Ecuador<br/>         (b) Portugal<br/>         (c) Malta<br/>         (d) Iceland</p> | <p><b>20. The headquarter of International Monetary Fund (IMF) is based in?</b><br/>         (a) Paris<br/>         (b) New York<br/>         (c) Washington D.C<br/>         (d) London</p> <p><b>21. Who celebrated his 69th birthday on September 17, 2019?</b><br/>         (a) Narendra Modi<br/>         (b) Sonia Gandhi<br/>         (c) Rahul Gandhi<br/>         (d) Manmohan Singh</p> <p><b>22. Which country's civil servants are trained under special training programme (STP), which is a part of an MoU 'Training and Capacity Building Programme' signed with Indian government?</b><br/>         (a) Maldives<br/>         (b) Seychelles<br/>         (c) Mauritius<br/>         (d) Madagascar</p> <p><b>23. Which missile was launched recently by DRDO from Su-30 MKI fighter jet?</b><br/>         (a) NAG<br/>         (b) Astra<br/>         (c) Exocet<br/>         (d) Dhanush</p> <p><b>24. Who has been appointed as the Press Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind?</b><br/>         (a) Ajay Singh<br/>         (b) Ravish Kumar<br/>         (c) Rajat Sharma<br/>         (d) Ashok Malik</p> <p><b>25. Who has directed the 'Gangs of Wasseypur', the only Indian film which was listed in the British daily "The Guardian list of the 100 Best Films of the 21st century"?</b><br/>         (a) Ram Gopal Varma<br/>         (b) Karan Johar<br/>         (c) Vikramaditya Motwane<br/>         (d) Anurag Kashyap</p> <p><b>26. Five women police officers from India were honored by the United Nations for their excellent performance in the body's mission in which nation?</b><br/>         (a) Benin<br/>         (b) Gambia</p> |
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- (c) South Sudan  
(d) Chad
- 27. Where was the 18th Men's FIBA (Federation Internationale de Basketball) World Basketball Championship 2019 held?**  
 (a) Geneva, Switzerland  
 (b) Beijing, China  
 (c) Tokyo, Japan  
 (d) New Delhi, India
- 28. Sardar Sarovar Dam is constructed across which river?**  
 (a) Mahanadi  
 (b) Narmada  
 (c) Godavari  
 (d) Sabarmati
- 29. Kanha Tiger Reserve is based in which state?**  
 (a) Madhya Pradesh  
 (b) Haryana  
 (c) Rajasthan  
 (d) Uttarakhand
- 30. Bagurumba is a folk dance of which of these states?**  
 (a) Himachal Pradesh  
 (b) Karnataka  
 (c) Assam  
 (d) Goa
- 31. Which Indian documentary has been nominated for the Oscars?**  
 (a) Roar of the Lion  
 (b) Lady Tiger  
 (c) Wild Karnataka  
 (d) Moti Bagh
- 32. Who inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D)?**  
 (a) Narendra Modi  
 (b) Harsh Vardhan  
 (c) Ram Nath Kovind  
 (d) Venkaiah Naidu
- 33. The Supreme Court has set which date as the deadline to conclude the hearings in Ayodhya land dispute case?**  
 (a) September 30th  
 (b) October 18th  
 (c) October 20th  
 (d) November 1st
- 34. Where was the 1st edition of the 5 days maiden trilateral exercise of Singapore, India and Thailand named SITMEX (Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime Exercise) held?**  
 (a) Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar islands  
 (b) Bukit Timah, Singapore  
 (c) New Delhi, India  
 (d) Bangkok, Thailand
- 35. ISRO has signed MoU with which organization to procure critical technologies for Human Space Mission?**  
 (a) HAL  
 (b) RAW  
 (c) DRDO  
 (d) IAF
- 36. To how much amount of aggregate savings deposits in the Indian private and public sector banks (PSBs) reached as on March 31, 2019 as per the Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy 2018-19?**  
 (a) Rs 33.72 lakh crore  
 (b) Rs 35.72 lakh crore  
 (c) Rs 37.72 lakh crore  
 (d) Rs 39.72 lakh crore
- 37. Who recently became India's first woman officer to be posted as a military diplomat at Moscow in Russia?**  
 (a) Sandhya Suri  
 (b) Kiran Shekhawat  
 (c) Anjali Singh  
 (d) Samridhi Singh
- 38. The headquarter of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is located at:**  
 (a) Beijing, China  
 (b) London, United Kingdom  
 (c) Kirchberg, Luxembourg  
 (d) Moscow, Russia
- 39. Nashik city in Maharashtra is situated along the banks of which river?**  
 (a) Bhadra  
 (b) Savitri  
 (c) Narmada  
 (d) Godavari

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| <p><b>40. International Civil Aviation Organization has its headquarter based in _____</b><br/>         (a) Madrid, Spain<br/>         (b) Paris, France<br/>         (c) Vienna, Austria<br/>         (d) Montreal, Canada</p> <p><b>41. Who has been appointed as the new National Security Adviser of the United States?</b><br/>         (a) Robert O'Brien<br/>         (b) Jay Powell<br/>         (c) Terrence K. Williams<br/>         (d) Jim Jordan</p> <p><b>42. Who inaugurated the 5th International Ramayana Festival in New Delhi?</b><br/>         (a) Amit Shah<br/>         (b) Narendra Modi<br/>         (c) Ram Nath Kovind<br/>         (d) Venkaiah Naidu</p> <p><b>43. Which State/UT police recently launched 'Tatpar' mobile app?</b><br/>         (a) Chandigarh<br/>         (b) Rajasthan<br/>         (c) Delhi<br/>         (d) Uttar Pradesh</p> <p><b>44. President Ram Nath Kovind presented paintings of Lonar Lake to Iceland President Johannesson, Lonar Lake is situated in which Indian State?</b><br/>         (a) West Bengal<br/>         (b) Karnataka<br/>         (c) Maharashtra<br/>         (d) Uttar Pradesh</p> <p><b>45. The Google Research India AI lab will be set up in which city?</b><br/>         (a) New Delhi<br/>         (b) Hyderabad<br/>         (c) Bengaluru<br/>         (d) Chennai</p> <p><b>46. Name the first ever President of India, who visited Slovenia?</b><br/>         (a) Pranab Mukherjee<br/>         (b) Ram Nath Kovind<br/>         (c) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam<br/>         (d) Ramaswamy Venkataraman</p> | <p><b>47. Which state has announced to observe 2020 as an Artificial Intelligence Year?</b><br/>         (a) Telangana<br/>         (b) Madhya Pradesh<br/>         (c) Bihar<br/>         (d) Uttar Pradesh</p> <p><b>48. What is the capital of Croatia?</b><br/>         (a) Zagreb<br/>         (b) Nicosia<br/>         (c) Prague<br/>         (d) Havana</p> <p><b>49. Which among these is generally used as a term to denote a fast swinging yorker ball in the game of cricket?</b><br/>         (a) Orange<br/>         (b) Banana<br/>         (c) Grapes<br/>         (d) Apple</p> <p><b>50. Which among these is not one of the civilian awards given by the government of India to its citizens?</b><br/>         (a) Vir Chakra<br/>         (b) Padma Vibhushan<br/>         (c) Bharat Ratna<br/>         (d) Padam Shri</p> <p><b>51. As per Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent press conference, what is the new income tax rate of the new domestic manufacturing companies?</b><br/>         (a) 22<br/>         (b) 22.5<br/>         (c) 20<br/>         (d) 15</p> <p><b>52. How many years of imprisonment will be awarded for producing, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale (including online sale), distribution or advertisement (including online advertisement) of e-cigarettes as per the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019?</b><br/>         (a) 7 year<br/>         (b) 5 year<br/>         (c) 1 year<br/>         (d) 3 year</p> <p><b>53. Who among the following has been named as next IAF chief?</b><br/>         (a) JBS Kaushik</p> |
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| <p>(b) SS Narayan<br/>(c) VK Pachauri<br/>(d) RKS Bhadauria</p> <p><b>54. By which year, India will achieve \$26 billion defence industry target ?</b><br/>       (a) 2025<br/>       (b) 2022<br/>       (c) 2026<br/>       (d) 2030</p> <p><b>55. When is the International Day of Peace observed globally?</b><br/>       (a) 20th September<br/>       (b) 21st September<br/>       (c) 22nd September<br/>       (d) 23rd September</p> <p><b>56. Name the 12th century bronze statue that was returned to India by United Kingdom (UK), which was stolen 57 years ago from the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) Nalanda site museum in August 1961?</b><br/>       (a) Buddha statue<br/>       (b) Swami Vivekananda statue<br/>       (c) Mahavira statue<br/>       (d) Bodhidharma statue</p> <p><b>57. Name the country that hosted the large number of international migrants at 51 million equaling 19% of the world's total.</b><br/>       (a) United Kingdom<br/>       (b) Saudi Arabia<br/>       (c) Germany<br/>       (d) United States (US)</p> <p><b>58. The headquarter of New Development Bank (NDB) is based at:</b><br/>       (a) Shanghai<br/>       (b) Paris<br/>       (c) Bern<br/>       (d) Vienna</p> <p><b>59. International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has its headquarter located at:</b><br/>       (a) Copenhagen, Denmark<br/>       (b) Cologny, Switzerland<br/>       (c) Brussels, Belgium<br/>       (d) Dubai, United Arab Emirates</p> <p><b>60. Asmara is the capital of which country?</b><br/>       (a) Georgia</p> | <p>(b) Kyrgyzstan<br/>(c) Eritrea<br/>(d) Senegal</p> <p><b>61. Who recently created history by winning a silver medal in the World Boxing Championship 2019?</b><br/>       (a) Amit Panghal<br/>       (b) Vijay Sardana<br/>       (c) Anuj Chugh<br/>       (d) Sarvesh Dayal</p> <p><b>62. Name the Indian delegate, who visited Finland from 19-21 September, 2019?</b><br/>       (a) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar<br/>       (b) Narendra Modi<br/>       (c) Ram Nath Kovind<br/>       (d) Rajnath Singh</p> <p><b>63. Which film has been nominated for Oscar 2019 as India's official entry?</b><br/>       (a) Gully Boy<br/>       (b) Raazi<br/>       (c) Padmavat<br/>       (d) Andhadhun</p> <p><b>64. Which dance form has created history by entering into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest Ladakhi dance?</b><br/>       (a) Bhavai<br/>       (b) Dekhnni<br/>       (c) Chalo<br/>       (d) Shondol</p> <p><b>65. Who among the following proposed the idea of multipurpose ID card?</b><br/>       (a) Amit Shah<br/>       (b) Rajnath Singh<br/>       (c) Narendra Modi<br/>       (d) Nirmala Sitharaman</p> <p><b>66. Where was the 2019 AIBA (Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur or International Boxing Association) World Boxing Championships held?</b><br/>       (a) Yekaterinburg, Russia<br/>       (b) Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan<br/>       (c) Jiangsu, China<br/>       (d) Ottawa, Canada</p> |
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- 67. When is the International Day of Sign Languages observed across the world every year?**  
 (a) 21st September  
 (b) 22nd September  
 (c) 23rd September  
 (d) 24th September
- 68. The Buddh International Circuit is an Indian motor racing circuit based in which city?**  
 (a) Surat  
 (b) Greater Noida  
 (c) Pune  
 (d) Jaipur
- 69. Hirakud Dam is India's largest dam. It is situated across which river and in which state?**  
 (a) Bhagirathi, Uttarakhand  
 (b) Krishna, Andhra Pradesh  
 (c) Mahanadi, Odisha  
 (d) Sutlej, Himachal Pradesh
- 70. Standard Chartered is based in which of these countries?**  
 (a) Washington DC, United States  
 (b) London, United Kingdom  
 (c) Paris, France  
 (d) Beijing, China
- 71. PM Modi, during his speech at the 2019 UN Climate summit, announced that India will increase its capacity of renewable energy to 175 gigawatts by which year?**  
 (a) 2030  
 (b) 2022  
 (c) 2024  
 (d) 2025
- 72. In which year, Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) Shri Amit Shah announced to conduct first ever "digital census" in India?**  
 (a) 2020  
 (b) 2021  
 (c) 2022  
 (d) 2023
- 73. Which Indian business school has been ranked among Top 10 Forbes Best International 1-Year Business Schools 2019?**  
 (a) FMS Delhi  
 (b) ISB Hyderabad  
 (c) IIM Ahmedabad  
 (d) SIBM Pune
- 74. Name the Indian delegate, who visited United Arab Emirates (UAE) to address the 7th India-UAE high level task force on investment (HLTFI) meeting 2019?**  
 (a) Ravi Shankar Prasad  
 (b) Narendra Modi  
 (c) Piyush Goyal  
 (d) Suresh Prabhu
- 75. Who won the FIFA's Best Men's Player Award 2019 for his outstanding performance recently?**  
 (a) Lionel Messi  
 (b) Cristiano Ronaldo  
 (c) Luka Modric  
 (d) Neymar
- 76. Which Drama Series became the first series in history to win Outstanding Drama Series for an eighth season in 71st edition of Primetime Emmy Awards for 2019 held in Downtown Los Angeles, California, United States (US)?**  
 (a) Bill Hader on Barry  
 (b) Chernobyl  
 (c) Game of Thrones  
 (d) Fleabag
- 77. Name the journalist, who received the 1st Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award 2019 by the Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust in Bengaluru, Karnataka?**  
 (a) Arnab Goswami  
 (b) Rajdeep Sardesai  
 (c) Ravish Kumar  
 (d) Barkha Dutt
- 78. The Sambhar Salt Lake is India's largest inland salt lake. It is located in which state?**  
 (a) Rajasthan  
 (b) Jammu & Kashmir  
 (c) Haryana  
 (d) Punjab
- 79. What is the capital of Hungary?**  
 (a) Baghdad  
 (b) Budapest  
 (c) Bishkek  
 (d) Beirut

- 80. The Pulitzer Prize is an award given for achievement in which field?**  
 (a) Literature  
 (b) Journalism  
 (c) Musical Composition  
 (d) All the above
- 81. Who among the following was conferred "Global Goalkeeper" award?**  
 (a) Donald Trump  
 (b) Emmanuel Macron  
 (c) Angela Merkel  
 (d) Narendra Modi
- 82. Name the Knowledge Management Portal launched under Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)'s MSME Programme along with Energy Conservation Guidelines for MSMEs ?**  
 (a) "Shiksha Vani"  
 (b) "Digicop"  
 (c) "SIDHIEE"  
 (d) "ROSHNI"
- 83. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned which among the following vessels on September 25, 2019?**  
 (a) Varaha  
 (b) Vamana  
 (c) Matsya  
 (d) Kurma
- 84. How much percent of the last pay drawn by the central government employees is given as the pension, who dies within 7 years of service after amending the Rule 54 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 recently?**  
 (a) 50%  
 (b) 40%  
 (c) 30%  
 (d) 35%
- 85. Which country will host the Exercise MALABAR 2019?**  
 (a) USA  
 (b) India  
 (c) Japan  
 (d) Russia
- 86. Name the first ever tri-services exercise between India and the United States (US) that is to be held in Andhra Pradesh?**  
 (a) Exercise Ajeya Warrior  
 (b) Exercise Prabal Dostyk  
 (c) Exercise Tiger Triumph  
 (d) Exercise Sampriti
- 87. Where was the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) which is called as International Federation of Association Football in English conducted the FIFA Football Awards 2019?**  
 (a) Paris, France  
 (b) Moscow, Russia  
 (c) Milan, Italy  
 (d) Beijing, China
- 88. Ashok Gehlot is the current Chief Minister of which state?**  
 (a) Jharkhand  
 (b) Gujarat  
 (c) Madhya Pradesh  
 (d) Rajasthan
- 89. Pasighat Airport is located in which of these states?**  
 (a) Arunachal Pradesh  
 (b) Manipur  
 (c) Sikkim  
 (d) Tripura
- 90. The Pulitzer Prize is an award given for achievement in which field?**  
 (a) Literature  
 (b) Journalism  
 (c) Musical Composition  
 (d) All the above
- 91. Kristalina Georgieva has been selected as the new Chief of which organization?**  
 (a) EU  
 (b) IMF  
 (c) ADB  
 (d) ECB
- 92. Where was the United Nations (UN)'s Climate Action Summit 2019 held?**  
 (a) Geneva, Switzerland  
 (b) New Delhi, India  
 (c) Washington D.C., United States  
 (d) New York, United States
- 93. Which Indian athlete was recently awarded with IAAF Veteran Pin Prize?**  
 (a) Sania Mirza  
 (b) Vinesh Phogat  
 (c) Mary Kom

(d) PT Usha

**94. Which year is set as target across the countries to reduce their net carbon emissions to zero during the United Nations (UN)'s Climate Action Summit 2019?**

- (a) 2060  
(b) 2050  
(c) 2030  
(d) 2045

**95. Which Indian was awarded the 'Changemaker Award' by Bill & Milinda Gates Foundation for bringing change in society?**

- (a) Lalita Malik  
(b) Suman Awasthi  
(c) Payal Jangir  
(d) Deepti Sharma

**96. Who was conferred with the prestigious 'Vaccine Hero' award 2019 in recognition of the country's outstanding success in vaccination especially in eliminating polio, cholera and various communicable diseases?**

- (a) Sheikh Hasina  
(b) Vladimir Putin  
(c) Dmitry Medvedev  
(d) Narendra Modi

**97. Delhi has launched which emergency number for police, fire and ambulance emergency services?**

- (a) 111  
(b) 113  
(c) 112  
(d) 115

**98. Prayagraj is situated along the banks of which river?**

- (a) Ganga  
(b) Yamuna  
(c) Saraswati  
(d) All of these

**99. Caracas is the capital of which country?**

- (a) Paraguay  
(b) Somalia  
(c) Venezuela  
(d) Ukraine

**100. Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Airport is a domestic airport located in which city?**

- (a) Jabalpur  
(b) Nanded  
(c) Kota  
(d) Amritsar

## ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
c	c	a	d	a	a	d	a	b	a	a	b	a	d	c	d	c	b	a	c
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
a	a	b	a	d	c	b	b	a	c	a	b	b	a	c	d	c	b	d	d
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
a	a	c	c	c	b	a	a	b	a	d	c	d	a	b	a	d	a	a	c
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
a	c	a	d	a	a	c	b	c	b	b	b	b	c	a	c	c	a	b	d
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
d	c	a	a	c	c	c	d	a	d	b	d	d	b	c	a	c	d	c	d

# HIMACHAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Safety system in private, public buses: Overloading to be tracked through alarm, GPS

- Following the Banjar accident in which 45 innocent lives were lost, the state Transport Department has decided to install integrated automated passenger safety system in both private and public buses to check overloading and overspeeding. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 40 crore.
- Alarms and global positioning system will be installed in all buses to track the location of vehicles.
- Regional transport offices (RTOs) will get real-time information on the number of passengers on board a bus through the alarm and GPS system.
- Speed governor will provide information on its speed. Those who violate norms will be caught and penalised there and then.
- A software for the system was being developed and it would be ready for implementation within six months.
- To check the fitness of buses, an automated testing system would be set up. Vehicles that failed the test would not be allowed to ply on roads and their permits would be cancelled,
- Transport Department will start fitness programme for drivers as well. There will be zero tolerance for traffic rule violations

## “Rising Himachal: Global Investors’ Meet 2019” : New Developments

- The Global Investors’ Meet 2019 is the flagship business event of Himachal Pradesh and its inaugural edition will be held at Dharamsala on November 7 and 8.
- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur reached Dubai for a four-day visit to UAE. He was accompanied by Industries Minister Bikram Singh along with a high-level delegation of senior officials of the state. The purpose of the visit is to project Himachal Pradesh as an attractive investment destination in sectors such as horticulture, tourism, pharmaceuticals, energy, food processing, logistics, education and skill development, stated official release here.
- The Himachal government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Nomisma, Banking and Financial Advisory, Nilgiri Trading for development of luxury resort with prime focus on destination wedding for an amount of Rs 1,000 crore.
- The delegation of the state led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur also signed MoUs with M/s MKS Group for investment in naturopathy resort worth Rs 100 crore and affordable housing worth Rs 150 crore, a release issued here today said.
- Another MoU was signed between the Himachal Government and the UAE India Business Council for highlighting investment opportunities in the state. UAE India Business Council is the official joint business council set up by the governments of India and UAE for promoting economic synergy between the two countries.
- The state government has succeeded in signing memorandum of understandings (MoUs) worth Rs 22,964 crore during the last about one-and-a-half years.

### Key Highlights

- The state government has set a target of attracting investment worth Rs 85,000 crore which includes Rs 20,000 crore investment in hydro and renewal energy, real estate, urban development infrastructure, transport and logistics. Similarly, a target of attracting investment worth Rs 15,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore have been fixed for manufacturing and pharmaceutical sector and in tourism, hospitality and civil aviation, respectively.
- Besides, targets have been fixed for attracting investments worth Rs 5,000 crore each in sectors like agri-business, food processing and post harvest technology, wellness, health care and Ayush,

information technology and electronics, education and skill development,

- 164 MoUs have been signed and uploaded in Him Pragati which is a platform where the investors could raise their issues.

### **National Nutrition Mission**

- The Central government has chosen the Bhoranj in Hamirpur district under its National Nutrition Mission (NNM) to eradicate anaemia and malnutrition. The other blocks under the scheme are Bangana in Una and Tissa in Chamba.
- The estimated project time is six months. Focus would be on children between 5-11 years, adolescent girls between 11-19, and women up to the age of 45.
- For the mission, Rs 9046.17 crore was allocated. It aims at raising the nutrition levels in the country. To achieve the target, the mission comprises mapping of various schemes to address the problems.

#### **Objective of the NNM:**

- The target of the mission is to reduce the percentage of stunted growth; malnourished youth; anaemic children, women and adolescent girls.

### **India-China trade on barter system**

- The India-China cross border trade across the 18,599 feet Shipki La started with seven traders crossing over with their merchandise even as the ban on trade of livestock, which is in huge demand, continues.
- A total of 62 traders have applied for permits for the cross-border trade still being undertaken on barter system. The authorities have issued permits to 18 traders and finished the verification of another 10.
- All seven traders, who went across Tibet, hail from Chango village. They carried carpets, spices and other handloom articles which are in great demand in Tibet.

#### **Key Highlights:**

- The trade has started since 1992 and registered a steady increase, except last year.
- The ban on the sale of livestock, which is in a huge demand on the Indian side, still continues. Despite the state government requesting the Ministry of Commerce to lift the ban on livestock trading, the Centre has yet to yield to the plea.
- The traders have been demanding a quarantine laboratory at Chupan and Namgiya to pave the way for resumption of livestock trade like chiku goats, horses and mules.

### **'zero waste' tag to 500 panchayats**

The government has asked district officials to identify at least one solid liquid management (SLM) cluster consisting of 10 to 12 gram panchayats (GPs) to make 500 panchayats as zero waste panchayats by October 2. So far 12 SLM clusters have been identified in 109 GPs, stated an official release issued here.

According to the release, all development blocks have prepared block level solid liquid waste management (SLWM) plan. It is proposed to make at least 500 gram panchayats "Zero Waste GP" by October 2. The Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for the year 2019-20 has been approved with budgetary provision of Rs 427.42 crore.

#### **Other details:**

Rural areas of Himachal Pradesh became open defecation free (ODF) on October 28, 2016. Thereafter, focus under Swachh Bharat Mission has shifted to the ODF sustainability and solid and liquid waste management (SLWM). The release said Rs. 103.68 crore has been utilized in 768 gram panchayats. They built soak pit, magic pit, leach pit and drains at individual and community level under the mission.

### **HP University to have policy for persons with disabilities**

- Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) will be the first one in the country to have its own policy for persons with disabilities.

- A committee, constituted by the Vice-Chancellor, will prepare the draft policy document which will be implemented after the approval of the Executive Council (EC).
- A decision was taken at a meeting of the EC after the issue was raised by Ajai Srivastava, an EC member, holding additional charge of the nodal officer for disability affairs of the HPU.
- The proposed policy document will incorporate all legislative provisions for students, employees and teachers, apart from the relevant judgments of the Supreme Court and HP High Court.

### Mobile App for 'Drug-Free Himachal'

- The state government is committed to making Himachal Pradesh drug-free by ensuring the effective enforcement of law to check this menace, besides ensuring people's participation for making it a mass movement, A major part of the anti-drug strategy of the state government focuses on certain drugs originally derived from plant sources such as cannabis and opium, he said, adding that the state government has taken stringent steps against cultivation of these drugs.
- The Chief Minister launched '**Student Police Cadet Programme**' on the occasion. The programme envisages inculcating respect for the laws, enforcing discipline and civic sense and developing empathy for vulnerable sections of society.
- He also launched an app on '**Drug-Free Himachal**' and '**Nasha Nivaran Toll Free Helpline-1908**' and said anyone can register complaint against drug peddler through the app.

### 'Speed up project to diversify crop'

The state government has urged the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA-India) to expedite the Rs 1,104-crore crop diversification promotion project for the state.

Government proposed Phase II of JICA-supported project would be extended to all 12 districts of the state.

- Government stated the study on the impact assessment of crop diversification was conducted by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management "MANAGE", Hyderabad. The major findings of the study were that the area under vegetables had increased by 232 per cent (rabi) and 328 per cent (kharif) and the increase in the yield of vegetables was 108 per cent.
- As a result of diversification, the area under paddy, wheat, maize and barley declined by 23 per cent, 16 per cent, 23 per cent and 76 per cent. On the contrary, the yield increased up to 30 per cent in wheat, 17 per cent in paddy, 21.17 per cent in maize and 37 per cent in fodder crops.
- The study further said positive growth in the area and production of vegetables increased the share of vegetables from 13.9 per cent to 41.98 per cent.

### Himachal Pradesh Film Development Council

- The government will set up the Himachal Pradesh Film Development Council to develop film industry in the state.
- The council will delegate its financial powers to the executive committee, which will examine the eligibility and fix criteria to provide financial and other incentives to film makers, stated a release here today.
- The government has approved the Film Policy-2019 to create an amiable atmosphere that will not only facilitate film shooting at a large scale, but also ensure all-round development of film production.
- It will also provide opportunity to the talent in all departments of film making and generate job opportunities, besides attracting additional capital investment through film industry.
- A film development fund will be created by the state government in Information and Public Relations Department for financing schemes for the development of films and film-related infrastructure. For this fund, a cess of 50 paise per bottle of liquor will be levied.
- The government will create infrastructure required for making films in the private sector.
- The government will also provide land on lease for film city.

### 9 lakh state farmers to be trained in natural farming



- To achieve the target of doubling farm income by 2022, as many as 9.61 lakh farmers of the state will be trained in **Subhash Palekar's natural farming techniques**.
- Government targeted to train 50,000 farmers in natural farming this year and awareness programmes were being conducted in every district.
- Several studies had proved the harmful effects of the use of chemicals on human health and renowned doctors had undertaken studies on the proliferation of cancer owing to the use of chemical fertilisers on crops.

### Chanshal to be developed as winter sports destination

- Under 'Nai Rahein, Nai Manjilein' scheme of the state government to explore lesser known tourist destinations in the state.
- The state government will develop Janjehli area in Mandi district from eco-tourism point of view, Bir Billing in Kangra district as destination of para gliding and adventure sports, Pong Dam as water sports destination and Chanshal area in Shimla district as favoured destination for winter sports and skiing.
- In addition to this, an interpretation centre would be established at Bandal in proposed Baglamukhi Nature Park. Also a cactus garden, a ropeway, a nature walk and rock climbing facilities would also be developed in the area.
- Government also noted Pong Dam in Kangra district has been declared as Ramsar site which is world famous site for bird watchers as lakhs of birds migrate to this place every year from as far as Siberia. The place would be developed by constructing about 15 log huts besides constructing nature trail and bird viewpoints to make the place tourists friendly.

### 'Mehar' all set to revive village economy

Sirmaur DC, brainchild behind the idea, kicks off 'Operation camel milk flood' in remote Bhedon village of the district. It was during a recent field visit to the village that the DC came across the idea of launching such an operation. He was impressed seeing camels being reared by the local population, comprising mostly Gujjars.

- Camel milk is high in nutrients and is used for controlling blood sugar. It is also a wholesome food for children that can help prevent malnutrition.
- Adult female camel nicknamed **Mehar**, brought from Bikaner with administration help.
- The district administration plans to have a small pasteurisation facility in the village to increase the shelf life of milk.
- The District Ayurvedic Officer has been asked to start an experiment of camel milk on diabetic patients and gauge its effect.

### Govt abolishes State Administrative Tribunal

The uncertainty over the future of the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) was over as the Cabinet today decided to abolish it.

Important Facts

- SAT had been set up on September 1, 1986, with Justice HS Thakur being its first Chairman.
- The CM had hinted that his government was planning to wind up SAT as the cases were not being decided on merit.
- The Tribunal had become a political issue between the BJP and the Congress
- The previous BJP regime, headed by PK Dhumal, had abolished it in July 2008
- It was the Virbhadrar-led Congress regime which reinstated it on February 28, 2014

### Second Horticulture University

The government will set up the second horticulture university at Thunag in Seraj, the home constituency of the Chief Minister.

It was BJP vision document had made a promise and the work on the new horticulture university was under process. Suresh Bhardwaj said the vision document aimed at providing better services to common masses.

Other developments:

- First instalment of Rs 70.18 lakh from the Centre under the Integrated Horticulture Mission had been given to eligible farmers.
- The two new cold stores would come up at Karsog and Janjehli, while Gumma, Jarol-Tikkar, Oddy, and Rohru stores were being upgraded.
- Farmers could change five-year old polyhouses and polysheets for which they had been given Rs 1 crore Central grant under Chief Minister Green House Renovation scheme.

### **Kalraj Mishra has been appointed as the new Governor**

- Senior BJP leader and former minister Kalraj Mishra has been appointed as the new Governor, while incumbent Acharya Devvrat has been transferred to Gujarat.
- The term of Devvrat, who assumed office on August 12, 2015, ends on August 12, 2020.
- Born on July 1, 1941, Mishra is a veteran politician and held several posts in the organisation.
- He also remained the in-charge of organisational affairs for Himachal for two years and was elected to Lok Sabha from the Deoria constituency in Uttar Pradesh in 2014 and elected to Rajya Sabha thrice in 1978, 2001 and 2006.
- He was a Cabinet Minister in the Uttar Pradesh Government from March 1997 to August 2000, holding the portfolios of Public Works, Medical Education and Tourism. Acharya, who occupied the centre stage with his zero-budget natural farming, has been shifted to the home state of Modi.
- Out of the 18 regular Governors, who adorned the Raj Bhawan since January 25, 1971, when Himachal was granted statehood, 15 did not complete their term and were either shifted, removed or resigned. Devvrat is the 15th Governor to leave the Raj Bhawan before the completion of his term.
- First Governor S Chakravarti, who held office from January 25, 1971, to February 16, 1977, Justice Vishnu Sadashiv Kokje (retd) from May 8, 2003 to July 19, 2008 and Urmila Singh from January 25, 2010, to January 24, 2015, completed their term.

### **Himachal bags Rs 4.5 crore project on skill development**

- The state government will train unemployed youth in tools and techniques in the area of biotechnology within a period of three years. The training will be given under Rs 4.5-crore skill development project.
- According to the government spokesperson, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has initiated the new Skill Vigyan Programme for training educated youth in multi-disciplinary areas of biotechnology. Thanks to the efforts of the HP Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) that has succeeded in getting this project in the first phase.
- DC Rana, Member Secretary, HIMCOSTE, said the programme would be executed in collaboration with the Life Science Sector Skill Development Council. The trained youth will get jobs.
- HIMCOSTE has roped in eight best research laboratories and academic institutions. For quality control, two trainings of three-month duration each, will be conducted every year in seven institutions.
- They will be trained as laboratory technician and assistant for a year. The production or machine operator training course will also be conducted at the Himalayan Skill Development Centre, Sirmaur.

### **“Mukhyamantri Roshni Yojana”**

- Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd (HPSEBL) has targeted to provide 17,550 free electricity connections to poor families under the “Mukhyamantri Roshni Yojana” in 2019-20.
- To be eligible, a person should be a member of either of the following: the BPL family; the family covered under the “Antyodaya Anna Yojana”; priority household or whose annual income from all sources, doesn't exceed Rs35,000. Also, the selected households load should not exceed 2 kW.
- “This scheme is being implemented in the state and funds for the same will come from the state

government,

- HPSEBL managing director JP Kalta said the Chief Minister had announced the scheme in the Budget speech in Vidhan Sabha. On observing the trends of the previous year, the board would incur the expenditure of Rs13.16 crore. To avail benefit, one has to be eligible and certified by a competent authority.

### **Sawra Kuddu barrage filling starts**

- Marred by delay and cost overruns, Himachal Power Corporation Ltd (HPCL) started the filling the barrage of the 111 MW Sawra-Kuddu hydroelectric project on the Pabber river in Shimla district for testing.
- According to the HPCL sources, the main bottleneck in the construction of this project was excavation of 11.365 km head race tunnel. The project will generate 386 million units per annum in a 90 % dependable year. It has 11.365-km long, 5 m finished diameter head race tunnel (HRT) and three turbines, each of 37 MW capacity.
- After commissioning, each project affected family will be provided 100 units of electricity per month for a period of 10 years.

### **Thakur Ved Ram International Awards**

- Satya Prakash Thakur, chairman of Bhuttico, said the annual Thakur Ved Ram International Awards ceremony to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Bhuttico founder would be held on August 7.
- Satya Thakur said the list of awardees had been finalised by the National Award Committee (NAC). The awards would be given for special contributions to the fields of literature, art, language and culture, journalism, handicraft and handloom.

### **Govt to accept only online plans, to be approved within 45 days**

- To facilitate investors in obtaining time-bound permissions and making the procedures less cumbersome, Himachal Government will now only accept online common application forms (CAF) for investment proposals which will have to be processed within 45 days time.
- The Himachal Government has issued a notification where the constitution and terms of reference of the State Level Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority have been changed to facilitate speedy sanctions. Now only online applications for seeking permissions for setting up a project be it in industry, power, tourism, health, agriculture or horticulture will be accepted by the State Level Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority.
- Earlier, there was no time period specified for clearing or rejecting a proposal by the authority which is headed by the Chief Minister and industry minister, Chief Secretary and other senior officers from Forest, Public Works, Power, Irrigation and Public Health, Labour, Revenue, Tourism and Pollution Control Board.
- All e-applications of industrial projects received by the State Single Window Nodal Officer will be examined and forwarded electronically to the Departmental Nodal Officer of concerned regulatory departments like electricity, irrigation and public health, forest, excise and taxation, labour and employment and others. The concerned departments will furnish necessary clearance/pre-regulatory establishment approvals/comments within seven working days from the date of its circulation.
- Now all projects up to investment of Rs 5 crore instead of Rs 10 crore will be placed before it.
- A sub-committee under the chairmanship of the Director/Commissioner Industries and other officials from various departments will examine/recommend the proposals to the Single Window Authority within 15 days.
- Even if no comments are received from the concerned departments within stipulated period the proposal will be included in the agenda of the State Level Authority and the department concerned will explain its position before the authority and the case would be decided accordingly.

### Spectacular 3D light shows to delight tourists

The state government is contemplating multi-dimensional, multi-sensory and multi-media light shows in a few strategic locations of the state to provide an added attraction to locals as well as tourists. This was stated by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur during a presentation made by internationally acclaimed actor, producer and media entrepreneur Deepa Sahi, here today. She is also the chairperson of Mayanagri World One, a heritage tourism theme park initiative currently developing Gobindgarh Fort in Punjab as a high-tech cultural hub.

- The virtual cultural hub with the assistance of multi-media lights would create a viable and sustainable model for cultural enterprises with latest media-entertainment technology, it is learnt.
- Efforts would also be made to showcase myths and legends of the Himalayan region with giant-size images projected directly on to the mountain landscape. This would be mesmerising for the tourists as the mountains would virtually come alive.
- The epic show created through computer generated imagery, digital visual effects, live shooting, paintings and laser light and sound would create a gigantic and impressive show. The tourists would be provided 7D thrilling adventure sports experiences through stereoscopic 3D project through hydraulically moving platform.
- The nature park at Mohal near Kullu, Baragah near Manali and Reporting Room, Shimla, are a few places, where such shows could be organised. Thakur said the state government could also consider taking up the matter with the Union Human Resources Development Ministry for allowing the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, to organise these activities.

### War museums to be opened in all districts

On the occasion of Vijay Divas, Rural Development minister Virender Kanwar state government has decided to open war museums in every district of the state.

### Smartshala in 10,661 schools

- CM Jai Ram Thakur launched Sampark Smartshala English and Maths Programme under Samagra Shiksha Himachal. The major objective of the scheme was to ensure the provision of quality education.
- CM launched English Smartshala kit and Smartshala work book, whereas Education Minister Suresh Bhardwaj launched Maths Smartshala kit.
- The CM also launched "Shiksha Saath Mobile App" for monitoring and evaluating the education system in the schools which would work offline as well. He also launched "e-Samwad mobile app" to create direct contact with the teachers and parents under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. This would be made available to over 15,000 schools.
- Founder Chairman, Sampark Foundation, Vineet Nayar said the foundation was running Sampark Smartshala in 76,000 schools in six states and the foundation aimed at training over 55,000 teachers on Sampark Smartshala Programme in 2019-20.

### Mukhya mantra Harit Vidyalaya Abhiyan to be held across State

- The state government is committed to environmental conservation, increase forest cover and preserve natural beauty.
- Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education, Education Department, and Forest Department will start 'Mukhya mantra Harit Vidyalaya Abhiyan' from 9 to 16
- August 2019 to plant saplings in the different schools of the state.
- Forest cover has always been given priority in the state and forest resources are valuable to the people.
- The state government has banned the cutting of trees and by availing gas connection under Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojna, the felling of trees for cooking has been reduced immensely.

### **The Agriculture University of HP secured 11th rank in the country**

- Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agricultural University, Palampur has jumped from 23rd to 11th rank among 75 agricultural universities of the country.
- The natural farming centre has been set up in the University last year which is first of its kind in the country.
- More than 40,000 farmers are being trained and provided services by university extension department annually.
- A record 17,000 applications have been received for 152 seats in agriculture and veterinary programmes this year.

### **Mukhya Mantri Nutan Polyhouse Pariyojna**

- HP Cabinet gave its approval for implementation of Mukhya Mantri Nutan Polyhouse Pariyojna (Phase-I) with a total out lost of Rs. 78.57 crore for construction of poly house, installation of micro-irrigation scheme and undertaking extension activities like training and sensitization of farmers.

### **‘Mukhya Mantri Swablamban Yojna- 2019**

- The Cabinet gave its consent to increase the upper age limit for availing the benefits of newly launched ‘Mukhya Mantri Swablamban Yojna- 2019 from 35 years to 45 years so as to cover more people under this scheme which has been framed by the merger of Mukhya Mantri Yuva Ajivika Yojna and Mukhya Mantri Swablamban Yojna-2018.

### **Center of Excellence For Dairy Farming to be built with 44.12 Crore**

- Central Government has approved construction of modern dairy farms and training centers at various places in the state.
- The dairy farms to be built under this center will have the facility of keeping 400 milch animals along with modern machines for these farms.
- The creation of the farms will add to the income of farmers and also help in improving the quality of livestock and milk.
- With the help of modern technology, conception techniques in animals will be improved.
- It will also help in preventing diseases among animals.

#### **Some important facts:**

- Regional Horticulture Research and Training Station is situated in Craignano at Mashobra.
- State Agriculture Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) is situated at Mashobra.

### **7th Economic Census launched in the state**

- Seventh Economic Census (7th EC) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in 2019 to provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all economic establishments in the country.
- The Economic Census provides valuable insights into a geographical spread, clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged etc. of the establishments with or without fixed premises engaged in economic activity.
- For the conduct of 7th EC, MoSPI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology as the implementing agency.
- The enumerators and supervisors engaged by CSC have been trained to collect data on a mobile application developed for data capture, validation, report generation and dissemination.



# HPAS MAINS MANUAL

## GENERAL STUDIES-3

### 1. What do you mean by Demographic Dividend? What are challenges of Demographic Dividend in India? Suggest measures needed to utilize the potential demographic dividend. [20 Marks]

According to United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), demographic dividend is the economic growth potential which arises out of a changing population age structure with a large section of people in the working age group (15-64 years) as compared to the non-working age population (below 14 years and above 65 years of age).

The economic productivity of a country increase when the proportion of people in the workforce is large and growing as compared to the nonworkers. It is a dividend which results from more people being productive and contributing to the economic growth. It increases the savings and investments rate in the economy and reduces the proportion spent on unproductive consumption.

#### Demographic Dividend for India

As per the data from sample registration system of India (SRS), about 64.4 % of India's population is in the age group of 15 to 59 years, in 2015. Urban areas account for 67.7 % of the working-age population while rural areas account for 62.9 %. According to the data from OECD, the median age of many countries of the world is rising, with 35 years for China, 40 years for OECD countries, and 47 years for Japan, while that of India is just 27.3 years.

The above data indicates that the population age structure of India provides it with a huge economic growth potential with a lower dependency ratio (ratio of population in the nonworking age to working-age people) and a large workforce. According to the Planning Commission, the world economy is expected to witness a shortfall in skilled manpower to the extent of around 56 million by 2020. At the same time, India keeps adding over 12 million people to its working age population. Thus, India's demography has the potential to not only accelerate domestic growth but also meet the skilled manpower requirements of other countries as well.

#### Challenges for India in reaping the demographic dividend

- The demographic dividend is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for any country in its developmental process. India's demographic dividend is expected to peak by 2020s (2020 for peninsular India, 2040 for hinterland India) after which the population starts ageing and the dependency ratio starts rising. However, India faces huge challenges in reaping the dividend such as:
- poor human capital formation reflected in low employability among India's graduates and postgraduates. According to ASSOCHAM, only 7 % of MBA graduates have employable skills in India, and only around 20-30 % of engineers find a job suited to their skills.
- low human development reflected in the human development report of UNDP. According to the Human Development Index of 2016, India stood at 131 out of 188 countries. Life expectancy at birth in India (68 years) is much lower than other developing countries (Sri Lanka - 75 years, China - 76 years). The mean years of schooling and the expected years of schooling are still low at 6.3 years and 11.7 years respectively.
- jobless growth: India's high growth rate phase (2004-05 to 2010-11) has created significantly fewer jobs as compared to previous decades of economic growth. Unemployment rates in rural and urban India are at 4.59 % and 5.47 % in 2017, according to a study by Bombay Stock Exchange. Around 47 % of India's population is still dependent on agriculture which is notorious for underemployment and disguised unemployment. Majority of the workforce is employed by the unorganized sector where workers are underpaid and lack any kind of social security.
- falling femalelabour force participation: According to data from International Labour Organization and World Bank, India's female labour force participation rates have fallen from 34.8 % in 1990 to 27 % in

2013. This has further declined to 23.7 % in 2016, as per the data from the Labour Ministry. Sociocultural factors and rising family incomes have been identified as the main reasons for this decline

- Apart from the above challenges, several others such as high levels of hunger, malnutrition, stunting among children, high levels of anaemia among adolescent girls, poor sanitation etc., reduce the productivity among India's youth.

#### **Steps needed to utilize the potential demographic dividend**

It is clear that there is nothing obvious about the benefits arising out of the population age structure of India. Deliberate policy measures and their strict implementation is necessary.

India needs to increase its spending on health and education. As recommended by the National Health Policy 2017 and the National Policy on Education 1986, India needs to increase its spending on health and education to at least 2.5 % in 6 % of GDP respectively from its current levels.

India has to invest more in human capital formation at all levels, from primary education to higher education, cutting-edge research and development as well as on vocational training to increase the skill sets of its growing working-age population.

The number of formal jobs have to be created, especially in labour intensive, export-oriented sectors such as textiles, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery etc. These sectors also have a higher share of the female workforce.

The flagship schemes such as Skill India, Make in India, and Digital India has to be implemented to achieve convergence between skill training and employment generation.

#### **2. What are the significant features of the National Population Policy 2000? Evaluate how effective this policy has been in meeting its objectives. [20 Marks]**

India accounts for its second place in highest population in world and this made India to launch National family planning programme in 1952, though the birth rate started decreasing, death rate also decreased sharply which led to overall increase in population. Here by where parliament brought National population policy in 2000.

##### **Features of NPP**

- Address the unmet needs for contraception;
- health care infrastructure and personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care;
- Reduce IMR,MMR, TFR by certain levels;
- Prevent and control communicable diseases;
- free and compulsory school education up to 14 years of age;
- promoting delayed marriage for girls;
- promote small family norm.

##### **Effectiveness of policy seen in measures adopted by govt**

- Right to Education under Article 21A
- With the help of 84th constitutional amendment seizing in state wide allocations of seats in loksabha and rajyasabha till 2026 where it would serve as motivational measure to put blockade to population explosion;
- National Population Stabilization Fund was setup to meet the demands ;
- Programmes like ICDS, Midday meal, National rural health mission, janani suraksha yojana ;
- Free contraceptives & sterilization methods, Recent success in polio immunization.

There were still failures in Reducing IMR and Fertility rates, death of women in chattisgarh due to faulty sterilization and some other objectives failing to achieve in rural areas. Accomplishing the objectives merely in quantitative terms shows success only in numerical but if met in qualitative terms and with strict implementation it will satisfy the demands to its fullest to the human needs.

### 3. What is Monetary Policy Committee? [8 marks]

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a 6 member committee formed after the amendment in the RBI Act, 1934 through the Finance Act, 2016. The basic objective of MPC is to maintain price stability while accelerating the growth rate of the economy. The formation of the monetary policy committee was mooted by the **Urjit Patel committee**. Targeting inflation is to be the core objective of the central bank, and it will be answerable to law-makers if it failed to achieve the target.

#### Composition of MPC

##### MPC will be a 6 member committee:

- 3 members will be from RBI. These 3 members would include the governor who will also be the ex-officio chairperson of the committee.
- 3 members will be appointed by the central govt. These members should be experts in the field of finance or banking or economics or monetary policy. They will have a tenure of 4 years and will not be eligible for reappointment.
- The members appointed by the govt. will be appointed based on the recommendations by the search-cum-selection committee which will be headed by the cabinet secretary.
- Decisions will be taken by majority vote with each member having a vote
- The governor will **not enjoy a veto power** to overrule the other panel members, but will have **a casting vote in case of a tie**.
- No government official will be nominated to the MPC
- MPC will meet four times in 1 year and will announce its decisions publicly after each meeting. MPC replaces previous arrangement where RBI Governor along with a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) taking decisions on monetary policy including setting interest rates. In the previous arrangement TAC was only having advisory functions and the RBI Governor enjoyed veto power over the committee in setting interest rates.

### 4. What were the Objectives of Economic Planning in India. [8 marks]

In LDCs like India, the paramount objective of an economic plan is to bring into new forms of productive capital, which will raise the overall productivity of the economy and, thus, raise people's income by providing them adequate employment opportunities and, thereby, remove the twin problems of destitution and mass poverty.

The following were the original objectives of economic planning in India:

1. Economic Development: This is the main objective of planning in India. Economic Development of India is measured by the increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Per Capita Income
2. Increased Levels of Employment: An important aim of economic planning in India is to better utilise the available human resources of the country by increasing the employment levels.
3. Self Sufficiency: India aims to be self-sufficient in major commodities and also increase exports through economic planning. The Indian economy had reached the take off stage of development during the third five year plan in 1961-66.
4. Economic Stability: Economic planning in India also aims at stable market conditions in addition to economic growth of India. This means keeping inflation low while also making sure that deflation in prices does not happen. If the wholesale price index rises very high or very low, structural defects in the economy are created and economic planning aims to avoid this.
5. Social Welfare and Provision of Efficient Social Services: The objectives of all the five year plans as well as plans suggested by the NITI Aayog aim to increase labour welfare, social welfare for all sections of the society. Development of social services in India, such as education, healthcare and emergency services have been part of planning in India.
6. Regional Development: Economic planning in India aims to reduce regional disparities in development. For example, some states like Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are relatively well

developed economically while states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Nagaland are economically backward. Others like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have uneven development with world class economic centres in cities and a relatively less developed hinterland. Planning in India aims to study these disparities and suggest strategies to reduce them.

7. Comprehensive and Sustainable Development: Development of all economic sectors such as agriculture, industry and services is one of the major objectives of economic planning.
8. Reduction in Economic Inequality: Measures to reduce inequality through progressive taxation, employment generation and reservation of jobs has been a central objective of Indian economic planning since independence.
9. Social Justice: This objective of planning is related to all the other objectives and has been a central focus of planning in India. It aims to reduce the population of people living below the poverty line and provide them access to employment and social services.
10. Increased Standard of Living: Increasing the standard of living by increasing the per capita income and equal distribution of income is one of the main aims of India's economic planning.

**5. Note down the key highlights of SDG India Index - Baseline Report 2018. [8 marks]**

NITI Aayog undertook the extensive exercise of measuring India and its States' progress towards the SDGs for 2030, culminating in the development of the first SDG India Index - Baseline Report 2018.

- The SDG India Index is intended to provide a holistic view of the social, economic and environmental status of the country and its States and UTs.
- It has been designed to provide an aggregate assessment of the performance of all Indian States and UTs and to help leaders and change makers evaluate their performance on social, economic and environmental parameters.
- The Index has been constructed spanning across 13 out of 17 SDGs (leaving out Goals 12, 13, 14 and 17).
- It tracks the progress of all the States and Union Territories (UTs) on a set of 62 National Indicators, measuring their progress on the outcomes of interventions and schemes of the Government of India.
- The SDG Index Score for Sustainable Development Goals 2030 ranges between 42 and 69 for States and between 57 and 68 for UTs.

**Performance of States**

- Among the States, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh are the front runners with an SDG India Index score of 69. Among the UTs, Chandigarh is a front-runner with a score of 68.
- Among the UTs, Chandigarh takes the lead because of its exemplary performance in providing clean water and sanitation to its people.
- On the other hand states like Assam, Bihar and UP have featured badly in the index as their score was below 49.
- The Index can be useful to States/UTs in assessing their starting point on the SDGs in the following ways, by Supporting States/UTs to benchmark their progress against national targets and performance of their peers to understand the reasons for differential performance and devise better strategies to achieve the SDGs by 2030

**6. What Is BRICS and note down its objectives? [4/8 Marks]**

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- BRICS does not exist in form of organization, but it is an annual summit between the supreme leaders of five nations.
- The Chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.

- Together, BRICS accounts for about 40% of the world's population and about 30% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product), making it a critical economic engine.
- It's an emerging investment market and global power bloc.

### Objectives

1. The BRICS seeks to deepen, broaden and intensify cooperation within the grouping and among the individual countries for more sustainable, equitable and mutually beneficial development.
2. BRICS takes into consideration each member's growth, development and poverty objectives to ensure relations are built on the respective country's economic strengths and to avoid competition where possible.
3. BRICS is emerging as a new and promising political-diplomatic entity with diverse objectives, far beyond the original objective of reforming global financial institutions.

### 7. Write a note on Mission Shakti. [4/8 marks]

Mission Shakti was undertaken to develop highly-potent Anti-satellite weapons (ASAT). It is a joint programme of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Anti-satellite (ASAT) System is missile-based system to attack moving satellites

On March 27th, India completed its first successful attempt at shooting a satellite in lower earth orbit (LEO). In doing so, India has become the fourth country after the US, Russia and China to acquire the capability of space warfare.

- ASAT propels India to the coveted space-superpower league.
- India will now have the power to decimate satellites for pure military and strategic purpose.
- With this missile, India will have the capability to interfere with satellites or engage in direct attacks.
- ASAT missile can be air, sea or land-based.
- Outer space is also emerging as the fourth arena of warfare. Hostile state and non-state actors can therefore damage Indian space assets.
- The ASAT capability has created some deterrence against potential hostile behaviour against Indian interests.
- The idea is to blind the enemy country of its navigation powers.
- Moreover, an incoming missile can also be destroyed using ASAT.
- Further, ASAT can also help in creating nuclear missile deterrence.

### 8. Write a note on Chandrayaan 2. [8marks]

In September 2008, the Chandrayaan-2 mission was approved by the government for a cost of Rs 425 crore. It is India's second mission to the moon. The mission is an important step in India's plans for planetary exploration, a program known as Planetary Science and Exploration (PLANEX).

- It aims to explore the Moon's south polar region.
- There are three components of the mission, an orbiter, a lander and a rover.
- The mission payloads include — Terrain Mapping Camera which will generate a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the entire moon, Chandrayaan 2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer which will test the elemental composition of the Moon's surface Solar X-Ray Monitor which will provide solar X-ray spectrum inputs for CLASS.
- The orbiter will be deployed at an altitude of 100 kilometers above the surface of the Moon. The lander will then separate from the orbiter, and execute a soft landing on the surface of the Moon, unlike the previous mission which crash landed near the lunar south pole.
- The lander, rover and orbiter will perform mineralogical and elemental studies of the lunar surface.
- The rover is named Pragyan.



- The mission's lander is named Vikram after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian Space Programme.

#### **Objectives of the mission:**

The primary objective of Chandrayaan-2 is to demonstrate the ability to soft-land on the lunar surface and operate a robotic rover on the surface. Scientific goals include studies of lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, the lunar exosphere, and signatures of hydroxyl and water ice.

#### **9. What are the Applications of Remote Sensing Satellite. [8 Marks]**

Remote sensors collect data by detecting the energy that is reflected from Earth. These sensors can be on satellites or mounted on aircraft. Remote sensors can be either passive or active. Passive sensors respond to external stimuli. They record natural energy that is reflected or emitted from the Earth's surface. The most common source of radiation detected by passive sensors is reflected sunlight.

Satellite remote sensing measuring entering and leaving flux of radiation from top of the atmosphere is one of the most powerful tools in climate change ecology. Satellite remote sensing allowed to study large scale areas and make findings which cannot be done by modeling or field observations.

#### **Applications of Remote Sensing Satellite**

##### **1. Agriculture & Soil**

- Crop production forecast
- Saline/sodic soils mapping
- Agro-Met services& disaster surveillance (pest, floods, drought)
- Horticulture development

##### **2. Bio Resources and Environment**

- Forest cover and type mapping
- Wetland inventory & conservation plans
- Bio diversity characterization
- Desertification status mapping
- Coastal, mangroves, Coral Related
- Snow and glacier studies

##### **3. Cartography**

- Large scale mapping
- Satellite based topo-map updation
- Digital Elevation Model (Carto-DEM)
- Cadastral level mapping

##### **4. Geology and Mineral Resources**

- Landslide hazard zonation
- Mineral /oil exploration, mining areas
- Seismic-tectonic studies
- Engineering and geo-environmental studies

##### **5. Ocean and Meteorology**

- Ocean primary productivity
- Ocean status forecast
- Storm surge modelling
- Regional weather prediction
- Tropical cyclone and mesoscale studies
- Extended range monsoon prediction

##### **6. Rural Development**

- National Drinking Water mission

- Wasteland mapping/updation
- watershed development and monitoring
- Land records modernization plan

#### **7. Urban Development**

- Urban sprawl mapping of major cities
- Master / structure plans
- Comprehensive development plans of selected cities / towns
- Base map generation for towns
- National urban information system

#### **8. Water Resources**

- Irrigation infrastructure assessment
- Water resource information system
- Snow melt run-off estimation
- Reservoir capacity evaluation
- Site selection for hydro-power

#### **9. Natural Resources Census**

- Periodic inventory of natural resources under NR Census programme
- Land use/land cover, soil, geomorphology, wetland, land degradation, snow and glacier, vegetation

#### **10. Disaster Management Support**

- Operationally addressing various natural disasters like floods, cyclone, drought, landslide, earthquake and forest fire
- Research and development on early warning systems and decision support tools

#### **11. Climate Change Studies**

- Mapping the indications, monitoring the agents and modelling the impact
- Characterization of climate variables
- Methane emission and Timberline study

#### **10. What are Biofuels? [8 marks]**

Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter (living or once living material) in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months) is considered a biofuel.

Biofuels may be solid, liquid or gaseous in nature.

- **Solid:** Wood, dried plant material, and manure
- **Liquid:** Bioethanol and Biodiesel
- **Gaseous:** Biogas

These can be used to replace or can be used in addition to diesel, petrol or other fossil fuels for transport, stationary, portable and other applications. Also, they can be used to generate heat and electricity. Some of the main reasons for shifting to biofuels are the rising prices of oil, emission of the greenhouse gases from fossil fuels and the interest for obtaining fuel from agricultural crops for the benefit of farmers.

#### **Categories of Biofuels**

##### **1. First generation biofuels:**

- These are made from food sources such as sugar, starch, vegetable oil, or animal fats using conventional technology.
- Common first-generation biofuels include Bioalcohols, Biodiesel, Vegetable oil, Bioethers, Biogas.
- Though the process of conversion is easy, but use of food sources in the production of biofuels creates an imbalance in food economy, leading to increased food prices and hunger.

##### **2. Second generation biofuels:**

- These are produced from non-food crops or portions of food crops that are not edible and considered as wastes, e.g. stems, husks, wood chips, and fruit skins and peeling.
- Thermochemical reactions or biochemical conversion process is used for producing such fuels.
- Examples include cellulose ethanol, biodiesel.
- Though these fuels do not affect food economy, their production is quite complicated. Also, it is reported that these biofuels emit less greenhouse gases when compared to first generation biofuels.

### **3. Third generation biofuels:**

- These are produced from micro-organisms like algae. Example- Butanol
- Micro-organisms like algae can be grown using land and water unsuitable for food production, therefore reducing the strain on already depleted water sources.
- One disadvantage is that fertilizers used in the production of such crops lead to environment pollution.

### **4. Fourth Generation Biofuels:**

- In the production of these fuels, crops that are genetically engineered to take in high amounts of carbon are grown and harvested as biomass.
- The crops are then converted into fuel using second generation techniques.
- The fuel is pre-combusted and the carbon is captured. Then the carbon is geo-sequestered, meaning that the carbon is stored in depleted oil or gas fields or in unmineable coal seams.
- Some of these fuels are considered as carbon negative as their production pulls out carbon from environment.

## **11. What are the Barriers to Hydropower Development in India. [8Marks]**

### **1. Hydropower Planning:**

- Planning for hydropower development in India has generally been oriented toward individual projects. However, this approach has several limitations for sustainable development of an entire river basin.
- Inter-state disputes are another aspect, which hinder integrated river basin development for hydropower projects. A large number of hydropower projects with common river systems between adjoining states are held up due to a lack of inter-state agreements and disputes on water-sharing.

### **2. Land Acquisition and Safeguard Issues:**

- Land availability and acquisition are among the core structural issues that impact almost all infrastructure sectors. Problems arising in the acquisition of land for hydropower projects are causing suspension and delay in construction activities.
- The problem areas include compensation amount for acquisition, the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) processes, Legal definitions which increase complexity and cost for developers without adequately benefiting the affected population etc.
- Construction and operation of hydropower dams can significantly affect natural river systems as well as fish and wildlife populations.
- Furthermore, hydropower projects involve submergence causing the displacement of project area people. The rehabilitation of project-affected people is also a major issue, which is more pronounced in the case of storage-based hydropower projects, as was evident during the development of the Tehri dam. The project met with mass protests on the issue of safety, environment and rehabilitation, resulting in unusual delays and cost over-runs.

### **3. Finance:** Hydropower projects are capital-intensive and financing them, by finding an optimum balance between bankability and affordability, is often a challenge. Although the operating cost of hydro projects are minimal and the project life longer than thermal, there are multiple other factors that make hydropower difficult to finance.

- Hydro projects require higher upfront costs to address greater complexities in design, engineering, environmental and social impact mitigation, etc.

- Most hydro projects takes at least five to six years to construct which increases the interest during construction.
  - Delay in cash inflows increase uncertainty and risks, resulting in higher risk premium on financing charges.
- 4. Technical Challenges:** Techno-economic viability of hydropower projects depends on the geology, topography, hydrology and accessibility of the project site. Even if extensive investigations using state of the-art investigation and construction techniques are adopted, an element of uncertainty remains in the sub-surface geology. Geological surprises during actual construction cannot be ruled out. This unpredictable geology is more pronounced in the young fold Himalayas where most of the Indian hydropower potential resides. Such technical challenges add to construction risks.

**5. Lack of Enabling Infrastructure:**

- A number of hydropower projects are located in remote sites in states, which do not have adequate demand for electricity. This creates the requirement for developing enabling infrastructure for power evacuation. The 'chicken neck' presents geographical constraints in developing requisite transmission infrastructure for hydropower evacuation from the northeast.
- Furthermore, the Plant Load Factor (PLF) for hydropower projects is typically less than 50%, as a result of which significant transmission capacity is under-utilized. All these result in higher transmission costs.
- Hydropower projects also require the presence of associated infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals etc. in the area. Lack of these infrastructural assets and difficult terrain of the sites often creates major road blocks in moving skilled manpower to project sites.

**12. What do you mean by Climate Emergency? [4 marks]**

The British Parliament became the world's first to declare a climate emergency by passing the largely symbolic motion on May 1, 2019. The move followed 11 days of street protests in London by the Extinction Rebellion environmental campaign group. The environmental group's ultimate aim is to slash global greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2025 and to biodiversity loss.

The British government is currently aiming to achieve the goal by 2050, which it says can be achieved without causing substantial economic damage and at a relatively low cost. Ireland on May 9, 2019 became the second nation in the world after Britain to declare a climate emergency. The Irish Parliament accepted an amendment to a parliamentary report declaring the emergency without a vote.

The declaration of the emergency is a call for governments across the world to change their behavior towards the climate and biodiversity in profound ways, on a sustained basis.

The declaration calls for the government to fast track legislative changes with respect to climate deterioration. It also involves drastic cut down of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

**13. What is Environment impact assessment and steps involved in it? [8/20 Marks]**

EIA is a tool to anticipate the likely environmental impacts that may arise out of the proposed developmental activities and suggest mitigation measures and strategies.

EIA was introduced in India in 1978, with respect to river valley projects. EIA is now mandatory for 30 categories of projects, and these projects get Environmental Clearance (EC) only after the EIA requirements are fulfilled.

**EIA is to**

1. serve as a primary environmental tool with clear provisions.
2. apply consistently to all proposals with potential environmental impacts.
3. use scientific practice and suggest strategies for mitigation.
4. address all possible factors such as short term, long term, small scale and large scale effects.
5. consider sustainable aspects such as capacity for assimilation, carrying capacity, biodiversity protection.
6. lay down a flexible approach for **public involvement**.

7. have in built mechanism of follow up and feedback.

#### Steps in EIA process

EIA involves the steps mentioned below. However, EIA process is cyclical with interaction between the various steps.

- **Screening:** The project plan is screened for scale of investment, location and type of development and if the project needs statutory clearance.
- **Scoping:** The project's potential impacts, zone of impacts, mitigation possibilities and need for monitoring.
- **Collection of baseline data:** Baseline data is the environmental status of study area.
- **Impact prediction:** Positive and negative, reversible and irreversible and temporary and permanent impacts need to be predicted which presupposes a good understanding of the project by the assessment agency.
- **Mitigation measures and EIA report:** The EIA report should include the actions and steps for preventing, minimizing or by passing the impacts or else the level of compensation for probable environmental damage or loss.
- **Public hearing:** On completion of the EIA report, public and environmental groups living close to project site may be informed and consulted.
- **Decision making:** Impact Assessment (IA) Authority along with the experts consult the project-in-charge along with consultant to take the final decision, keeping mind EIA and EMP (Environment Management Plan).
- **Monitoring and implementation of environmental management plan:** The various phases of implementation of the project are monitored.
- **Assessment of Alternatives, Delineation of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Impact Assessment Report:** For every project, *possible alternatives* should be identified and environmental attributes compared. Alternatives should cover both project location and process technologies.
- Once alternatives have been reviewed, a mitigation plan should be drawn up for the selected option and is supplemented with an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to guide the proponent towards environmental improvements.
- **Risk assessment:** Inventory analysis and hazard probability and index also form part of EIA procedures.

#### 14. What are the benefits and limitations of Organic Farming? [4/8 Marks]

Organic Farming is a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, aquatic wastes) and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (biofertilizers) to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment.

#### Benefits

- Increases soil fertility, high value crops leading to sustainable development.
- Preserves indigenous species.
- Reduces subsidy burden on Governments and inherent corruption involved in it.
- Thwarts the desertification of arable land.
- Revitalizes ground water level.
- Reduces risk to the food chain.
- Stops the serious health hazards caused due to chemical fertilizers & pesticides.
- It also promotes tourism as it has already been started in north-east where resorts are marketing themselves as completely organic where tourists can pluck, cook and relish fresh organic food from their kitchen gardens.
- Farmers can reap huge income as there is demand for organic food.



**Limitations**

- To feed the increasing population, organic farming should be implemented on large scale. However, with the increasing urbanization and disappearance of agricultural land this may not be completely implemented in whole state like Sikkim.
- Requires more human supervision.
- Bacterial contamination of produce due to untreated organic manure may cause diseases.

**15. What do you know about Sustainable agriculture. Note down its benefits. [4/8 Marks]**

**Sustainable Agriculture:** The concept of sustainable agriculture gained prominence since the publication of the **Brundtland Report in 1987**. Sustainable Agriculture involves the processes that would enable to meet the current and long term societal needs for food, fiber and other resources, while maximizing benefits through the conservation of natural resources and maintenance of ecosystem functions.

**Principles of Sustainable Agriculture:** The three main principles of sustainable agriculture are:

1. **Environmental sustainability:** through e.g. protecting, recycling, replacing and maintaining the natural resources base such as land (soil), water and wildlife
2. **Economic sustainability:** through e.g. improving soil management and crop rotation which raise yields
3. **Social sustainability:** through upholding social justice and cultural cohesion

**Benefits of Sustainable Agriculture:**

1. **Environmental Protection:** Sustainable Agriculture emphasizes on methods and processes that improve soil productivity while minimizing harmful effects on the climate, soil, water, air, biodiversity and human health.
2. **Saving Energy:** It emphasizes to minimize the use of inputs from nonrenewable sources and petroleum-based products and replace them with those from renewable resources
3. **Food security:** It seeks to ensure that the basic nutritional requirements of current and future generations are met in both quantity and quality terms.
4. **Economic profitability:** It not only ensures sustainable increase in agricultural production but also reduces the agricultural sector's vulnerability to adverse natural conditions (e.g. climate), socioeconomic factors (e.g. strong price fluctuations) and other risks.

**Economic and social equity:**

- It seeks to ensure long-term employment, an adequate income and dignified and equal working and living conditions to people involved in agriculture value chain
- It also focuses on local people and their needs, knowledge, skills, socio-cultural values and institutional structures

## HPSAS (MAIN) – 2019

### GENERAL STUDIES

#### MODEL TEST PAPER WITH SOLUTION

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 200**

**Note: - All questions are compulsory.**

#### **SECTION A (2 marks each; maximum 15 words)**

##### **1. Answer the following questions serially in your answer-book:**

1. Give the child sex ratio of H.P. of the census of 2001 and 2011?
2. How did the Ex chief minister P.K Dhumal have to lose their constituency?
3. Who got the lion's share in treaty of segauli?
4. Give a brief of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal VikasYojna.
5. What are the Doon Valley and low valley?
6. Write a short note on Swangala.
7. What is meant by equal protection of law?
8. Why SHG are necessity in Rural Development.
9. What are the function of food and agriculture organization of united nation?
10. Why Directive principle of state policy are non-justifiable?
11. Write a short note on Himurja?
12. Explain FRBM Act 2003?
13. What are the main problem of rural credit in H.P.?
14. Outline main land reform Introduced in state?
15. What in free Trade? Is it beneficial for Indian Economy?
16. How Dalhousie was the founder of Modern India?
17. Explain Classification of both system?
18. Write a note on mass contact programme of Nehru?
19. Short note on Him Swablamban.
20. What scheme are available for ST in H.P.?

#### **SECTION B (3 marks each; maximum 35 words)**

##### **2. Given below are the names of some places. Explain who are they and why have they been in news recently:**

1. Moscow
2. Boufaric
3. Ahvaz Iran
4. Burundi
5. Pyongyang
6. Jakarta
7. Surat
8. Iceland
9. San Francisco
10. Bengaluru

**SECTION C (3 marks each; maximum 35 words)**

**3. Given below are the names of some persons. Explain who are they and why have they been in news recently:**

1. Emmerson Mnangagwa
2. Scott Morrison
3. Tayyip Erdogan
4. M.M Jacob
5. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel
6. Gita Gopinath
7. Penny Marshal
8. Lee-Myung-bak
9. Anna Burn's
10. Nikki Haley

**SECTION D (20 marks each; maximum 350 words)**

4. What efforts have been made by the state of H.P. to promote the interest of agrarian Society?
5. Discuss Indo-China Relation.
6. Discuss Function of H.P Private educational Institutional regulatory commission?
7. What is foreign trade policy? Discuss the impact of Liberalisation and globalisation on Rural India?
8. What are the various type of pollution in H.P and How H.P. govt is curbing it?

**SOLUTION**

1. The child sex ratio of H.P. of the census of 2001- 896 and 2011 – 909.
2. The opposition Candidate Rajender Rana of INC from Sujjanpur seat gave stiff Competition to Ex Chief minister PK Dhumal. He runs an NGO Sarv Kaliankari sanstha for last ten years which is involved in various welfare activities. This benefitted Rajender Rana in the elections.
3. **Who got the lion's share in Treaty of Segauli?**  
**Answer:** On March 4, 1816, an agreement was signed between the Gurkha chiefs of Nepal and the British Indian government that ended the Anglo-Nepalese (Gurkha) War (1814–16). By the treaty, Nepal renounced all claim to the disputed Tarai, or lowland country, and ceded its conquests west of the Kali River and extending to the Sutlej River. Nepal remained independent, but it received a British resident with the status of an ambassador to an independent country rather than of the controlling agent of the supreme government in an Indian state. Most of territories in under King of Nepal were ceded to East India Company. The King of Nepal was made to get the consent of British before making any external alliance. With all such instances, it clearly indicates that the Lion's share was pocketed by Britishers.
4. **Give a brief of Pradhan mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.**  
**Answer:** It was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The key objective of the scheme is to cover the skills training of about 24 lakh people. The specific skills imparted would be decided based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and on the basis of feedback from the various industries that would potentially employ the trainees. The target for skilling under the scheme will be associated with Union Government's flagship programmes such as

**Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and National Solar Mission.** Primary focus of skill training is for the first time entrants to the labour market and Class 10 and Class 12 drop outs.

### 5. What are Doons and Low Valleys?

**Answer:** The **Duns (Duras)** lies between two intermittent ranges of the Himalayas, the **Outer Himalayas** (a.k.a. the Shivalik Hills) and the **Lesser Himalayas**, know locally as the Mussoorie Range.

- Shiwalik Hills were formed by the accumulation of conglomerates (sand, stone, silt, gravel, debris etc.).
- These conglomerates, in the initial stages of deposition, obstructed the courses of the rivers draining from the higher reaches of the Himalayas and formed **temporary lakes**.
- With passage of time, these temporary lakes accumulated more and more conglomerates. The conglomerates were well settled at the bottom of the lakes.
- When the rivers were able to cut their courses through the lakes filled with conglomerate deposits, the lakes were drained away leaving behind plains called '**duns**' or '**doons**' in the west and '**duars**' in the east.
- **Dehra Dun in Uttarakhand** is the best example [75 km long and 15-20 km wide]
- Kotah, PatliKothri, Chumbi, Kyarda, Chaukhamba, Udhampur and Kotli are other important duns.

### Valley

The extended depression on ground through which a stream flows throughout its course is called a river valley.

- At different stages of the erosional cycle the valley acquires different profiles.
- At a young stage, the valley is deep, narrow with steep wall-like sides and a convex slope. The erosional action here is characterized by predominantly **vertical downcutting**. The profile of valley here is typically 'V' shaped.
- A deep and narrow 'V' shaped valley is also referred to as **gorge** and may result due to downcutting erosion and because of recession of a waterfall. Most Himalayan rivers pass through deep gorges (at times more than 500 metres deep) before they descend to the plains.

### 6. Write a note on Swangla.

**Answer:** The Swangla is a Schedule Tribe living in the *Pattan valley* tract along the River Chandra Bhaga in District Lahaul – Spiti. It is difficult to say whether the Swanglas are the original inhabitants of Lahaul or not. The people of the Chandra and Bhaga valleys call the Swanglas, Mon or Muntsi. There are different opinions about their origin and religion. Some people hold the view that they are Brahmins migrants to this area during different times of history and came in groups from different areas, such as Chamba, Jammu, Kashmir and Kishtwar. In the social hierarchy, Swanglas hold the highest position. Thakurs Nono are regarded second in order of social status.

### 7. What is meant by Equal Protection of Law?

**Answer:** The phrase "equal protection of laws" means that people in similar circumstances should be treated equally. Which also means those who are not equal circumstances should not be treated equally. For example, a poor man cannot be expected to pay the same income tax as a rich man. But persons with the same income bracket, being in similar circumstances, will pay the same tax.

All adults are equal and are punished equally. But a child who commits murder cannot be punished like an adult who commits the same crime. Since the adult and the child are not equal and should be treated unequally.

When persons in similar circumstances/equals are treated equally, and those in different circumstances/unequal are treated in an unequal manner, we strive to attain EQUITY, which is an objective much higher than equality.

**8. Why SHG are a necessity in Rural Development?**

**Answer:** In India there is a substantial percentage of rural and urban poor, who if tried individually cannot break their chains of poverty, and hence collective action is required.

- Forself employment and financial independence, poor sections need **credit**.
- Bank credits are not easily accessible to individual poor, but by forming a SHG, there are make better prospects for bank credits. (Often without collateral).
- The chances of successful income generation is high with SHGs than individual attempts.

**9. What are the Function of Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations.**

**Answer:** Founded in 1945, the FAO has **five strategic objectives**:

1. Help eliminate hunger and malnutrition (including food security concerns)
2. Make agriculture (and forestry and fisheries) more sustainable (and productive)
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Enable inclusive food systems
5. Increase resilience of food related livelihoods (e.g., farmers) to threats and crises.

**The actions of the FAO also fall into five distinct categories:**

1. Presenting information for the transition to sustainable agriculture.
2. This includes specialists, nutritionists, economists, statisticians and other researchers.
3. Strengthening Policy
4. Both strengthening existing policy, but also advocating global policy development.
5. Increasing public-private collaboration
6. Where rich and poor nations can talk to the Food Industry to facilitate greater investments.
7. Field Projects
8. Currently there are thousands of field projects under way.
9. Mitigating risk
10. Develop monitoring strategies for threats to agriculture, food and nutrition.

**10. Why Directive Principal of State Policy are non-justifiable?**

**Answer:** The concept of Directive Principles of State Policy was borrowed from the Irish Constitution. The Directive Principles are non-justiciable in nature because they are not legally enforceable by the courts for their violation. Therefore, the government cannot be compelled to implement them. **They were made non-justiciable because they try to establish economic and social democracy in the country, so to implement them lots of resources were required which India did not have at the time of independence.** With time, Directive Principles can be made justiciable or converted to Fundamental Rights like Right to Education which was made a Fundamental Right in 2002 (earlier it was a Directive Principle).

**11. Writeashortnoteon HIMURJA.**

**HIMURJA**-Popularize renewable energy programmes through out the state with financial support of Ministry of new and Renewable energy (MNRE), Govt. of India and state Govt. HIMRJA is assisting the govt. for Exploitation of small hydro (upto5MW) in the state.During 2016-17,119 projects with total capacity of 22200 MW have been allotted to the private Investors.



**12. Explain FRBM ACT 2003.****Answer:** FRBM Act

FRBM Act: the fiscal responsibility and budget management Act, 2003

(FRBMA) is an act of the parliament of India to institutionalize financial discipline, reduce India fiscal deficit, improve macroeconomic

Management and the overall management of the public funds by moving forwards a balanced budget.

**Objective:**

- To introduce transparent fiscal management system in country
- To introduce a more equitable and manage able distribur of the
- Country debts over the years.
- To aim for fiscal stability for India in the long run.

**13. What are the main problem so frural credit in H.P.****Answer: Excessive Formalities:** Procuring loan from institutional source involves excessive formalities and documentation. Most of the farmer is not very literate to understand and comply with these formalities. So the farmers are compelled to depend upon non-institutional sources of credit.**Problem of Security:** Landless farmers do not have any security to be pledged with the institutional sources. Although recently government has allowed small loan stopoor farmers with out adequate security, yet farmers face difficulty in obtaining credit due to the lack of security.**Loansfor Unproductive Purpose:** Many a time farmers obtain loans for unproductive purposes viz. family functions, illness, court cases, etc. Such loans do not add to the income of the farmers. As a result, farmers find it difficult to repay these loans and get entangled in debt trap.**Poor Recovery of Agricultural Credit:** Recovery of agricultural credit has been far from satisfactory. This impedes the process of further lending. Nearly 40-42 per cent of the loans have remained unrecovered during the last 3-4 years.**Less Credit to Poor Farmers:** Various credit schemes have failed to meet the credit needs of the small and marginal farmers. Credit has failed to reach the most needy farmers.**Inadequate Amount of Loan:** Loan amount has remained inadequate to meet all aspects of agricultural operations. Doubtless the value of rural credit has significantly increased over time. Yet, it proves to be insufficient because of rise in the price of agricultural inputs as well as commercialization of agriculture.**Uncertainty of Refunding:** Income of farmers is uncertain it depend son natural factors, viz. climat icconditions, amount of rain fall, etc. Many a time excessive floods or drought ruin the agriculture produce. So, the farmers have poor repaying capacity owing to which recovery suffers and the credit agencies become very cautious using ranting loans.**Inadequate Institutional Credit Facilities:** Institutional credit facilities continue to be less than requirement. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Land Development Banks and Commercial Banks have yet not covered the entire rural population**14. Explain main Land reform Introduce dinstate.****Land Reforms in the State of Himachal Pradesh**

The birth of the state of Himachal Pradesh is of recent origin. Himachal Pradesh was formed on 15th April, 1948 as Part C State by the merger of 30 princely states. On 25th Jan., 1971 Statehood was granted to Himachal Pradesh under the Himachal Pradesh State Act, 1970 (Act No. 53 of 1970) with 55,673sq2 km area and became 18th state of India.<sup>23</sup> According to Census 2011, Himachal Pradesh has 6,864,602 populations out of which around 89.97 percent live in villages of rural areas.<sup>24</sup> Himachal

Pradesh is one of the eleven Special Category States. This status is granted to it due to its hilly and difficult terrain, low population density, nonviable nature of state finances etc.

The nature of land tenure of the princely states of Himachal Pradesh may broadly be categorised as semi-feudalistic coupled with Begar and Beth. Under the land revenue settlements made by the Britishers, the ruler was recorded as the malik-i-ala (superior owner of the land) and the actual tillers as malik-i-adna (inferior owner of the land). The ruler further asserted his rights of over lordship as malik-i-ala by extracting forced labour called begar from the peasants. 'Begar' is a Persian word and in its broadest sense means the unpaid exploitation of labour.<sup>25</sup> In lieu of these services the bethu (person providing free services) was given a piece of land free of obligations in rent or revenue.<sup>26</sup> Under the princely states, the agrarian structure, by and large, was dominated by different types of land systems viz.

**Bhaichara Tenure** In major part of the state, bhaichara tenure prevailed. In such a system land was held in severalty in which one's customary share once existed, but had now disappeared. The total revenue which a land holder paid became the sole measure of the right and liability.<sup>27</sup>

**Pattadari Tenure** Contrary to bhaichara, in pattadari tenure, land was divided and held in severalty by the different proprietors, according to ancestral or other customary shares of the revenue while all were jointly responsible in the vent of any one shareholder being unable to fulfill his obligations to the Government. In pattadari tenure, the share regulated the revenue payable, whereas in bhaichara tenure the revenue payable regulated the share.

**Bethu System** The Bethu System of serfdom was prevalent in most of the erstwhile Shimla Hill States. Bethu was the hereditary tiller of the state's land from times immemorial; he cultivated a portion for his subsistence and the remaining portion he cultivated on behalf of the raja who received the profits. In addition he had some additional responsibilities for carrying loads.

**Zamindari System** Before implementation of land reforms in Kangra district the harsh truth was that there were 701 zamindari<sup>30</sup> estates, 2900 pattadari and remaining land was under bhaichara tenure.

### 15. What is Free Trade? Is it beneficial for India economy.

**Answer:** Free Trade it is a trade policy that doesnot restrict imports and exports. It is the idea of the free market as applied to international trade. Every policy has the pros and cons; out economy is mixe conomy, so the free trade has different outcome on different sector. If our export is maximum and import is less than free trade is beneficial to India. Butif import is more and export is less than it has negative impact on Indian economy.

### 16. Explain How Dalhousie was the founder of the Modern India?

**Answer:** The accession of Lord Dalhousieinaugurated a new chapter in the history of British India. He functioned as the Governor-General of India from 1848-1856. His eight years rules are full of important events in every sphere.

He was great both in war and peace. He introduced a number of reforms which paved the way for the modernisation of India and also earned the title, "Maker of the Modern India". He believed that, "the promotion of civilization meant the promotion of western reforms, that western administration and western institutions were as superior to Indian as Western arms had proved more potent."

#### Administrative Reforms:

Dalhousie's chief aim was the consolidation of British rule in India. So he adopted the principle of centralization. For the newly acquired territories he devised the 'Non-Regulation System" under which commissioners were appointed to deal with the administrative problems.

They were made responsible to the Governor-General in the Council. He handed over all other powers relating to justice, police, and land revenue to the District Magistrates. Dalhousie also made provision for the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. By the Parliamentary Act of 1853, the Governor-General was relieved of his functions as the governor of Bengal.

#### **Military Reforms:**

After the conquest of Punjab, Sindh and Avadh, the frontiers of the company were extended and the military interest of India was transferred to the North. Thus Dalhousie shifted the headquarters of the Bengal Artillery from Calcutta to Meerut. The army head-quarter was also transferred to Shimla so that the army could remain in touch with Governor-General who resided in Shimla.

Dalhousie also ordered for the general movement of troops from around Calcutta and from the lower provinces of Bengal towards the west. He could clearly foresee that the future safety of India depended upon the numerical strength of the army and on the maintenance of balance between British and Indian forces.

After some reduction in the strength of the Indian element the army stood at 2, 23,000 men in 1856, as against 45,000 Europeans. As he had no confidence in the Indians, a new Gurkha regiment was created. A new "Irregular Force" was also formed and posted in Punjab. These regiments proved to be of great assistance to the British during the revolt of 1857-58.

#### **Railway Reforms:**

Dalhousie introduced a new system of internal communication in India. He was the father of Indian Railways. Dalhousie's famous Railway Minute of 1853 convinced the home authorities of the need of the railways and laid down the main lines of their development.

He envisaged a network of railways connecting the main places with the ports and providing both for strategic needs and commercial development. The first railway line connecting Bombay with Thane was laid down in 1853. It covered a distance of twenty-six miles.

#### **The Electric Telegraph:**

In 1852 Dalhousie introduced the Electric Telegraph System in India. The first telegraph line from Calcutta to Agra was opened in 1854, covering a distance of 800 miles. By 1857, it was extended to Lahore and Peshawar. In Burma a line was laid down from Rangoon to Mandalay. People could send message from one place to another place very easily by this telegraph system.

#### **Postal Reforms:**

The credit of establishing Postal Department also goes to Lord Dalhousie. In 1854 a new Post Office Act was passed. Under this system, a Director-General was appointed to supervise the work of Post Offices in all the Presidencies; a uniform rate of half-anna per letter was introduced and for the first time postage stamps were issued.

#### **Social Reforms:**

Dalhousie abolished female infanticide which was prevalent among the Rajputs of higher castes. He also abolished the practice of human sacrifice practiced by the khonds of Orissa, Madras and Central Provinces who had blind belief that the fertility of the soil would be increased by sacrificing human beings. By that time it was in practice that if any person became a convert, he was deprived of his ancestral property.

#### **Educational Reforms:**

Lord Dalhousie had introduced a number of reforms in the field of education. The Government did not take any step for the promotion of vernacular education. In 1854 Sir Charles Wood, the President of the Board of Control sent his recommendations known as "Wood's Despatch of 1854" to India reorganizing the whole structure of education.

**17. Explain the classification of Beth system.**

**Answer:** The Bethus consisted of the following three classes:

**Bethus Class I**

It consisted of those Bethus who were directly under the state and worked in the basa land, i.e. the produce of which was given to the ruler; the collection and carriage of wood and grass to the darbar, plastering of state buildings, water mills, and palki service on tours of the ruler etc. The bethus employed by the jagirdars also fall under this class.

Besides, the Kolis, there were few artisan bethus, such as shoe-makers, carpenters, tailors and blacksmiths whose beth or service rent was the performance of the duties of their profession for the Darbar or the jagirdars. In this category, there were also bethus of higher caste, such as Kanets, who performed no menial duties but supplied milk and ghee in addition to cultivation.

**Bethus Class II or Bethus**

Employed by the Zamindars: The bethus of this kind worked in the field of the zamindars. They were in better place than those employed by the state, because the latter were in closer daily contact with their masters, i.e. the zamindars, whereas the former had indirect contact with their master through minor state servants.

**Bethus Class III or Indebted Bethus:**

The third kind of bethus were indebted bethus who had taken loans from the Zamindars or Jagirdars and in return they agreed to work or supply goods in lieu of interest and they agreed to work or supply goods in lieu of interest and the principal amount was never liquidated

**18. Write a note on Mass Contact programme of Nehru.**

**Answer:** Both the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha had run the election campaign of 1937 on liberal communal lines — they had incorporated much of the nationalist programme and many of the Congress policies, except those relating to agrarian issues, in their election manifestoes. But they had fared poorly in the elections. The Muslim League, for example, won only 109 out of the 482 seats allotted to Muslims under separate electorates, securing only 4.8 per cent of the total Muslim votes. The Hindu Mahasabha fared even worse.

The communalists now realized that they would gradually wither away if they did not take to militant, mass-based politics. Hitherto, organized mass movements and cadre-based politics had been built by radical, anti-status quo nationalists. The conservatives had shied away from mass movements. In the 1930s, a successful right-wing model of mass politics, which would not frighten away the vested interests, became available in the form of the fascist movement. Both Hindu and Muslim communalists decided to follow this model. Moreover, the Congress had not yet acquired firm roots among all the masses, especially among the Muslim masses; now was the time to take advantage of their political immaturity, before it was too late. Urgency was added to the need to shift to extreme Muslim communalism because the Congress decided to initiate, under Jawaharlal Nehru's guidance, a massive campaign to work among the Muslim masses, known as the Muslim Mass Contact Programme.

**19. Give a brief of Him Swablaban.**

**Answer:** The objective of the scheme is to provide employment opportunities to the youth in the state and to empower them. Under the scheme the state government will provide assistance to youth to start self-employment ventures in the state.

- The scheme is applicable to the people residing in the Himachal Pradesh only
- The scheme is applicable to the youth in the age group of 18-35 years only
- 25% investment subsidy for purchase of machinery on an input or investment of Rs 40 lakh

- In case of women entrepreneurs the subsidy will be 30% on the investment of Rs. 40 lakh
- Interest subsidy of 5% for 3 years on the loan upto Rs. 40 lakh
- Land on 1% rent to the youth
- Reduced stamp duty of 3% on purchase of land instead of 6%

## 20. What schemes are available for Schedule tribes in Himachal

**Answer: National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations (STFDCs)**

NSTFDC a fully owned Public Sector Enterprise of Government of India, is provided with 100% equity share capital contribution by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The authorized share capital of the Corporation is Rs. 750.00 crore. To identify economic activities of importance to the Scheduled Tribes so as to generate self-employment and raise their income level. To upgrade their skills and processes through both institutional and on the job training. To make existing State/ UT Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations (SCAs) and other developmental agencies engaged in economic development of the Scheduled Tribes more effective. To assist SCAs in project formulation, implementation of NSTFDC assisted schemes and in imparting training to their personnel.

### **NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS (NOS) for ST students for studying abroad**

Provides financial assistance to selected students to pursue Post Graduation, Ph.D & Post-Doctoral study abroad. A total of 20 awards are given every year. Of these, 17 awards are for STs and 3 awards for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

### **Vocational Training in Tribal Areas**

The main aim of the Scheme is to develop the skills of the ST youth for a variety of jobs as well as selfemployment and to improve their socio-economic condition by enhancing their income. The scheme covers all the State and Union Territories. It is not an area-specific scheme, the condition being that free vocational training facilities are extended only to tribal youth.

## **Section-D**

### **4. What efforts have been made by the states of Himachal Pradesh to promote the interests of agrarian society?**

**Answer: MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURE**

The process of agriculture transformation is taking place in Himachal Pradesh wherein the traditional cereal crops based subsistence farming system is giving way to high yielding and high value cash crops (fruits and vegetables). This process shall have to be further intensified as the process of commercialization of agriculture will further spread to those areas where presently the infrastructural facilities such as rural roads, marketing and credit are lacking.

**The future strategy for development** of agriculture and for the well being of farmers has to be based on the existing agro-climatic conditions, resources base and need of the hour, etc. future emerging areas in mountain states like Himanchal Pradesh are: High value and low volume crops (Kalazeera, saffron, kuth, etc).

- Off-season vegetables (pea, cabbage, capsicum, cauliflower, tomatoes, French beans).
- Forest-based products - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) like Salam Panja, Patish, Karu, Rattan jot, Somlata, etc.
- Quality apple-niche-based agricultural crops (tea, potato).
- Organic manure based agricultural products.



- Reforming agriculture and allied sector policies to bring those in tune with the demands of the hour is of paramount importance.

### 1. **Strengthening Infrastructure**

Policy measures need to focus on strengthening infrastructures, especially in inaccessibility, the process of-agricultural transformation from traditional cereal crops to commercial cash crops such as off-season vegetables and fruits can remarkably improve the socio-economic status of farmers in the state. The policy measures to strengthen agricultural sector should focus on shift from "self-sufficiency in food grains" to maximization of farm income through cash crops fruits and vegetables) which are highly remunerative and the state has comparative advantages for it due to climatic and other factors. Similarly, in the livestock sector, the number of unproductive livestock needs to be curtailed and their quality improved to increase income. Policy focus should be on programmes such as to qualitatively improve breeding, feeding, and disease control.

### 2. **Sound Environmental Practices**

Himachal Pradesh also offers a good example of how to handle the constraints of mountain fragility through a **package of sound environmental practices including coverage** of 50% of the geographic area under forests, minimum possible diversion of forest areas to other sectors raising multiple tree species, creating biosphere and game reserves, controlling grazing, developing suitable substitutes for wooden packing material, "household, use and enacting suitable laws for control of water and air pollution. The policy measures to strengthen agriculture and allied sector in the state need to develop new strategies to ensure development of backward areas, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by focusing on improvement of existing infrastructure sector, social service sector and production sector through **liberal economic assistance and grants, etc.**

### 3. **Strengthening Production and Marketing Infrastructure**

To meet the challenges of new economic policy and WTO, there is great need to develop production and marketing infrastructure in the state, it has been observed from the Time Series data on food grain production that there is no major breakthrough in the state in production of food grains that is hovering around 16 lakh tones per annum for the last two decades. Himachal Pradesh is surplus in maize and deficit in rice, wheat and pulses. If one analyses the Pre-WTO and Post-WTO growth rate of area, production and yield of food grains other agricultural commodities of India, it shows that trends of production and productivity have showed during the Post-WTO period. Our domestic prices are much less than the international prices of the agricultural commodities, and this is a favourable indicator for India to harvest the benefit of WTO. The Kharif production mainly depends upon the behaviour of South-West monsoon, as about 80% of the total cultivated area is rain-fed. The agriculture policy focus of the state government is on improving food grain production through programmes such as High Yielding Varieties Programme (H.Y.V.P), Plant Protection Programme, Soil Testing Programme, Organic Farming, Biogas Development Programme, etc. the other support programmes include agriculture credit through Kisan Credit Card, Crop Insurance Scheme, Seed Certification Programme, Agriculture Marketing and Tea Development, etc. The central government and NABARD-sponsored scheme such as more irrigation and other relative infrastructure development through RIDF, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), etc are supplementing policy measures of the State government to develop and agricultural sector. The rich diversity of agro-climatic conditions, topographical variations and altitudinal differences coupled with fertile deep and well drained soils favour the cultivation of temperate to sub-tropical fruits in Himachal Pradesh.

The region is also suitable for the cultivation of ancillary horticulture produce like flowers, mushrooms, honey, and hops. The particular suitability of Himachal has resulted in shifting of land use pattern from agriculture to fruit crops in the past few decades. The programme like development of fruit production

area expansion programme, demonstration of new technologies and improved package of practices as the orchards of the fruit growers, development of walnut, hazel-nut, pistachio-nut, mango, litche, strawberry, and other olive are being implemented.

## 5. Discuss India-China relations?

**Answer:** The Relations between India and China extend over centuries with trade along Silk route, Buddhism, teachings at Nalanda University etc. The Panchsheel has become a major plank of friendship and peaceful coexistence. The war of 1962 has created a shadow of mutual distrust and created a deep scar on relations.

Relationship with any country is Broadly based on 3 parameter

### Government to government –

1. India soft stance toward Tibet autonomy.
2. China policy to encircle India through MSR,
3. Visa issue for Arunachal Pradesh
4. China capture large portion in land in Ladakh (Aksai Chin)
5. Creation of Pakistan -China Economy corridor through Karakoram range has been opposed by India as it affects India's sovereignty.

There is lot of measure taken by both governments from time to time to resolve issue. Like confidence building measures, border defence cooperation agreement, Hotline between army chief of both country, more flag meetings, special representatives mechanism etc. But India and china relation is “very fragile, very easy to be damaged, and very difficult to repair.”

### People to people –

1. There is also less people to people communication between India and china which hamper relationship.

However there is great potential for tourism because of Buddhism. Recently India have taken a step forward to give E-Visa to Chinese tourist. This can be proved good for economy generation in tourism sector. Proposal for establishment of cultural cities in India. Bollywood and yoga also have potential to increase the ties

### Business to Business-

1. India have Trade deficit with china.
  2. Indian IT and pharma industry facing many hurdles in its operations in china
  3. Chinese firms facing problems like visa approvals, delay in clearances for projects in India
  4. China's import promotion zones, industrial parks in India, trade fair, liberalising visa (evisa) can help
- There is a wider scope available for mutual co-operation in a number of areas such as NDB, BRICS, AIIB, SCO etc. With the mutual co-operation, certainly the 21st century will belong to Asia. China being biggest Indian neighbour and both are emerging countries. They have areas of overlapping interest and differences. Relation between 2 can be studied on following broad areas:

### 1. **Security:** There is a great suspicion between two countries of each other's activities.

Chinese projects of Karakoram highway project, South China Sea, Silk Road project, Pearl of string theory and border activities of Chumar have generated huge suspicion in India. The closeness of India to USA, Japan, and Vietnam etc. generates fear among China of India becoming part of its entrapment. The lack of cooperation and confidence building measures are the reason behind it. Refuge given by Indian Govt to Dalai Lama and Tibetan Govt in exile never goes down well with Chinese Govt and is seen as potential interference in its internal affairs.

### 2. **Border Dispute:** Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh region are the main area of dispute between two countries. 1962 war in which India lost Aksai Chin region has created great doubts about Chinese

intentions on border disputes. China claim AP to be part of Tibet. Both countries failed to solve this dispute despite formation of committee comprising special representatives. China has also been issuing stapled visas to people of Arunachal Pradesh.

3. **Trade:** Huge trade deficit, market restrictions imposed by China is restricting realization of trade potential. Trade deficit is \$48 bn in china's favour. India is exporting only cotton, iron ore etc. while china exports to India high-tech goods. Also, India's market in china for IT and pharma is very small.
4. **People-to-people:** China wants e-visa facility to be extended to it so that there is increased flow of tourists and businessmen from either country. Recent Indian thrust on soft power diplomacy by using Buddhist linkages to build strong bonds is a welcome move
5. **International Platform:** Both countries lead Developing, emerging countries on various platform e.g. Climate change, WTO, UN etc. So they have quite common interests which bring them closer. Despite border issues, India is opposed to Chinese One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative since the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through the Indian territory. Indian government stated that the connectivity cannot undermine the sovereignty of other nations. The huge mistrust between the two countries needed to be removed and the political class has the main responsibility. People to people contact needs to be relaxed and the historical cultural links needed to be further strengthened. 21st Century belongs to Asia if these countries work in coherence with each other rather than in hostile mistrust.

6. **Discuss functions of Himachal Private educational institutions regulatory commission.**

**Answer:** The H.P. Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission has been established by the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh under Section 3 of the Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions (Regulatory Commission) Act, 2010 for the purpose of providing a regulatory mechanism in the State and for working as an interface between the State Government and Central Regulatory Bodies for ensuring appropriate standards of admission, teaching examination, research and protection of interest of students in the Private Educational Institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

(1) It shall be the duty of the Commission to ensure that standards of admission, teaching, examination, research, extension programme, qualified teachers and infrastructure, are being maintained by the Private Educational Institutions in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Regulatory Bodies of the Central Government or the State Government or by the Central Government or the State Government from time to time. In case of failure of the Educational Institution to meet the standards laid down, the Commission shall have the power to penalize the Educational Institutions under section 11 of the Act and in case of successive failure of an Institution to meet the standards, the Commission may recommend to the State Government/ Regulatory Body for the winding up of the Institution

(2) The Commission shall ensure that the admissions in the Private Educational Institutions are based on merit achieved in National Common Entrance Test or the State Common Entrance test or any other test as notified by the State Government and where there is no National Level Common Entrance Test, or State Level Common Entrance Test or any other test, the merit shall be determined strictly on the basis of the marks obtained in the qualifying examination.

(3) The Commission shall develop an appropriate mechanism for receipt and redressal of grievances of students and parents, and direct the private institution to set-up a proper Grievances Redressal mechanism for redressal of complaints reported to the Commission. Such complaints shall be addressed within the time fixed by the Commission with details of the steps taken by the institution to redress such complaint.

- (4) The Commission may conduct inspections of Private Educational Institutions as and when required and may form expert committees, for inspections of Private Educational Institutions.
- (5) The Commission shall have the power to monitor and regulate fees in Private Educational Institutions.

**7. What is foreign trade policy? Discuss the impacts of liberalizations and globalization on rural India?**

**Answer:- FTP-** Foreign trade policy is combination of Foreign trade policy Foreign trade is the exchange of capital, goods, services across international border. The FTP of India is based on two major objectives

- To double the percentage share of global merchandise trade within the next five years.
- To act as an effective instrument of economic growth by giving a thrust to employment generation.

**FTP 2015 – 20:-** Govt aims to increase India's exports of merchandise and services from \$.465.9 million 2013-14 to \$ 900 billion by 2014-20.

**Impact of Globalization Liberalization on rural India**

**Positives**

**Economic Import:-**Leads to greater access to technological advancement

- Foreign investment in agriculture activities
- Access to foreign markets greatly boosted agriculture export
- Greater number of jobs for rural people in industries
- More and variety of products to people and choice to consumer

**Social Impacts**

- Access to education in village cultures to cities
- Sanitation & hygiene value increased.

**Negatives**

- MNCs captured the Indian markets making farmers dependent on expensive HVY seeds fertilizers.
- Competition from cheaper imports.
- Greater interconnection of world also led to increasing susceptibility to diseases leading to higher health cost
- Directly exploiting cheap labour from rural areas.
- Increase in migration
- Villages joint family breakdown to nuclear families
- Erode traditional values & ethos

**8. What are the various type of pollution in H.P. and how Himachal govt. is curbing with it?**

**Answer:-**Himachal is known for its clean and crisp mountain air, pure water resources. But by growing urbanization these resources of clean air & pure water has been depleted or diluted. The air quality in kinnaur is best in whole India i.e 2,5 pm.

**Various types of pollution**

**Air pollution:** with the rapid increase of urbanization and setting up around 6.k factory units in Himachal cement plants have diluted the air most. Baddi, Barotiwala, Nalagarh are the most worst affected area.

**Water pollution:** The rate of discharge of pollutants in to the water is higher near factories areas & specially into river swan. Items industrialization in Baddi, Nalagarh area has stressed the water resources, other water bodies are polluted by throwing waste into rivers like Beas, Satluj where 80% of the population settle the basin of these two rivers.

**Soil pollution:** Himachal is a fruit state or apple bowl. of India the agriculture in Himachal shifted from traditional based to fertilizer based. Now a days excessive use of fertilizers have made land unfertile and more acidic.

### **Bad impacts of two industries in H.P**

#### **Pharma Hub**

- Rise in toxicity
- Persistency and bioaccumulation
- Negative impact of disposed medicine
- Risk to aquatic organism

#### **Cement industry**

- Emission of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Cause damage to most fertile top soil.
- Contribute to
- Disruption of local biodiversity

#### **HP Govt steps**

- To make the vhill state 'Green & clean' state environment protection and pollution board has now now decided to check disposal of industrial effluents and the pollution theory besides to adopt necessary measures.
- The govt has finalized the environment master plan document during 2013-14 for effectively managing the fragile environment of the state.
- Action plan on climate change has been finalized as a part of adoption and mitigation strategies and has been approved by the national expert committee.
- H.P. state pollution control board, which is the first and only board in the country constituted for mitigating pollution of all types, is a nodal agency for planning, coordination prevention & control of pollution these of electric buses and taxis in the state for less emission of gases
- A major thrust on renewable resources energy to meet the demand and reducing pollution
- Concepts of ecotourism has introduced in the state
- Organic farming promote in village to reduce soil pollution
- Set up of 5 eco model village to set up ideal conditions
- All these steps shows that govt of H.P. has doing great work to curb pollution. Time has arrived to address these problems with new scientific terms & technology to make Himachal clean & Green otherwise the Environment degradation takes place & the living index health come its worst state.



# HPSAS (MAIN) – 2019

## GENERAL ENGLISH

### MODEL TEST PAPER WITH SOLUTION

(Compulsory)

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 150**

**Note: - All questions are compulsory.**

**Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (12)**

Humans have probably always been surrounded by their kin – those to whom they have been related by blood or marriage. But the size, the composition, and the functions of their families and kinship groups have varied tremendously. People have lived not only in the “nuclear family”, made up of just the parents and their offspring, which is standard in the West and has been found almost everywhere, they have lived in extended families and in formal clans; they have been “avunculocal”; they have been “ultraliberal”, they have been conscious of themselves as heirs of lineages hundreds of generations deep. However constructed, the traditional kinship group has usually provided those who live in it with security, identity, and indeed with their entire scheme of activities and beliefs. The nameless billions of hunter-gatherers who have lived and died over the past several million years have been embedded in kinship groups, and when people started to farm about ten thousand years ago, their universe remained centered on kinship. Now that there was a durable form of wealth which could be hoarded-grain-some families became more powerful than others; society became stratified, and genealogy became an important means of justifying and perpetuating status. During the past few centuries, however, in part of the world-in Europe and the countries that have been developing along European lines-a process of fragmentation has been going on. The ties and the demands of kinship have been weakening, the family has been getting smaller and, some say, less influential, as the individual, with a new sense of autonomy and with new obligations to himself (or, especially in the last decade and a half, to herself), has come to the foreground. A radically different mental order-self-centered and traceable not to any single historical development as much as to the entire flow of Western history since at least the Renaissance has taken over. The political and economic effects of this rise in individual self-consciousness have been largely positive: civil rights are better protected and opportunities are greater in the richer, more dynamic countries of the West; but the psychological effects have been mixed, at best. Something has been lost: a warmth, a sanity, and a supportiveness that are apparent among people whose family networks are still intact. Such qualities can be found in most of the Third World and in rural pockets of the U.S., but in the main stream of post-industrial society the individual is increasingly left to himself, to find meaning, stability, and contentment however he can. An indication of how far the disintegration of traditional kinship has advanced is that a surprising number of Americans are unable to name all four of their grandparents. Such people have usually grown up in step-families, which are dramatically on the rise. So is the single – parent family-the mother-child unit, which some anthropologists contend is the real nucleus of kinship, having already contracted to the relatively impoverished nuclear family, partly as an adaptation to industrialization kinship seems to be breaking down even further. With the divorce rate in America at about fifty percent and the remarriage rate at about seventy five, the traditional Judeo-Christian scheme of marriage to one person for life seems to be shading into a pattern of serial monogamy, into a sort of staggered polygamy, which some anthropologists, who believe that we aren't naturally monogamous to begin with, see as “a return of normality”. Still other anthropologists explain what is happening somewhat differently; we are adopting delayed system of marriage, they say, with the length of the marriage chopped off at both ends. But many adults aren't getting married at all; they are putting “self-fulfillment” before marriage and children and are having nothing further to do with kinship after leaving their parents' home; their family has become their

work associate or their circle of best friends. This is the most distressing trend of all; the decline in the capacity of long- term intimate bonding.

**Questions:**

**1. The traditional kinship group provides:**

- a) Security
- b) Identity
- c) Entire scheme of activity
- d) All of the above

**2. Which of the following is indicative of the extent of disintegration of kinship groups?**

- a) A large number of Americans are unable to name all four of their grandparents.
- b) Growing number of single-parent families.
- c) Increase in the average age at which males get married.
- d) Both (A) and (B).

**3. Which of the following statements is not true?**

- a) When people started to farm ten thousand years ago, kinship became less important.
- b) Some families became more powerful than others after farming was initiated.
- c) Genealogy became an important means of perpetuating status after the advent of farming.
- d) Stratification of society was a result of hunter – gatherers taking up farming.

**4. According to the author, what has been sacrificed with the rise in individual self-consciousness?**

- a) Sanity
- b) Supportiveness
- c) Warmth
- d) All of the above

**5. The theme of the passage is which of the following?**

- a) The impact of the deterioration of kinship of groups on third world countries.
- b) The correlation between the decline of traditional kinship groups and stratification of society.
- c) The changes that have occurred to kinship group pattern and the effect of those changes on the individuals.
- d) The political and economic repercussions of the decline of the nuclear family.

**6. What does the author mean by serial monogamy?**

- a) Judeo-Christian scheme of marriage.
- b) Marriage to one person for life.
- c) A sequence of marriages and divorces.
- d) Delayed marriage.

**7. Which of the following statements cannot be inferred from the above passage?**

- a) Smaller families are more autonomous and influential.
- b) The rise of the individuals can largely be viewed as a western phenomenon.
- c) A different mental order is in evidence and can be traced to the renaissance period.
- d) Mainstream post-industrial society would benefit from a resurgence of kinship groups.

**8. The word “genealogy” refers to:**

- a) family history

- b) kinshipgroups
- c) familyauthority
- d) nuclear family

**9. According to the passage, the most distressing trend is:**

- a) Many adults are putting “self-fulfillment” before marriage and children and aren’t getting married at all.
- b) The American divorce rate of 50 percent and remarriage rate of 75 percent.
- c) The contraction of the nuclear family to the mother – child unit.
- d) The inability to develop lasting personal relationship.

**10. According to the passage, which statement is not true of kinship group fragmentation?**

- a) It is apparent that in Europe and countries developing along European lines a process of fragmentation has been taking place during the past few centuries.
- b) A self-centered mental order has replaced the earlier kin-centered mental order and it can be traced to a specific historical development.
- c) The political and economic benefits of the rise of the individuals have not been largely positive.
- d) Psychological effects of the rise of the individuals have been both positive and negative.

**Q2. Make a précis of the following passage in about one-third of its length. Please do not give a title to it. Précis should be written in your own language. (22)**

If this century has, in the famous phrase, made the world safe for democracy, the next challenge is to make a world safe for diversity. It is in India's interest to ensure that the world as a whole must reflect the idea that is already familiar to all Indians — that it shouldn't matter what the color of your skin is, the kind of food you eat, the sounds you make when you speak, the God you choose to worship (or not), so long as you want to play by the same rules as everybody else, and dream the same dreams. It is not essential in a democratic world to agree all the time, as long as we agree on the ground rules of how we will disagree. These are the global principles we must strive to uphold if we are to be able to continue to uphold them securely at home.

We want a world that gives us the conditions of peace and security that will permit us to grow and flourish, safe from foreign depredations but open to external opportunities. Whether global institutions adapt and revive will be determined by whether those in charge are capable of showing the necessary leadership. Right now many of us would suggest that there is a global governance deficit. Reversing it would require strong leadership in the international community by a number of powers, including the emerging ones. India is an obvious contender to provide some of that leadership. India should aim not just at being powerful - it should set new standards for what the powerful must do.

This is a huge challenge, and one to which India must rise. An analogy from another field is not encouraging; many would argue that, India has not acquitted itself well when given the chance to have global impact in one domain — that of the sport of cricket, where India accounts for more than 80 percent of the game's revenues and perhaps 90 percent of its viewership, giving it an impact on the sport that no country can rival. Clearly, international opinion does not believe that in its domination of world cricket; India has set new standards for what the powerful must do.

Broadening the analogy to global geopolitics, one could well say: India, your world needs you.

So India must play its due part in the stewardship of the global commons (including everything from the management of the Internet to the rules governing the exploitation of outer space). We can do it. India is turning increasingly outward as a result of our new economic profile on the global stage, our more dispersed interests around the world, and the reality that other countries, in our neighborhood as well as in Africa, are looking to us for support and security. India has the ability and the vision to promote global partnerships across the broad range of its interests; it only needs to act.

The world economic crisis should give us an opportunity to promote economic integration with our neighbors in the subcontinent who look to the growing Indian market to sell their goods and maintain their own growth.

But as long as South Asia remains divided by futile rivalries and some continue to believe that terrorism can be a useful instrument of their strategic doctrines that is bound to remain a distant prospect. We in South Asia need to look to the future, to an interrelated future on our subcontinent, where geography becomes an instrument of opportunity in a mutual growth story, where history binds rather than divides, where trade and cross- border links flourish and bring prosperity to all our peoples.

**Q.3 Read carefully the passage below and write your answers to the questions that follow in clear, correct and concise language: (12)**

A complete reading program, therefore, should include four factors: at least one good book each week, a newspaper or news magazine, magazines of comment and interpretation, and book reviews. If you keep feeding your intelligence with these four foods, you can be sure that your brain cells will be properly nourished. To this must be added the digestive process that comes from your own thinking and from discussion with individuals or groups.

It is often desirable to make books that you own personally part of your mind by underlining or by marking in the margin the more important statements. This will help you to understand the book as you first read it, because out of the mass of details you must have selected the essential ideas. It will help you to remember better the gist of the book, since the physical act of underlining, with your eyes on the page, tends to put the thought more firmly into your brain cells. It will save time whenever you need to refer to the book.

Above all, never forget that creative intelligence is correlation of facts and ideas, not mere memorizing. What counts is what you can do with your knowledge, by linking it with other things you have studied or observed. If you read Plutarch's life of Julius Caesar, think how his rise to political power paralleled the technique of Adolf Hitler, or that of your local political boss. If you read a play by Shakespeare, think how his portrayal of the characters helps you to understand someone you know. In everything you read, keep at the back of your mind what it means to your life here and now, how it supports or challenges the things you were taught in school, in church and at home, and how the wisdom you get from books can guide you in your thinking, in your career, in your voting as a citizen and in your personal morals.

**Questions:**

- What are the four things required for a complete reading program and why?(4)
- What else is required to feed your intelligence?(4)
- Why does the writer recommend underlining or marking in the margin the more important statements?(4)
- What use can you put your knowledge to?(2)
- How can what you learn from books help you in your Life?(2)
- Give a suitable title to the passage.(2)

**Q4. Write an essay in about 250 words on: (40)**

Role of the press in changed Global Scenario.

**Or**

Silence: The Path of Wisdom.

**Or**

Move for Ecological Security.

**Q5. Rewrite each of the following sentences as directed without changing the meaning: 1x10=10**

- He finished his exercise and put away his books. = He completed.....
- In the event of his being late, he will be punished. = In consequence.....
- He said to me, "I have often told you not to play with fire." = Do not.....
- He said that he had come to see them. = He wanted.....
- He drove too fast for the police to catch. = He did not.....

**Q6. Make suitable changes in the sentences to fulfill the following requirements: 1x10=10**

- The audience loudly cheered the Mayor's speech. (Change into passive voice)
- A reward was given to him by the Governor. (Change into active voice)
- Sita is not one of the cleverest girls in the class. (Change into comparative degree)
- I was doubtful whether it was you. (Change into negative form)
- It is sad to think that youth should pass away. (Change into exclamatory sentence)

**Q7. Change the voice of the following sentences: 5x2=10**

- One may accomplish anything with a little effort.
- A thunderstorm often turns milk sour.
- The boy was climbing the cliff.
- Will you ever forget those happy days?
- All desire wealth and some acquire it.

**Q8. Provide interrogative words to the following: 1x10=10**

...a..... the bus already left? .....b..... you clean up your room? ....c.... this the right way to keep Your baggage?  
 .....d..... many times will you ignore such a mess? .....e.... will you grow up? .....f..... it your duty to set things  
 in order? .....g.... expect other people to do your work?.....h. .... you not responsible for your own  
 actions? .....i..... harm does it cause to do your own work?.....j ..... you spare some time for it?

**Q9. Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions in the following dialogue: 10x1=10**

Marielives.....a.....an apartment inParis.  
 Her apartment is .....b.....the tenth floor of a very big apartmentbuilding.....c..... her  
 apartment she can see Pariswell.....d. .... example her apartment is near the Eiffel tower. Everyyear  
 more .....e..... fifteen million tourists come to Paris. Most touristsvisit.....f..... the summer. Itis  
 difficult to find a good hotel room .....g.... July. Theycome ....h. .... a long list of things to do inParis.  
 Many people like to take a picture .....i.... the Eiffel tower.They....j..... like to visit the manyold  
 buildings in the city.

**Q10. Supply the correct articles (a, an, the) in the blanks below. If no article is required, put 'o' in the blank: 10x1=10**

Greekslike...a coffee.  
 Englishlike .....b. tea.  
 .....c exercise he is writing is veryeasy.  
 .....d. exercise is good forour  
 health.  
 He livesin .....e Japan.  
 Is ,....f. Chineseeasy?  
 ...g. Chinese language isdifficult.  
 Mr. Brownis ....h.teacher.  
 They took himto ...i hospitalin.....jambulance.

## SOLUTION

**Q.**

- The traditional kinship group provides:
  - Security



- b) Identity
- c) Entire scheme of activity
- d) All of the above

**Ans. d**

2. Which of the following is indicative of the extent of disintegration of kinship groups?
- a) A large number of Americans are unable to name all four of their grandparents.
  - b) Growing number of single-parent families
  - c) Increase in the average age at which males get married.
  - d) Both (a) and (b)

**Ans. d**

3. Which of the following statements is not true?
- a) When people started to farm ten thousand years ago, kinship became less important
  - b) Some families became more powerful than others after farming was initiated
  - c) Genealogy became an important means of perpetuating status after the advent of farming.
  - d) Stratification of society was a result of hunter – gatherers taking up farming.

**Ans. a**

4. According to the author, what has been sacrificed with the rise in individual self-consciousness?
- a) Sanity
  - b) Supportiveness
  - c) Warmth
  - d) All of the above

**Ans. d**

5. The theme of the passage is which of the following?
- a) The impact of the deterioration of kinship of groups on third world countries
  - b) The correlation between the decline of traditional kinship groups and stratification of society
  - c) The changes that have occurred to kinship group pattern and the effect of those changes on the individuals
  - d) The political and economic repercussions of the decline of the nuclear family.

**Ans. c**

6. What does the author mean by serial monogamy?
- a) Judeo-Christian scheme of marriage.
  - b) Marriage to one person for life
  - c) A sequence of marriages and divorces.
  - d) Delayed marriage.

**Ans. c**

7. Which of the following statements cannot be inferred from the above passage?
- a) Smaller families are more autonomous and influential
  - b) The rise of the individuals can largely be viewed as a western phenomenon
  - c) A different mental order is in evidence and can be traced to the renaissance period.
  - d) Mainstream post-industrial society would benefit from a resurgence of kinship groups.

**Ans. a**

8. The word “genealogy” refers to:
- a) family history
  - b) kinship groups
  - c) family authority
  - d) nuclear family

**Ans. a**

9. According to the passage, the most distressing trend is:

- a) Many adults are putting “self fulfillment” before marriage and children and aren't getting married at all.
- b) The American divorce rate of 50 percent and remarriage rate of 75 percent
- c) The contraction of the nuclear family to the mother – child unit.
- d) The inability to develop lasting personal relationship

**Ans. d**

10. According to the passage, which statement is not true of kinship group fragmentation?

- a) It is apparent that in Europe and countries developing along European lines a process of fragmentation has been taking place during the past few centuries.
- b) A self-centered mental order has replaced the earlier kin-centered mental order and it can be traced to a specific historical development.
- c) The political and economic benefits of the rise of the individuals have not been largely positive.
- d) Psychological effects of the rise of the individuals have been both positive and negative

**Ans. d**

Q.2 .The précis should revolve around these major outlines in your own words.

If this century has, in the famous phrase, made the world safe for democracy, the next challenge is to make a world safe for diversity. many would argue that, India has not acquitted itself well when given the chance to have global impact in one domain — that of the sport of cricket, where India accounts for more than 80 percent of the game's revenues and perhaps 90 percent of its viewership, giving it an impact on the sport that no country can rival. India has set new standards for what the powerful must do.

Broadening the analogy to global geopolitics, one could well say: India, your world needs you.

So India must play its due part in the stewardship of the global commons (including everything from the management of the Internet to the rules governing the exploitation of outer space). India is turning increasingly outward as a result of our new economic profile on the global stage, our more dispersed interests around the world, and the reality that other countries, in our neighborhood as well as in Africa, are looking to us for support and security.

**Q3. a) What are the four things required for a complete reading program and why? (4)**

**A complete reading program should include four factors:**

- a) At least one good book each week.
- b) A newspaper or news magazine.
- c) Magazines of comment and interpretation.
- d) Book reviews

Such a reading program is well rounded and a multifaceted approach to reading, Should such a regimen be implemented it is bound to provide one with a great deal of food for thought.

**b) What else is required to feed your intelligence? (4)**

In addition with a well rounded reading program one must endeavour to ponder and pontificate over the intricacies of the material consumed for such shall lead a learner in pursuit of knowledge to discover the sublime mechanics of the material being discussed. In addition of reflection over ideas one must engage in discussions with one's peers which necessarily leads to a greater understanding of a given topic, for discussion and debate is where genesis of ideas and discoveries of mistakes happen.

**c) Why does the writer recommend underlining or marking in the margin the more important statements? (4)**

The author recommends shall the books you read be a part of your personal collection that you must underline the important parts of any given material as the physical act of underlining prevents your attention from wandering and the material is absorbed at a greater rate of efficiency than otherwise may be possible.

The author also does point out the fact that underlining makes referencing a book easier as the highlighted material is necessarily of relevance thus decreasing the time required for referencing.

**d) What use can you put your knowledge to? (2)**

Making unforeseen observations and correlations is a better part of reading than just a mere memorisation of facts, what holds relevance is the observation a well read individual may be able to make from the correlation of the lives of Julius Caesar to Adolf Hitler or the correlation of the vivid character sketches shakespeare portrayed to the affinities of those around you. The application of knowledge is the most important thing whether it contradict or support the ideas that have been handed to you by society. Knowledge shall empower you in your path to make the right decision.

**e) How can what you learn from books help you in your Life? (2)**

The wisdom imparted by books to a scholar is a useful tool in everyday life, information influences the thought processes and lead to a genesis of independent thought process as such no sphere of one's life remains untouched and the information we choose to inculcate in our lives not only influences our careers and morals but something as mundane as voting the wisdom of books makes itself known in every sphere of our lives.

**f) Give a suitable title to the passage. (2)**

**Reading:** The Path and the Ramifications.

**Q4. Essay should be written keeping in mind the relevance of the topics.**

**Q5. Rewrite each of the following sentences as directed without changing the meaning: 1x10=10**

- He finished his exercise and put away his books.  
Having completed his exercise he put away his books.
- In the event of his being late, he will be punished.  
Consequent to being late he shall be punished.
- He said to me, "I have often told you not to play with fire."  
He often told me not to play with fire.
- He said that he had come to see them.  
He wanted to go and see them.
- He drove too fast for the police to catch.  
He did not get caught by the police because he drove too fast.

**Q6. Make suitable changes in the sentences to fulfill the following requirements: 1x10=10**

- The audience loudly cheered the Mayor's speech. (Change into passive voice)  
The Mayor's speech was loudly cheered by the crowd.
- A reward was given to him by the Governor. (Change into active voice)  
The Governor gave him a reward.
- Sita is not one of the cleverest girls in the class. (Change into comparative degree)  
Sita is not more clever than most of the girls in the class.
- I was doubtful whether it was you. (Change into negative form)  
I had a doubt if it were you.
- It is sad to think that youth should pass away. (Change into exclamatory sentence)  
To think that youth should pass away, it is so sad!

**Q7. Change the voice of the following sentences: 5x2=10**

- One may accomplish anything with a little effort. (b)  
Anything might be accomplished with little effort.
- A thunderstorm often turns milk sour.

- The milk is turned sour often in a thunderstorm
- c) The boy was climbing the cliff.  
The cliff was being scaled by the boy.
- d) Will you ever forget those happy days?  
Will the happy days ever be forgotten by you.
- e) All desire wealth and some acquire it.  
Wealth is acquired by some and desired by all.

**Q8. Provide interrogative words to the following: 1x10= 10**

a...Has... the bus already left? .....b...Did... you clean up your room? ....c ... Is...this the right way to keep  
Your baggage? .....d....How... many times will you ignore such a mess? .....e...When... will you grow up? .....f...Isn't...  
it your duty to set things in order? .....g..Do you..expect other people to do your work.  
.....h....Are.....you not responsible for your own actions? .....i..What... harm does it cause to do your own work? .....j...Will.... you spare some time for it?

**Q9 .Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions in the following dialouge: 10x1=10**

.Marie lives ...In...an apartment in Paris.  
Her apartment is .....on....the tenth floor of a very big apartment building. ....  
From.... her apartment she can see Paris well. ...For... example her apartment is near the Eiffel tower. Every year  
more .....than..... fifteen million tourists come to Paris. Most touristsvist.....In....the summer. It is difficult to find a good hotel room ....In.... July. They came ...with..a long list of things to do in Paris.  
Many people like to take a picture .....of.... the Eiffel tower. They ..often.. like to visit many old buildings in the city.

**Q.10Supply the correct articles (a, an, the) in the blanks below. If no article is required, put 'o' inthe blank:**

Greeks like ...No Article... coffee.  
English like .....No article... tea.  
.....The... exercise he is writing is very easy.  
...No article... exercise is good for our health.  
He lives in ...No article.. Japan.  
Is ...No article. Chinese easy?  
...The... Chinese language is difficult.  
Mr. Brown is ..A... teacher.  
They took him to ...the... hospital in...An...ambulance.

# HPSAS (MAIN) – 2019

## GENERAL HINDI

### MODEL TEST PAPER WITH SOLUTION

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 150**

**Note: - All questions are compulsory.**

#### प्रश्न 1. निम्नलिखित अंग्रेजी अवतरण का हिन्दी में अनुवाद कीजिए :-30

Do you have enemies? Good. That means you have stood up for something! That is what of the 'Principled, character says in Dan Browns' book, "origin". The message that is meant to be sent across is that one should always stand up for something or the other at any given point in the long journey of life. Only then one can be said to be leading a good life.

A man of principles will necessarily have a positive mind and good character. And that makes him a lovable person. Such a person is like a candle that shines even when it flickers in its least movements. Generally, any person or anything that comes in your way becomes an obstacle in the fulfillment of your mission of life, can be termed as your enemy.

Whenever the nature of your enemy, you have to take it as yet another obstacle in your way and surmount it with great care and determination. Such obstacle have to be taken as tests that have to pass any way in order to show your willingness to do something good and beneficial.

#### प्रश्न 2. निम्नलिखित गद्यांश की व्याख्या कीजिए— 15

(अ) वीरता की अभिव्यक्ति कई प्रकार से होती है कभी उसकी अभिव्यक्ति लड़ने मरने में खून बहाने से तलवार तोप के सामने जान गंवाने में होती है तो कभी जीवन के गूढ़ तत्व और सत्य की तलाश में बुद्ध जैसे राजा विरक्त होकर वीर हो जाते हैं। वीरता एक प्रकार की अंतः प्रेरणा है। जब कभी इसका विकास हुआ तभी एक नया कमाल नज़र आया। एक नई रोनक, एक नया रंग, एक रयी बहार, एक नयी प्रभुता संसार में छा गई। वीरता हमेशा निराली और नयी होती है। नयापन भी वीरता का एक खास रंग है। वीरता देश काल के अनुसार संसार में जब भी प्रकट हुई तब —तब एक नया स्वरूप लेकर आयी, जिसके दर्पक करते ही सब लोग चकित हो गए।

#### (ब) निम्नलिखित पद्यांश की व्याख्या कीजिए— 15

मैंने देखा  
 एक बड़ा बरगद का पेड़ खड़ा है  
 उसके नीचे कुछ छोटे-2 पौधे  
 असंतुष्ट और रूष्ट  
 देखकर मुझको यों बोले  
 हम भी कितने बद किस्मत हैं  
 जो खतरो का सामना नहीं करते  
 वो कैसे ऊपर को उठ सकते हैं  
 इसी बड़े की छाया ने ही  
 हमको बौना बना रखा  
 हम बड़े दुखी है



प्रश्न 3. निम्नलिखित विषयों में से किसी एक पर निबंध लिखिये: 40

- (क) सहमति निर्माण में मीडिया की भूमिका  
 (ख) बुद्ध के विचारों की उत्तर जीविता अनंत है।  
 (ग) बलात्कार क्यों और कब तक

प्रश्न 4. निम्नलिखित वाक्यों को शुद्ध कीजिए 20

1. पाकिस्तान में गोले और तापों से आक्रमण किया।
2. उसके अनेकों ग्रंथ लिखे।
3. महाभारत अठारह दिनों तक चलता रहा
4. तेरी बात सुनते-सुनते काम पक गए
5. उसने संतोष की सांस ली।
6. सविता ने जोर से हँस दिया।
7. वह धीमी स्वर में बोली
8. राम और सीता वन को गई
9. मैं पुस्तक को पढ़ता हूँ
10. गले में गुलामी की बेड़ियां पड़ गई।

प्रश्न 5.(क) निम्नलिखित मुहावरे लोकोवित्तियों का अर्थ स्पष्ट करते- 10

- 1) हुए वाक्य में प्रयोग करें।
- 2) बालू की भीत ओछे की प्रीत
- 3) बिल्ली के भागों छींका टूटा
- 4) निन्यानवे का फेर
- 5) आँखों का काजल
- 6) अंधों में काना राजा
- 7) हाथ कंगन को आरसी क्या
- 8) न नौ मन तेल होगा न राधा नाचैगी
- 9) भानुमति का पिटारा
- 10) कहां राजा भोज कहां गंगू तेली

(ख) निम्नलिखित शब्दों के हिन्दी में अर्थ लिखें! 10

- 1) Abatement
- 2) Absconder
- 3) Ground zero
- 4) Memorandum of understanding (M.O.U)
- 5) Mercy petition
- 6) Paradigm
- 7) real estate
- 8) Sabotage
- 9) Strenuous
- 10) Subsequent

**(ग) निम्नलिखित वाक्यों के लिए एक शब्द लिखिये:**

5

1. ईर्ष्यामुक्त जलन
2. दूसरों के पिछे चलने वाला
3. जो देखने योग्य हो
4. शीघ्र नष्ट होने वाला
5. जनता में प्रचलित सुनी-सुनाई बात

**(घ) निम्नलिखित शब्दों के विलोम लिखिए—**

5

1. निर्जन
2. बंजर
3. भूगोल
4. विषाद
5. तम

**SOLUTION****प्रश्न 1. निम्नलिखित अंग्रेजी अवतरण का हिन्दी में अनुवाद कीजिए :-**

क्या आपके दुष्मन/षत्रु/बैरी/विरोधी हैं? यदि हैं तो यह बेहतरीन है, इसका तात्पर्य है आपने कुछ किया है, इसी बात की विवेचना डेन ब्राऊन की किताब "ओरिजिन" का सैद्धांतिक पात्र करता है, यह संदेश इस आशय के साथ प्रेषणीय है कि किसी भी व्यक्ति को इस लंबी जीवन यात्रा में दिए गए किसी भी समय बिंदू पर कुछ न कुछ हमेशा/सर्वदा करते रहना चाहिए, केवल तभी यह कहा जा सकता है कि अमुक व्यक्ति एक बेहतरीन जिंदगी जी रहा है!

एक सैद्धांतिक पुरुष के पास अवश्यभावी एक सकारात्मक विवेक व एक अच्छा चरित्र होगा और यही उसे एक आकर्षक व्यक्ति बनाता है! ऐसा व्यक्ति उस मोमबती की उपमा है जो तब भी उदीप्त रहती है जबकि वो अपने अंतिम क्षणों में टिमटिमा रही होती है! बहुतायत, जब कोई भी वस्तु, "जो आपके जीवन व्रत की राह में आकर अवरोध बने, आपके शत्रु के में उसका नामकरण हो सकता है!

आपके बैरी की प्रकृति जो भी हो, आपको अपने गंतव्य में इसे एक अतिरिक्त चुनौती के रूप में स्वीकारना है/लेना है/मानना है एवं इसे गहरी जिम्मेदारी/हिफाजत/सावधानी व इच्छाशक्ति के साथ पराभूत करना है! इस प्रकार की चुनौतियों को इसे परीक्षाओं के समकक्ष लेना होगा जिन्हे हर-हाल में उत्तीर्ण करना है ताकि आप अपनी कुछ बेहतरीन व लाभप्रद कर गुजरने की इच्छाशक्ति प्रदर्शित करें।

**प्रश्न 2 प्रसंग :- लेखक ने वीरता के तमाम आयामों को सांधे में ढालने का प्रयत्न किया है, वीर तत्व को अनुप्रस्थ मानदंडों पर परिभाषित करने का सटीक प्रयत्न लेखक का जोरदार ऐजेंडा रहा है!**

**व्याख्या :-** अनुभव से सर्वांगीण ओत-प्रोत इस गद्यांश के लेखक वीर तत्व की अभिव्यक्ति का धरातल खोजने की चेष्टा करते हैं। लेखक स्पष्ट रूप से कहता है कि वीरता की अभिव्यक्ति/अभिव्यंजना किसी एक विशेष माध्यम से नहीं होती है, अधिक क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर इसका दायरा असीम है, कभी यह वीरता, लड़ने-मरने में तलवार की भेंट चढ़ जाने में होती है, तो कभी वीरता की व्यंजना जीवन-सार की तलहटियों में जाने वाले कुछ जैसे किसी राजा के प्रसंग में भी उद्वेलित होती है। यह एक अंतर्मुख की प्रेरणा है, लेखक बल देकर कहता है कि जब कभी भी इस अंतः प्रेरणा की क्रमागत-उन्नति हुई है एक करिश्माई चकाचौंध, एक अर्वाचीन वर्ण (रंग), एक आधुनिकतम जोश एक प्रखर और ओजस्वी ताकतों ने संसार में वर्चस्व स्थापित किया है।

वीरता आमप्रायः नहीं है बल्कि इसकी छटा अभूतपूर्व और विषिष्टता का गुण संजोए होती है। वीरता का प्रादुर्भाव (उत्पत्ति) हमेशा उद्वेगी होता है जिसका दृष्टिपात्र करने महज भर से लोग भौचक्के रह जाते हैं।

विशेषः 1) भाषा शैली ओजपूर्ण है। (वीर रस का स्थायी भाव ओज है)  
 2) विवेचना के साथ-साथ विप्लेषण प्रशंसनीय है।  
 3) भारी-भरकम शब्दावली से परहेज किया गया है।

**(ब) प्रसंगः—**कवि ने नई-पीढ़ी के अंतर्गमन में चल रहे निरंतर विमर्श को उकेतना चाहा है। कविता का भाव बहुकोणीय है। छोटे-2 पौधे (निम्नवर्ग/नई पीढ़ी/समाज का उदासीन वर्ग इत्यादि) किसी का भी घोटक हो सकते हैं।

**व्याख्याः—**कवि एक बड़े बरगद के पेड़ के नीचे पनप रहे छोटे-2 पौधों के माध्यम से एक रुदन व्यथा का रेखांकन करता है। कवि कहता है कि कल तक यह छोटे-2 पौधे इस बड़े बरगद की छाया में सहज थे क्योंकि बरगद के पेड़ ने इन्हें एक ढाल की तरह आंधी तूफान से बचाया था, किन्तु फिर इन पौधों को अपनी वास्तविकता का अहसास होता है कि वे एक संघर्षविहीन जिंदगी जी रहे हैं। कविता के गर्म मे यदि खंगाले तो कवि पुरानी रीति-रिवाजों ने नई पीढ़ी के विचारों को कुंद कर दिया है। उन्हें एहसास होता है कि जब तक यह पुराने रीति-रिवाज हमारे सिर पर रहेंगे यह हमें उपर नहीं उठने देंगे वस्तुतः इन पुरानी रूढ़ियों ने ही उन्हें बौना बना रखा है। इसी चिंता में यह नई पीढ़ी दुःखी है।

विशेषः 1) कवि की भाषा सहज व सरल है।  
 2) अलंकारिक भाषा नहीं है।  
 3) किस्मत जैसे उर्दू के शब्द भाषा में पाए गए हैं।  
 4) बहुआयामी-आधार (अर्थात् इस कविता की विवेचना अन्य कई आधारों पर की जा सकती है।)

### प्रश्न(3)—बलात्कार क्यों और कब तक?

बलात्कार गहरे अर्थों में एक जटिल अवधारणा है, इसकी तहों में महज अनियंत्रित कामेच्छा ही शामिल है ऐसा समझ लेना इस सामाजिक संबंध को फलने-फूलने में अभिप्रेरणा का प्रणोदक हो सकता है। क्योंकि अलग-अलग आयामों में हुई घटनाएँ इस कोढ़ की जटिलता की व्याख्या एक नए सिरे से करती है। चाचा-मामा-पड़ोसी-रिश्तेदार द्वारा किया गया बलात्कार, एक अमीर द्वारा गरीब महिला का बला अथवा सांप्रदायिक गुटों द्वारा गरीब महिला का बलात्कार अथवा सांप्रदायिक गुटों द्वारा किया गया सामूहिक दुष्कर्म इस बात की गवाही देते हैं कि भले ही योन इच्छाओं के इस विस्फोटक युग में बलात्कार को एक ही नजरिए से देखा जाता है किन्तु समीचीन अर्थों में यह कुत्सित भावना येत-केन-प्रकारेण कारणों से भी ओत प्रोत हैं।

शीलभंग अथवा बलात्कार एक ऐसी दुःखद घटना का द्योतक है जिसमें शारीरिक अथवा मानसिक ताकत के बूते किसी पीड़ित (महिला, तृतीय लिंगी, पशु, छोटी उम्र के लड़के/लड़की आदि) के साथ उसकी नैसर्गिक इच्छा के विरुद्ध जाकर उसका शील छिन्न-भिन्न कर दिया जाता है।

ज्ञातव्य हो कि बलात्कार अपने स्वरूप में जितना घिनौना है उतना बल्कि उससे कहीं अधिक यह अपने प्रभाव में वीभत्स है। विडंबना यह है कि पीड़ित बलात्कार में तो प्रताड़ित होता ही है किन्तु उसके संघर्ष की अंतहीन गाथा ठीक उसके बाद जारी होती है जब सामाजिक बर्जनाएँ उस पर अकारण टूट पड़ती हैं।

### बलात्कार क्यों?

इस प्रश्न की थाह में जाने से पूर्व यह समीचीन होगा कि हम अध्ययन करें कि उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों में जहाँ मातृसत्तात्मक समाज प्रभावी रहा है, की तुलना में भारत के अन्य राज्यों में जहाँ पितृसत्तात्मक समाज कायम है बलात्कार की घटनाएँ क्यों अधिक हैं।

वस्तुतः इस बीमारी की जड़े पुरुषवादी संरचना में जहाँ पुरुषों को बचपन से ही बंदूक, तीर कमान, तलवार जैसे खिलौने व लड़कियों को गुड़िया आदि का पर्याय बना दिया जाता है, में छुपी है।

संदर्भ खिलौनों का कितना प्रासंगिक है यह हम इस कथन से समझ सकते हैं कि मर्दाना खिलौनों के मूल में छिपी हिंसक भावना बचपन से ही उन्हें ताकत से चीजों को हासिल करने की परोक्ष प्रेरणा देती है, यही भावना सूदूर में बलवती होकर बलात्कार का रूप लेती है। बलात्कार जैसी घटना में हमें यह मानना होगा कि एक पक्ष मजबूत/सबल होता है जबकि दूसरा पक्ष निरीह होता है।

सबल पक्ष उस समय और अधिक आश्रय महसूस करता है जब उसे कानूनी लड़ाई की कछुआ गति व अदालतों में पीड़ित को मानसिक प्रताड़ना सरेआम देखने को मिलती है।

**निर्भया अधिनियम 2013** का उदाहरण छोड़ दें तो अमूमन भारत वर्ष में एक कठोर अधिनियम का अभाव रहा है, सच माने तो इन कमियों का बलात्कार के फलने-फूलने में अहम योगदान रहा है। क्योंकि किसी भी बुराई के कारगर नियन्त्रण में या तो सामाजिक द्वारा होना चाहिए अथवा कानूनी प्रावधान सख्त होने चाहिए। अफसोस की हमारे देश में उपरोक्त दोनों स्तंभ धाराषायी हुए हैं, सामाजिक बहिष्कार, जहां बलात्कारी का होना चाहिए वहां पीड़ित का मानसिक स्तर पर जमकर शोषण होता है।

हालात यह है कि, सांप्रदायिक ताकतों द्वारा किए गए सामूहिक दुष्कर्मों का महिमामंडन किया जाता है, जबकि सामान्य घटनाओं में भी बलात्कारी का जिस प्रकार से बहिष्कार होना चाहिए वैसा अभी तक शून्य रहा है।

समाज में दी जाने वाली गालियाँ केवल महिलाओं के सम्मान के खिलाफ होती हैं। यह हमें वास्तव में आइना दिखाता है कि बलात्कार वास्तव में किस हद तक सोच से जुड़ा मामला बन चुका है।

बलात्कार के पीछे स्त्रियों की समाप्त में आमूल-चूल स्थिति भी एक कारण है, सती प्रथा से लेकर दहेज प्रथा जैसी कुरीतियों ने महिलाओं को हमेशा एक खरीद फरोख्त की वस्तु की तरह पेश किया है।

महिलाओं के वस्तुकरण में हमारा सिनेमा जगत भी पीछे नहीं रहा है, मसलन विज्ञापन फिल्मों से लेकर फीचर फिल्मों में औरत को वस्तु की तरह पेश किया गया है।

प्लेटो, अरस्तु जैसे दार्शनिकों ने भी स्त्री का दायरा सीमित करने का प्रयत्न किया है। जाहिर है यह सब बिंदू समाज में स्त्रियों को एक खुले घाव के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं जिनपर यह मानसिक रोगी हो चुके गिद्ध झपटा मारने का कोई अवसर नहीं चूकते।

पोर्न जैसे तो हर-युग में रहा है किन्तु इसका विस्फोटक रूप आज के दौर में सर्वाधिक महसूस किया जा रहा है, देशी-विदेशी पोर्न की सहन उपलब्धता किशोरों को दीवाना बना देती है, यह सामाग्री यौन-इच्छाओं को बारूद की तरह सुलगाती है किन्तु उसकी पूर्ति प्रायः नहीं हो पाती वैज्ञानिक मानते हैं कि बलात्कारियों का एक बड़ा प्रतिशत पोर्न का आदि होता है।

## बलात्कार कब तक

यकीनन वह समय आ गया है। जब एकनन हमें इस घातक रोग को समाज से हटाना होगा उसके लिए आवश्यक है कि इस पूरी सामाजिक सोच को एक नए सिरे से परिभाषित करें जहाँ औरत और मर्द एक से कमतर नहीं बल्कि एक समान में सहायक हो:

परिपक्वता के पटलपर भी हमारा समाज कई वर्जनाओं को कुछ एक कदम आगे बढ़ा है उदाहरण के लिए महिलाओं की शिक्षा रोजगार इत्यादि में भूमिका को हमारा समाज अब स्वीकारने लगा है:

ऐसे में वेष्टावृत्ति को कानूनी रूप देने के बारे में सोचा जा सकता है। इसके अतिरिक्त यौन खिलौना इत्यादि का नियंत्रित तरीके से सहमति दी जा सकती है।

यह ऐसे उपाय हैं जो यौन इच्छाओं से पनपने वाली कुठाओं का विरेचन कर सकते हैं। परिणामस्वरूप हम बलात्कार की घटनाओं में कमी देख सकते हैं।

वैवाहिक जीवन व संबंधों के विषय में अभी भी हमारा समाज खुलकर सामने नहीं आया है, वास्तव में विवाहेत्तर-बलात्कार जैसा शब्द अभी तक मुख्य धारा में नहीं आया है। महिलाओं का शोषण किसी भी रूप में हों, हमें उसका सामाजिक स्वर पर सामूहिक बहिष्कार करना होगा।

**महिलाओं की शिक्षा:** शिक्षा समाज में सभ्यता लाती है एवं महिलाओं के सशक्तिरण का सबल माध्यम है। महिलाएं जब से प्रभू होंगी, समाज में उनकी सर्वसमावेशी छपी सुधरेगी: यकीनन बलात्कार जैसी घटनाओं पर लगाम लगेगी।

**कानूनी प्रणाली:** निःसंदेह कानूनी प्रणाली को चुस्त-दुरुस्त करने की आवश्यकता है। **निम्नलिखित कुछ उपाय कारगर साबित हो सकते हैं:**

- 1) फास्ट ट्रेक कोर्ट जहाँ 3 महीने में निपटान हो
- 2) वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से पीड़िता की सुनवाई
- 3) कानूनों में अत्यधिक सख्त प्रावधान

“संघ सरकार द्वारा 2011 में जारी उद्घोषणा में 12 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों के बलात्कार पर मौत की सजा” सही दिशा में उठाया कदम माना जाएगा।

**निष्कर्ष:** किसी भी बलात्कार की घटना में पीड़ित पक्ष हमेशा कमजोर होता है जाहिर है वो कमजोर हैं इसीलिए वो पीड़ित है। यदि हम शिक्षा, शिक्षा के साथ शारीरिक कौशल (जुडो, कराटे इत्यादि) के माध्यम से इस वर्ग को ताकतवर बना दें जोकि हमारी सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी भी हैं। निःसंदेह हम इस प्रकार की घटनाओं को नियंत्रित कर पाएंगे।

दूसरे, बलात्कार से पीड़ितों को हमें सहानुभूति से देखने की आवश्यकता है जबकि दोषियों के प्रति हमें कड़ा रुख अपनाना होगा।

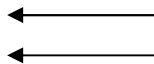
तीसरे, समाज में प्रचलित गाली-गलौच की हमें त्यागना होगा क्योंकि बलात्कार जैसी सोच की लड़ाई में हमें उसी के सामानांतर एक आदर्श सोच विकसित करनी होगी जो उसका सामना कर सके।

अगली दफा जब हम किसी को गाली दें तो एक सवाल खुद से पूछें कहीं जाने-अनजाने हमने उस अत्यन्त कुत्सित सोच का पोषण तो नहीं किया।

#### प्रश्न न 4

- 1) पाकिस्तान ने गोलों और तोपों से आक्रमण किया।
- 2) उसके अनेक ग्रंथ लिखें।
- 3) महाभारत अठारह दिन तक चलता रहा।
- 4) तेरी बातें सुनते-सुनते कान पक गए।
- 5) उसने संतोष की सांस ली।
- 6) सविता जोर से हँस दी। लिंग संबंधी अशुद्धियाँ
- 7) वह धीमे स्वर में बोली।
- 8) राम और सीता वन को गए।
- 9) मैं पुस्तक पढ़ता हूँ।
- 10) पैरों में गुलामी की बेड़िया पढ़ गईं।

वचन संबंधी अशुद्धियाँ



विभक्ति संबंधी अशुद्धियाँ

संज्ञा संबंधी अशुद्धियाँ

#### प्रश्न न 5 (क)

##### (1) बालू की बीत ओछे की प्रीत

**अर्थ**—दुष्ट/नीच के साथ की गई मित्रता क्षण मँगुर (षीघ्र नष्ट होने वाली)



**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—श्याम और राम की दोस्ती बालू की बीत ओछे की प्रीत का सटीक उदाहरण है, देखना एक दिन श्याम के काले कारनामों की वजह से राम भी जेल जाएगा।

## (2) बिल्ली के भागों छींका टूटा

**अर्थ:**—जैसा व्यक्ति, वैसा ही हो जाए अथवा अचानक भाग्यवश कुछ बड़ा लाभ होना

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—कल आखिरकार मोहन के लिए नौकरी का प्रस्ताव आ ही गया, उसके लिए नौकरी बिल्ली के भागों छींका टूटने के समान है।

## (3) निन्यानवे के फेर में पड़ना

**अर्थ:**—पैसा कमाने के चक्कर में पड़ना

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—मोहन तो आजकल निन्यानवे के फेर में ऐसा उलझा है कि घर-बार तक छूट गया है।

## (4) अधजल गगरी छलकत जाए

**अर्थ:**—मूर्ख व्यक्ति अधिक दिखावा करते हैं

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—मोहन को इस तरह बिना पड़ताल के अपना ज्ञान नहीं बखरना चाहिए, सब ही कहा है किसी ने अधजल गगरी छलकत जाए।

## (5) आँखों का काजल

**अर्थ:**—अत्याधिक प्रिय

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—राज अपनी माँ की आँखों का काजल है।

## (6) अँधों में काना राजा

**अर्थ:**—गुणहीनों में थोड़े/कम गुण वाला भी होता है।

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—पूरी कक्षा नालायकों से भरी है राकेश अँधों में एकमात्र काना राजा है।

## (7) हाथ कंगन को आरसी क्या?

**अर्थ:**—प्रत्यक्ष को प्रमाण की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है।

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—आप मेरी बात का विश्वास क्यों नहीं करते, लीजिए, समाचार पत्र को ही पढ़ लीजिए हाथ कंगन को आरसी क्या।

## (8) न नौ मन तेल होगा न राधा नाचेगी

**अर्थ:**—वेसिर पैर की षर्त रखना जो प्रथम दृष्टया असंभव है।

**अथवा**

कारण समाप्त हो जाने पर परिणाम का स्वतः समापन

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—मोहन ने 4 लाख रुपये बैंक में जमा करवाने को कहा है तभी वो कक्षा में गाना गाएगा। जाहिर है न नौ मन तेल होगा न राधा नाचेगी।

## (9) भानूमति का पिटारा

**अर्थ:**—भिन्न चीजों/वस्तुओं का भण्डार

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—बजट 2018–2019 के लिए वित्त मंत्री द्वारा खोजे जाने वाले भानुमति के पिटारे पर खासकर युवाओं की नजर रहेगी।

### (10) कहाँ राजा भोज कहाँ गंगू तेली

**अर्थ:**—दो पूर्ण असमान वस्तुओं की तुलना

**वाक्य में प्रयोग:**—जनाब। वालमार्ट और ई—बे कंपनी की तुलना संभव नहीं है वस्तुतः यह तुलना कहाँ राजा भोज कहाँ गंगू तेली कहावत की याद दिलाती है।

### (ख)

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1) Abatement:                           | उपशमन (कटौती / कमी)            |
| 2) Absconder:                           | भगौड़ा                         |
| 3) Ground zero:                         | घटना स्थल                      |
| 4) Memorandum of understanding (M.O.U): | सहमति / समझौता ज्ञापन          |
| 5) Mercy petition:                      | दया याचिका                     |
| 6) Paradigm:                            | विशिष्ट उदाहरण व आमूल परिवर्तन |
| 7) Real estate:                         | स्थावर / अचल संपदा             |
| 8) Sabotage:                            | तोड़—फोड़ (ध्वंस)              |
| 9) Strenuous:                           | क्षमसाध्य                      |
| 10) Subsequent:                         | अनुशंगी / उत्तखर्ती            |

- (ग) 1) ईर्ष्यायुक्त जलन—  
 2) दूसरों के पिदे चलने वाली—  
 3) जो देखने योग्य हो—  
 4) शीघ्र नष्ट होने वाला—  
 5) जनता में प्रचलित सुनाई बात—

डाह  
 अनुचर  
 दर्पकीय  
 क्षजमंगुर  
 किंवदन्ती

### (घ) विलोम शब्द

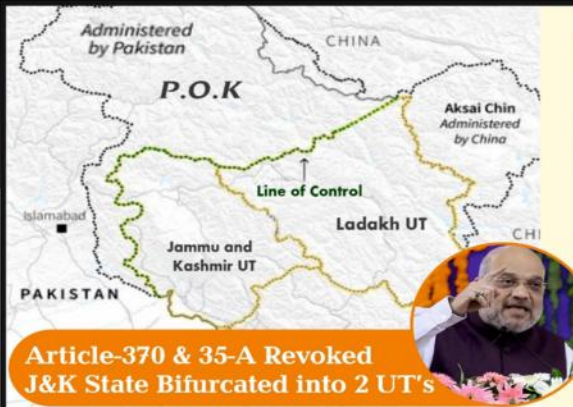
- |            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1) निर्जन— | आबाद                   |
| 2) बंजर—   | अंबार                  |
| 3) भूगोल—  | खगोल                   |
| 4) विशाद—  | हर्ष                   |
| 5) तम—     | प्रकाश / आलोक / ज्योति |

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