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FEBRUARY - 2021

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THE MATUAS AND CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

GENERAL STUDIES - II (GOVERNMENT POLICIES)

For years, the **Matuas were demanding an amendment to the Citizenship Act of 2003**, whose provisions made it difficult for refugees to get citizenship. The proposed **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** only added to their insecurity.

The Matua community: History

The Matua community has members on either side of the Bengal border.

- It is associated with a **religious movement begun in the 1870s by Harichand Thakur of a Namasudra (SC) family**, who hailed from Safaldanga in East Bengal.
- In the early 20th century, his son Guruchand organised the movement socially and politically.
- In 1915, the **Matua Federation was established**; Guruchand's grandson barrister Pramath Ranjan Thakur led it in the 1930s.
- Peasant members of the community **started migrating from East Bengal in droves after 1950**, which continued after the formation of Bangladesh.

Present status:

At present, **Matuas constitute the second largest SC population of West Bengal.**

- Mostly concentrated in North and South 24-Parganas, they also have a presence in other border districts such as Nadia, Howrah, Cooch Behar, and Malda.
- Government sources put their number at around **17% of the state's electorate**; Matua leaders estimate themselves at around 20% and say they can directly influence the results in 40-45 of the 294 Assembly seats, and indirectly in another 30.

CAA and citizenship

- The Matuas are demanding an amendment to the Citizenship Act of 2003, whose provisions made it difficult for refugees to get citizenship.
- Of late, the Matuas have been upset with the BJP for lack of clarity over when CAA will be implemented.

Demands:

- The Matuas **want a specific 'document' to prove their citizenship.**
- They also demand an **unconditional cut-off date of December 31, 2019**, to be eligible to apply for citizenship.

THE 10 BIG BUDGET TAKEAWAYS

GENERAL STUDIES - III (GOVERNMENT BUDGETING)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget is bold and offers not only a direction for growth but also a strong intent for reforms.

Here are the 10 most important Budget takeaways:

1. An Expenditure Budget: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has found space for imparting a fiscal impulse in 2021-22. Compared with a capex of Rs 4.12 lakh crore in Revised Estimate (RE) of 2020-21, she has hiked it 34.46 per cent to Rs 5.54 lakh crore in 2021-22.

2. A Reform Signal: Two public-sector banks and one state-owned general insurance company to be lined up for disinvestment. FDI in insurance to be hiked to 74% from 49% now. LIC IPO.

3. No Populism, But Focus on Growth: Despite being a tough year for the aam admi, the FM has avoided giving any income tax relief. No increase in standard deduction, no raise in the tax slabs.

4. Health Gets Its Due: In a year when the world was ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic, FM gives health the attention it merited.

Health allocation jumped 137% to Rs 2,23,846 crore in 2021-22 compared with Rs 94,452 crore in 2020-21. She provided Rs 35,000 crore for the Covid-19 vaccine, and promised to provide further funds, if required.

5. Bad Bank – A Good Idea: After dithering for almost six years, the government has finally decided to set up an asset reconstruction company that will take over the bad loans of banks, giving them flexibility to finance the economic recovery.

6. Development Finance Institutions (DFI) Reborn: The idea was dead with most earlier DFIs including IDBI and ICICI turning into banks.

- To provide debt to long gestation projects, a new DFI with a capital of Rs 20,000 crore.
- It will have statutory backing, but will be professionally managed. Lending portfolio of Rs 5 lakh crore within three years.

7. Asset Monetisation – Will it Gather Pace: This is an ongoing exercise, where the government hasn't done much to inspire confidence. National Monetisation Pipeline of potential assets of NHAI, PGCIL, Railways, airports, warehouses, sports stadiums.

8. Eye on Elections – Not Unexpected: Four poll-bound states get major highway projects: Tamil Nadu (3,500 km – Rs 1.03 lakh crore), Kerala (1,100 km – Rs 65,000 crore), West Bengal (675 km – Rs 25,000 crore) and Assam (1,300 km – Rs 34,000 crore).

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9. Strategic Disinvestment – Again, Needs Political/ Bureaucratic Push: NITI Aayog asked to short list non-core PSUs for strategic sale. After a poor show in 2020-21, the government has estimated disinvestment receipts at Rs 1,75,000 crore.

10. Growth Vs Prudence – Tilting Towards Growth: Fiscal deficit estimated at 6.8 per cent of GDP in 2021-22; it is estimated to touch 9.5% in 2020-21. It will be brought down to 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 3rd FEBRUARY – 2021

METRONEO: THE NEWEST MASS TRANSPORT SYSTEM

GENERAL STUDIES - III (INFRASTRUCTURE: ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, AIRPORTS, RAILWAYS ETC.)

By making a sizeable **budgetary allocation for MetroNeo in the Union Budget**, the central government has paved the way for the innovative system of mass transport, which could soon be replicated across the country.

- MetroNeo will be adopted for the **first time in the country in Maharashtra's Nashik**. It is a comfortable, rapid, energy-efficient and less noisy transport medium.
- The central government recently **urged all state governments to consider using MetroNeo technology in their tier-2 and tier-3 cities**.

Electric Bus Coaches

- The **MetroNeo service consists of electric bus coaches** – their lengths varying from 18 to 25 metres – with a carrying capacity of 200 to 300 passengers at a time.
- The buses will have rubber tyres and **draw power from an overhead electric wire** with 600-750 V DC supply, **similar to railways or trams**.

Feeder Bus Service

- A Feeder Bus of 12-metre length will be **battery-powered and run on the existing road on the two feeder routes**.
- The **feeder bus batteries will get charged while operating on the main corridors** that will enable seamless travel with a wider coverage. **No separate charging facility will be required**.

Frequency of Service

- The capacity of **main corridors will be 15,000 PHPDT (peak hour peak direction traffic)**.
- The system has been designed in such a way that there will be a train service after every two minutes.

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MetroNeo stations

The stations will be **similar to other Metro rail stations**. They will have a staircase, lift and escalators with passenger information display.

MetroNeo in Nashik

There is a **plan to have two corridors** initially.

- **Corridor 1** will be of 100-km length with 10 stations, from Gangapur to Mumbai Naka.
- **Corridor 2** will be a 22-km long route with 15 stations, from Gangapur to Nashik Road.
- There will also be **two feeder corridors**.

Project cost

The total cost of the project is estimated to be Rs 2,100.6 crore.

- The **Maharashtra government, CIDCO and Nashik Municipal Corporation** share will be Rs 552.19 crore, while the Union government will contribute Rs 387.56 crore for the project.
- The **Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (Maha-Metro)** will implement the project.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 4th FEBRUARY – 2021

MYANMAR-VS-BURMA

GENERAL STUDIES - II (INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD- RELATIONS)

Myanmar's military has taken control of the country under a one-year state of emergency and reports say **State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other government leaders have been detained**.

- The Myanmar military grabbed power in a recent coup – the **third time in the nation's history** since **its independence from British rule in 1948**.
- After the **last such takeover in 1988**, the armed forces went on to make a decision that would remain controversial for decades: **changing the country's name**.

How Burma became Myanmar?

When **British imperialists annexed what is today's Myanmar during the 19th century**, they called it Burma after **the dominant Burman (Bamar) ethnic group**, and **administered it as a province of colonial India**.

- **This arrangement continued until 1937**, when **Burma was separated from British India** and made a separate colony.
- Even **after the country became independent in 1948**, it retained the same name, becoming the 'Union of Burma'.
- **In 1962, the military took over from a civilian government for the first time**, and amended the official name in 1974 to the '**Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma**'.

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- Then in 1988, Myanmar's armed forces again took power in the country, after suppressing a popular uprising that led to the deaths of thousands, and reversed the official name to 'Union of Burma'.
- But a year later, the junta adopted a law that replaced Burma with Myanmar, making the country the 'Union of Myanmar'.

Why the name change was controversial?

While changing the country's name, the military said that it was looking for a way to leave behind a name inherited from the colonial past, and adopt a new one which could unify all of its 135 officially recognised ethnic groups, and not just the Burman people.

- Critics decried the move, arguing that Myanmar and Burma mean the same thing in the Burmese language, only that the 'Myanmar' is a more formal way of saying 'Burma'— a word used colloquially.
- The other name changes too, such as Rangoon to Yangon, only reflected greater conformity with the Burmese language, and nothing else.
- Also, the name changes took place only in English. Even in English, the adjective form remained (and continues to remain) Burmese, and not Myanmarese.
- Pro-democracy sympathisers said that the name changes were illegitimate, as they were not decided by the will of the people.
- As a result, many governments around the world opposed to the junta decided to ignore the name changes, and continued to call the country Burma and its capital Rangoon.

When did 'Myanmar' start becoming acceptable?

As the Myanmar-vs-Burma debate became less polarising, most foreign governments and international organisations decided to recognise Myanmar as the official name.

- Many governments, such as Australia's, decided to use both Burma and Myanmar, as means of signalling support for the democratic transition within the country and following diplomatic protocol at the same time.
- Not all countries followed suit, however. The US remains among the few countries to not recognise the current legal name.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 5th FEBRUARY – 2021

SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY

GENERAL STUDIES - III (AWARENESS IN THE FIELDS OF SPACE)

The Square Kilometre Array has been a dream of radio astronomers for nearly 3 decades. The project officially becomes the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO).

Last month, a treaty ratified by six of the project's member governments came into force.

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The project's governing council—with delegates from the six ratifying nations and 10 others as observers—meets (virtually) for the first time and conjures the **SKAO** into existence.

What is the SKAO?

SKAO is a new **intergovernmental organisation dedicated to radio astronomy**.

- It is **headquartered in the UK**.
- At the moment, organisations from **ten countries are a part of the SKAO**. These include: **Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK**.

Objective:

- The aim is to **build the world's biggest radio observatory**, originally envisioned as having 1 square kilometer of collecting area.
- With such a photon-gathering potential, **the telescope could see the universe's very first stars and galaxies**, study the effects of cosmic magnetism and gravity, and listen for the signs of alien civilizations.

What are radio telescopes?

Unlike optical telescopes, **radio telescopes can detect invisible gas and**, therefore, they can reveal areas of space that may be obscured by cosmic dust.

- Significantly, **since the first radio signals were detected by physicist Karl Jansky** in the 1930s, astronomers have used radio telescopes **to detect radio waves emitted by different objects** in the universe and explore it.
- **According to NASA**, the field of radio astronomy evolved after World War II and became one of the most important tools for making astronomical observations since.

The Arecibo telescope in Puerto Rico, which was the **second-largest single-dish radio telescope** in the world, collapsed in December 2020.

Significance of the SKA telescope

- The telescope, **proposed to be the largest radio telescope in the world, will be located in Africa and Australia whose operation**.
- Its maintenance and construction will be **overseen by SKAO**.
- The **completion is expected to take nearly a decade** at a cost of over £1.8 billion.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AND EMPHASIS ON THESE

GENERAL STUDIES - III (INVESTMENT MODELS)

Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that **it will give small investors direct access to its government securities trading platform.**

Retail investors can directly open their gilt accounts with RBI, and trade in government securities.

The Governor of the central bank, Shaktikanta Das, described this as a **“major structural reform.”**

What are government securities, or g-secs?

These are **debt instruments issued by the government** to borrow money.

The two key categories are treasury bills –

1. Short-term instruments which mature in 91 days, 182 days, or 364 days, and
2. Dated securities – long-term instruments, which mature anywhere between 5 years and 40 years.

Retail investor's investment eligibility in g-secs?

Small investors can invest indirectly in g-secs by buying mutual funds or through certain policies issued by life insurance firms.

- **To encourage direct investment,** the government and RBI have taken several steps in recent years.
- Retail investors are **allowed to place non-competitive bids in auctions of government bonds** through their demat accounts.
- Stock exchanges act as aggregators and facilitators of retail bids.

What is the need for the current proposal?

The g-sec market is **dominated by institutional investors** such as banks, mutual funds, and insurance companies.

- These entities **trade in lot sizes of Rs 5 crore or more.**
- So, **there is no liquidity in the secondary market for small investors** who would want to trade in smaller lot sizes. In other words, there is no easy way for them to exit their investments.
- Thus, **currently, direct g-secs trading is not popular among retail investors.**

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Impact of the current proposal:

- The RBI's intention is to make the **whole process of g-sec trading smoother for small investors**.
- By allowing people to open accounts in **RBI's e-kuber system**, it is hoping to create a market of small investors who will invest in these instruments.

Need to push g-secs to retail investors:

The RBI is the debt manager for the government.

In the forthcoming financial year, **the government plans to borrow Rs 12 lakh crore from the market.**

- When the government demands so much money, the price of money (i.e., the interest rate) will move up.
- It is in the government's and RBI's interest to bring this down.
- **That can happen by broadening the base of investors** and making it easier for them to buy g-secs.

G-secs vs fixed deposits:

Like bank fixed deposits, **g-secs are not tax-free.**

- They are generally **considered the safest form of investment** because they are backed by the government.
- However, **they are not completely risk free**, since they are subject to fluctuations in interest rates.
- **Bank fixed deposits**, on the other hand, are guaranteed only to the extent of Rs 5 lakh by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

GIST OF EDITORIALS 8th FEBRUARY – 2021

DENMARK'S ARTIFICIAL ENERGY ISLAND PROJECT

GENERAL STUDIES - III (CONSERVATION)

The Danish government, recently, has approved a plan to build an **artificial island in the North Sea** as part of its effort to switch to green energy.

The project is being called the **largest construction project to be undertaken in Denmark's history** with an estimated cost of DKK 210 billion.

What is an energy island?

An energy island is **based on a platform that serves as a hub for electricity generation from surrounding offshore wind farms.**

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- The proposed artificial island, will be located about 80 km into the North Sea and the majority of it will be owned by the Danish government.
- Its primary purpose is to **provide large-scale offshore wind power**.

Artificial energy island project:

The idea behind this artificial energy island project, is **to connect and distribute power between Denmark and neighbouring countries**.

- Denmark has already **entered into agreements with the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium** to begin the joint analysis of connections in the energy island.

Background:

In June 2020, the Danish Parliament decided to initiate the construction of two energy islands, which will export power to mainland Denmark and neighbouring countries.

1. One of these islands will be located in the **North Sea** and
2. The second island, **called the island of Bornholm, will be located in the Baltic Sea**.

The construction of both islands is expected to be complete by 2030.

The move has come after the EU announced its plans to transform its electricity system to rely mostly on renewables within a decade and to increase its offshore wind energy capacity by over 25-fold by the year 2050.

Significance:

Estimates suggest that it will be able **to store and produce enough green energy to cover the electricity requirements of over 3 million households in the European Union (EU)**.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 9th FEBRUARY – 2021

THE LINGAYATS AND THEIR QUOTA DEMAND: CONTEXT AND IMPLICATIONS

GENERAL STUDIES - I (DIVERSITY OF INDIA)

Politics around the Lingayat community has once again taken centre stage in Karnataka.

A section of **BJP MLAs and seers in the community demanding inclusion of a large Lingayat sub-sect in an OBC quota category** that provides 15% reservation in government jobs and education in the state.

Who are the Lingayats?

The Lingayats, **classified as a Hindu sub-caste called Veerashaiva Lingayats**, are essentially followers of the **12th-century philosopher Saint Basavanna**.

- Basavanna, started a movement to help sections of society break away from the chains of caste.
- The **Veerashaiva Lingayats** are an amalgamation of the followers of Basavanna's teachings and Veerashaivas who follow more traditional Hindu practices.
- The **Lingayat community has many sub-sects identified on the basis of the vocations** they followed.

The Lingayats are a **dominant community who make up nearly 17% of Karnataka's six crore population**.

Politically alignment:

The community **has backed the BJP and its leader B S Yediyurappa**, after the Congress lost ground with the community in the 1990s.

- **During its 2013-18 rule**, the Congress tried to win back the Lingayats' support by backing a demand from within a section of the community for the **status of a minority religion** — independent of Hinduism — and recommending grant of the status to the Centre.
- But the community largely continued to back the BJP.

What is the current controversy?

Veerashaiva Lingayats have been provided 5% reservation under a **special category called 3B**.

- **A sub-sect called the Panchamasali Lingayats**, have now risen in protest seeking reservations under the category 2A, which currently provides 15% reservations to backward castes.
- Panchamasali Lingayats are **basically agriculturists** who account for nearly 70% of Lingayats.
- The demand has been **raised by BJP MLA and two prominent seers**.

Basis of the demand:

- The main stand of the **Panchamasali Lingayats is that the community has been denied benefits**, and that large sections dependent on agriculture are socially, economically, and educationally backward.
- Of the BJP's 38 Lingayat MLAs, 11 are Panchamasalis.

The government plan to address the reservation demand:

Chief Minister has **directed the chairman of the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission** to conduct a study and submit a report on the social, economic and educational status of the Panchamasali community to determine their inclusion under the 2A category.

EINSTEINIUM: THE MYSTERIOUS ELEMENT

GENERAL STUDIES - III (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

Einsteinium: the mysterious element

A team of scientists at the Berkeley Lab has reported some of the **properties of element 99 in the periodic table called “Einsteinium”**, named after Albert Einstein.

- It was discovered in 1952 in the debris of the first hydrogen bomb (the detonation of a thermonuclear device called “Ivy Mike” in the Pacific Ocean).
- It is difficult to create and is highly radioactive, so that scientists have not been able to perform a lot of experiments with it. Therefore, very little is known about this element.

The discovery of the element:

When **Ivy Mike** was detonated on November 1, 1952, as part of a test at a remote island location called **Elugelab on the Eniwetok Atoll** in the South Pacific, it produced an explosion that was about 500 times more destructive than the explosion that occurred at Nagasaki.

- This isotope was identified by Albert Ghiorso and coworkers at Berkeley, California, in debris taken from the first thermonuclear (hydrogen bomb) explosion, “Ivy Mike,” in the South Pacific (November 1952).
- The element was named after the German-born physicist Albert Einstein.

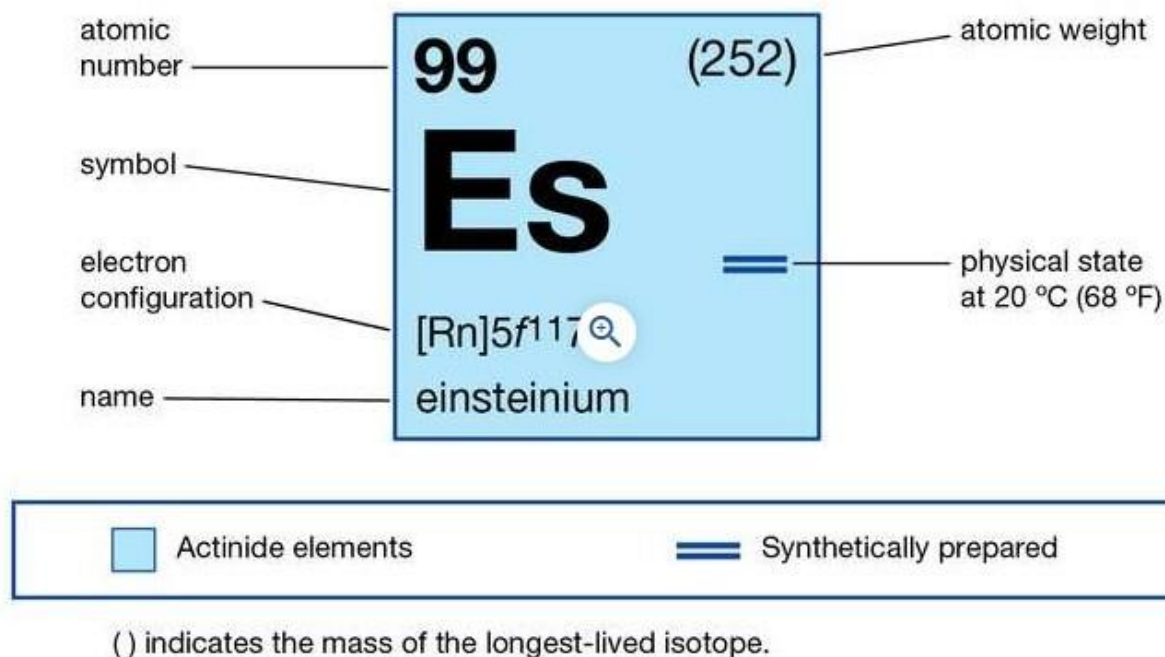


Image: Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

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Properties of Einsteinium:

- Einsteinium (Es), **synthetic chemical element of the actinoid series of the periodic table**, atomic number 99.
- **Not occurring in nature**, einsteinium (as **the isotope einsteinium-253**) was first produced by intense neutron irradiation of uranium-238 during the detonation of nuclear weapons.
- High radioactivity and short half-life of all einsteinium isotopes.

The **element is also not visible to the naked eye** and after it was discovered, it took over nine years to manufacture enough of it so that it could be seen with the naked eye.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 11th FEBRUARY – 2021

WHAT ARE ONE-PERSON COMPANIES?

GENERAL STUDIES - III (INDIAN ECONOMY AND ISSUES RELATING TO MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES)

In her Budget speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced measures to ease norms on **setting up one-person companies (OPCs)**.

It will allow **OPCs to grow without any restrictions on paid-up capital and turnover** and would directly benefit start-ups and innovators.

What are one-person companies?

As the name suggests, a one-person company is a company that can be **formed by just one person as a shareholder**.

- These companies can be **contrasted with private companies, which require a minimum of two members to get going**.
- However, for all practical purposes, **these are like private companies**.

Implication:

A **single-person company and sole proprietorship differ significantly** in how they are perceived in the eyes of law.

- For the former, the person and the company are considered separate legal entities.
- In **sole proprietorship**, the owner and the business are considered the same.

Liability:

This has an important implication when it comes **to the liability of the individual member or owner**.

- In a one-person company, **the sole owner's liability is limited to that person's investment**.

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- In a sole proprietorship set-up, however, **the owner has unlimited liability** as they are not considered different legal entities.

How many OPCs does India have?

According to data compiled by the **Monthly Information Bulletin on Corporate Sector**:

- There were 34,235 one-person companies out of a total number of about 1.3 million active companies in India, as on December 31, 2020.
- The number of OPCs was 2,238 (out of a total of about 1 million companies) as on March 31, 2015. Data also show that more than half of the OPCs are in business services.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 12th FEBRUARY – 2021

U.S. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE INDO-PACIFIC

GENERAL STUDIES - II (EFFECT OF POLICIES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON INDIA'S INTERESTS)

The Trump administration has **declassified a sensitive document on the U.S. strategic framework for the Indo-Pacific'** from 2018.

- The document outlines objectives and strategies with regard to **China, North Korea, India and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region.**

Declassified document outlines objectives on China

As per the document, **The U.S.'s first national security challenge are:**

1. Maintaining "U.S. strategic primacy" in the region and promoting a "liberal economic order".
2. Stopping China from establishing "illiberal spheres of influence".
3. Ensuring that North Korea does not threaten the U.S. and
4. Advancing U.S. economic leadership globally.

Objectives towards India:

The U.S. **aims to help India become a net security provider in the region and solidify a lasting strategic partnership with India.**

1. It plans to achieve via enhanced defence cooperation and interoperability;
2. Working with India "toward domestic economic reform", and
3. Greater leadership roles for India in the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus.

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Act-East policy in the document:

The U.S. aims to support India's "Act East" policy and "its aspiration to be a leading global power, highlighting its compatibility with the U.S., Japanese and Australian vision" of the Indo-Pacific.

- **A strong India**, in cooperation with like-minded countries, would act as a counterbalance to China, is one of the underlying assumptions of the strategy.
- **China aims to dissolve U.S. alliances and partnerships across the region. China will exploit vacuums and opportunities created by these diminished bonds.**
- **On Russia**, it says the country will "remain a marginal player" in the region relative to the U.S., China and India.
- **On North Korea**, a stated U.S. objective is to, "Convince the Kim regime that the only path to its survival is to relinquish its nuclear weapons."

Significance of declassification

It is an attempt by some in the outgoing administration to make their mark on policy clear and public, but it's not a document that speaks to tremendous strategic foresight.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 13th FEBRUARY – 2021

PM WANI

GENERAL STUDIES - II (AWARENESS IN THE FIELDS OF IT)

Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM WANI) scheme has been approved by the Union Cabinet aims to bridge that divide using wireless technologies.

Need for:

- COVID-19 pandemic has **necessitated delivery of stable and high speed Broadband Internet (data) services** to an increasingly large number of subscribers in the country including areas which do not have 4G mobile coverage.
- This can be **achieved by deployment of Public Wi-Fi.**

Salient Features of PM WANI scheme:

This Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface **will be known as PM-WANI.**

PM-WANI eco-system will be operated by different players as described herein under:

- **Public Data Office (PDO):** It will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.

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- **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):** It will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.
- **App Provider:** It will develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.
- **Central Registry:** It will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. To begin with, the Central Registry will be maintained by C-DoT.

Benefits

- The proliferation of public Wi-Fi will not only **create employment but also enhance disposable incomes in the hands of small and medium entrepreneurs** and boost the GDP of the country.
- No License Fee for providing broadband internet services using public Wi-Fi Hotspots will massively **encourage its proliferation and penetration across the length and breadth of the country.**
- Availability and use of Broadband **will enhance incomes, employment, quality of life, ease of doing business etc.**

GIST OF EDITORIALS 15th FEBRUARY – 2021

THE DECLINING NUMBERS OF RIVER DOLPHIN

GENERAL STUDIES - III (CONSERVATION)

Aquatic life is an indicator of the health of river ecosystems. As the Gangetic dolphin is at the top of the food chain, protecting the species and its habitat will ensure conservation of aquatic lives of the river.

What will Project Dolphin do?

Project Dolphin will be on the lines of Project Tiger, which has helped increase the tiger population.

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), has been taking some initiatives for saving dolphins.
- Now, **Project Dolphin is expected to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

What is the Gangetic dolphin?

The Gangetic river system is home to a vast variety of aquatic life, including the **Gangetic dolphin (Platanista gangetica).**

- The Gangetic dolphin is **one of five species of river dolphin found around the world.**

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- It is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, **particularly in Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems.**
- The breeding season of the Gangetic dolphin extends from January to June.
- **They feed on several species of fishes, invertebrates etc.**

What has been done to save Gangetic dolphins so far?

The Gangetic dolphin is listed as **endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**

- **Wildlife Act Protection:** After the launch of Ganga Action Plan in 1985, the government on November 24, 1986 included Gangetic dolphins in the First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.
- **Conservation Plan:** The government also prepared The **Conservation Action Plan for the Ganges River Dolphin 2010-2020**, which “identified threats to Gangetic Dolphins and impact of river traffic, irrigation canals and depletion of prey-base on Dolphins populations”.
- **National Aquatic Animal:** On October 5, 2009, the Prime Minister, declared the Gangetic river dolphin as the national aquatic animal. Now, the National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrates **October 5 as National Ganga River Dolphin Day.**

GIST OF EDITORIALS 16th FEBRUARY – 2021

COVID-19 AND INDIA'S INTERNAL MIGRATION

GENERAL STUDIES - II (ISSUES RELATING TO POVERTY AND HUNGER)

It is almost a year since the Covid-induced nationwide lockdowns were announced in India. The distressing state of migrant workers walking back to their homes with little support from the government is the most enduring memory of that period.

The **displacement of people has been described as the second-largest since the Partition of the country.**

The status of India's internal migration in the 2020:

As of 2020, according to Prof S Irudaya Rajan (Centre for Development Studies, Kerala), **India has an estimated 600 million migrants.**

- Roughly half of India is living in a place where it wasn't born.

- But this doesn't mean that 600 million Indians were crisscrossing between Indian states in 2020. That's because the **bulk of the internal migration in India is within one district itself.**
- An **estimated 400 million** Indians "migrate" within the district they live in.
- The **next 140 million migrate from one district to another** but within the same state.
- Only about 60 million — that is, **just 10% of all internal migrants — move from one state to another.**
- The **most dominant form of migration is from rural to rural areas.** Only about 20% of the total migration (600 million) is from rural to urban areas.
- 20% of the total migration is from **one urban area to another urban area.**
- As such, **urban migration (rural to urban as well as urban to urban) accounts for 40% of the total migration.**

From a Covid perspective:

The **400 million that migrate** within the same district were less of a worry.

- But 200 million were **broadly affected by the Covid disruption.** Even within these 200 million, only about 140 millions migrated for earning a livelihood.
- The balance is family members who migrate with the bread-earner.

Vulnerable circular migrants:

The **worst-hit were a class of migrants** that Prof Ravi Srivastava (Director, Centre for Employment Studies, Institute of Human Development) calls "**vulnerable circular migrants**".

- These are people who are "vulnerable" because of **their weak position in the job market** and "**circular**" migrants because even though they work in urban settings, **they continue to have a foothold in the rural areas.**
- Such **migrants work in construction sites or small factories or as rickshaw pullers** in the city but when such employment avenues dwindle, they go back to their rural setting.
- In other words, they are part of the informal economy outside agriculture. And,
- They **constitute 75% of the informal economy outside agriculture** — most shocks, be it demonetisation or GST or the pandemic disruption, tend to rob them of their livelihood.

Conclusion:

According to studies by various groups, **close to 60 million moved back to their "source" rural areas in the wake of pandemic-induced lockdowns.** That number is roughly six-times the official estimates.

That estimate also gives a measure of the sense of labour shock that India's economy faced as migrants moved back.

THE ANDHRA PRADESH-ODISHA DISPUTE

GENERAL STUDIES - I (POST-INDEPENDENCE CONSOLIDATION)

When the state of **Andhra Pradesh was created in 1955**, the villages were not surveyed by the Andhra Pradesh government either.

Recently, **Andhra Pradesh held panchayat elections in three villages in the Kotia cluster**, which is at the centre of a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

The Villages:

- These villages, with a population of nearly 5,000, are located on a remote hilltop on the inter-state border and are **inhabited by Kondh tribals**.
- The region, **once a Maoist hotbed** which still reports sporadic incidents of violence, is also **rich in mineral resources like gold, platinum, manganese, bauxite, graphite and limestone**.

The Dispute:

Prior to April 1, 1936, villages under Kotia panchayat were part of Jeypore Estate. In the **Constitution of Orrisa Order, 1936**, published in the Gazette of India on March 19 that year, the **Government of India demarcated Odisha from the erstwhile Madras Presidency** with the latter including the present-day Andhra Pradesh.

- **In 1942, the Madras government contested the boundary and ordered re-demarcation** of the two states.
- **In a joint survey of Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh**, seven villages of Kotia gram panchayat were recorded as revenue villages and revenue was collected by the Odisha government, but the exercise left out the 21 villages now under dispute.
- When the state of **Andhra Pradesh was created in 1955**, the villages were not surveyed by the Andhra Pradesh government either.

In Both Worlds:

- This is the **first time Andhra has held panchayat polls in any of these villages**.
- But the villages participate in **Assembly and Lok Sabha elections for both states**.
- The **villagers enjoy benefits from both states under various schemes**.

Current Status:

In the early 1980s, Odisha filed a case in the Supreme Court demanding right and possession of jurisdiction over the 21 villages.

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

In 2006 however, the court ruled that since disputes belonging to the state boundaries are not within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the matter can only be resolved by Parliament and passed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 18th FEBRUARY – 2021

NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA, FIRST FEMALE AND AFRICAN TO HEAD WTO

GENERAL STUDIES - II (IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS)

The newly-appointed head of the World Trade Organisation, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala became **the first female and first African** to hold the role in its history.

- **Her dual citizenship with the United States** also makes her the **first American to hold this position**.
- The **WTO's 164 members** unanimously selected the Nigerian economist to serve a **four-year term as the Director-General** of the organisation.
- Her tenure is set to begin on March 1 2021.

Who is Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala?

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is a **Nigerian economist** whose career in development and finance spans over four decades.

- Iweala served as the **Finance Minister of Nigeria**, holding the position for two consecutive terms, first from 2003 to 2006 and then from 2011 to 2015.
- She was also the **first woman to hold this position in her country and the first female to hold it twice**.
- Iweala was the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria** after her first tenure as the finance minister, again becoming the **first female to be in this role**.
- In her capacity as the Finance Minister, she was seen as a tough negotiator who played an instrumental role in reducing and tackling Nigeria's debts.
- Iweala has also spent over **20 years working with the World Bank** where she rose to become the Managing Director of the organization and oversaw 181 billion dollars worth of operations.

About WTO:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

- World Trade Organization, was established in 1995.
- It replaced General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) which was in place since 1946.
- The WTO **officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement**, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994.

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- **India is a founding member of GATT since 1948**, as it was party to Uruguay Round and a founding member of WTO.

Governance:

- The WTO is run by its member governments.
- All major decisions are made by the membership as a whole, either by ministers (who usually meet at least once every two years) or by their ambassadors or delegates (who meet regularly in Geneva).

GIST OF EDITORIALS 19th FEBRUARY – 2021

POSHAN ABHIYAAN AND MALNUTRITION PROBLEM IN INDIA

GENERAL STUDIES - II (ISSUES RELATING TO HEALTH)

The realisation of India's **billion plus dreams over the next decade or two will be determined by** how well it nourishes the physical well-being and mental potential of its people, particularly its children.

- The single **greatest threat that blocks the promise of India at a foundational level is malnutrition.**
- In 2017, a **staggering 68% of 1.04 million deaths of children under five years in India was attributable to malnutrition**, reckoned a Lancet study in 2019.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

It was launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the **International Women's Day on 8 March, 2018 from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.**

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is India's flagship programme, launched in March 2018.
- **It aims to improve nutritional status** of children up to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- It seeks **to achieve specific targets for reduction in low birth weight babies, stunting growth**, under nutrition and prevalence of anemia over next three years.
- **NITI Aayog** has been entrusted with the task of closely monitoring the POSHAN Abhiyaan and undertaking periodic evaluations.

The four point strategy/pillars of the mission are:

- Inter-sectoral convergence for better service delivery
- Use of technology (ICT) for real time growth monitoring and tracking of women and children

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

- Intensified health and nutrition services for the first 1000 days
- Jan Andolan

Implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan

The implementing departments /agencies like women and child development department through anganwari workers, health and family welfare department through ASHA, ANM, primary health centres, community health centres, school education and literary department through schools, panchayati raj department through panchayat, and rural development through self-help groups will carry out the activities and spread the message during the month.

India needs to ensure coverage of every single child and mother, along with 12 months of Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month), 52 weeks of breastfeeding weeks and 365 days of take-home ration.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 20th FEBRUARY – 2021

PARDONING POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

GENERAL STUDIES - I (MODERN INDIAN HISTORY)

The 12-year-old son of Shabnam, a death row convict, appealed to President Ram Nath Kovind to “forgive” his mother.

Shabnam has tried most of legal remedies available to her, and if she is executed, **she will be the first woman in independent India to be hanged for a crime.**

Only one jail in India — the one in Mathura — has the provisions for hanging a woman convict.

The pardoning powers of the President:

1. **Under Article 72 of the Constitution**, “the President shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence where the sentence is a sentence of death”.
2. **Under Article 161**, the Governor too has pardoning powers, but **these do not extend to death sentences.**

Exercise of these powers:

- The President **cannot exercise his power of pardon independent of the government.**
- Rashtrapati Bhawan forwards the mercy plea to the Home Ministry, seeking the Cabinet’s advice.
- The Ministry in turn forwards this to the concerned state government; based on the reply, it formulates its advice on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

Kind of pardons:

There are five kinds of pardons according to the constitution:

1. **Pardon**– It removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments and disqualifications, and places the convict in the same position as if he had never committed the offence.
2. **Commutation**– Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. In simple words to replace the punishment with less severe punishment.
3. **Reprieve**– Reprieve implies a stay of the execution of a sentence, especially
4. Death sentence, for a temporary period. For example- pending a proceeding for pardon or commutation.
5. **Respite**– Respite denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact. Such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender.
6. **Remissions**– Remission means the reduction of the amount of sentence without changing its character, for example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 22nd FEBRUARY – 2021

WHAT IS EXTINCTION REBELLION?

GENERAL STUDIES - III (CONSERVATION)

Extinction Rebellion (XR for short) wants governments to declare a “climate and ecological emergency” and take immediate action to address climate change.

What is it?

Extinction Rebellion is a **decentralised, international and politically non-partisan movement** using non-violent direct action and civil disobedience to persuade governments to act justly on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

- Extinction Rebellion was **officially launched in the United Kingdom in May in 2018** and organisers say it now has groups willing to take action in dozens of countries.
- The group uses an hourglass inside a circle as its logo, to represent time running out for many species.

Their demands:

In the UK, Extinction Rebellion has **three main demands**:

1. The government must declare a climate “emergency”

2. The UK must legally commit to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2025
3. A citizens' assembly must be formed to "oversee the changes"

Are its aims realistic?

Reducing CO2 emissions to almost zero in six years' time would be extremely ambitious.

Severe restrictions on flying would be needed.

- Diets would have to change, by drastically cutting back on meat and dairy.
- And there would have to be a massive increase in renewable energy, along with many other radical changes.

But those involved with Extinction Rebellion say the future of the planet depends on it and We have left it so late that we have to step up in a semi-miraculous way to deal with this situation.

What are its tactics?

In **April 2019**, Extinction Rebellion held a large demonstration in London. Over the course of 11 days, some of the city's busiest routes were brought to a standstill.

- The action resulted in more than 1,100 arrests – most on suspicion of not following police instructions to move.
- In June, **activists blocked traffic in New York**, several **German protesters chained themselves outside Angela Merkel's Chancellery** in Berlin, and in **Paris the police used pepper spray** to clear activists blocking a bridge over the Seine.

Who supports Extinction Rebellion?

- **Young people** are most likely to agree with its aims, a survey of 3,000 people conducted by YouGov in April suggests.
- Among 18- to 24-year-olds, 47% either "strongly supported" or "somewhat supported" the disruption of traffic and public transport to highlight Extinction Rebellion's aims.

What have critics said about it?

- Its supporters have been criticised as "**environmental fanatics**" who plan to ruin thousands of holidays and risk alienating thousands of potential supporters.
- It has also defended causing criminal damage, such as smashing windows. It says such tactics are sometimes necessary and that it is "super careful" not to put anyone at risk.

GREATER TIPRALAND DEMAND

GENERAL STUDIES - I (POST-INDEPENDENCE CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE COUNTRY)

Seventeen months after he resigned as the Congress state president, **Tripura royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya** has recently announced his **new political demand of 'Greater Tipraland'**.

He claims it would serve the interest of tribals, non-tribals, Tripuri tribals staying outside Tripura.

What is Greater Tipraland?

'Greater Tipraland' is essentially **an extension of the ruling tribal partner Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura – IPFT's** demand of Tipraland, which sought a separate state for tribals of Tripura.

- **The new demand seeks** to include every tribal person living in indigenous area or village outside the **Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC)** under the proposed model.
- This **idea doesn't restrict to simply the Tripura tribal council areas**, but seeks to include '**Tiprasa**' of **Tripuris** spread across different states of India like Assam, Mizoram etc.
- It includes even those living in Bandarban, Chittagong, Khagrachari and other bordering areas of neighbouring Bangladesh as well.

Is it similar to Greater Nagalim?

Greater Tipraland is not in any way a rebel subject. The demand is a democratic issue and we shall proceed accordingly.

New-age ethnic politics

Tripura saw **turbulent violent struggles** by different outlawed insurgent outfits like the Tripura National Volunteers (TNV), United Bengali Liberation Front (UBLF), National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) etc. – all **demanding self-determination and sovereignty**, albeit on different ethnic and community lines.

- Pradyot's new demand of Greater Tipraland is a major step forward after IPFT's statehood demand.
- However, it's the **latest in the line of his ethnic agitations after 'Puila Jati Ulo Party'**, (first community, then party), a slogan he raised to unite people from both tribal and non-tribal behind ethnic identity in 2019.

WHO CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR DRUGS

GENERAL STUDIES - II (IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS)

On February 19, Ramdev, at a press meet, Patanjali said: “**Coronil has received the Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CoPP)** from the Ayush section of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation as per the **WHO certification scheme.**”

- The press meet was attended by Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, **a qualified doctor who is also chair of World Health Organization’s (WHO) Executive Board.**
- The **WHO, however, distanced itself** from the product the very same day.
- Without taking names, WHO South-East Asia wrote on Twitter, “WHO has not reviewed or certified the effectiveness of any traditional medicine for the treatment of COVID-19”.

Role of WHO:

The WHO does not “approve or disapprove” drugs.

According to the UNO body, the role of WHO in the area of medicines regulatory support is two-fold.

- **One aspect relates to the development of internationally recognised norms, standards** and guidelines.
- The **second aspect** relates to **providing guidance, technical assistance and training** in order to enable countries to implement global guidelines to meet their specific medicines regulatory environment and needs.

What is the WHO certification scheme?

WHO’s certification scheme is **for finished pharmaceutical products**, and is a voluntary agreement among various countries.

According to the WHO, the scheme is an **administrative instrument**.

It requires a participating Member State (a certifying country), upon application by a commercially interested party (the applicant company), to certify/attest to the competent authority of another participating Member State (the recipient country) that:

- A specific pharmaceutical product is authorised for marketing in the certifying country, or if not, the reason why authorisation has not been accorded;
- The manufacturing facilities and operations conform to good manufacturing practices (GMP) as recommended by WHO.

KARBI INSURGENCY AND MILITANTS' SURRENDER IN ASSAM

GENERAL STUDIES - III (SECURITY CHALLENGES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT IN BORDER AREAS)

Recently, 1,040 militants of **five militant groups of Karbi Anglong district** ceremonially laid down arms at an event in Guwahati in the presence of Chief Minister.

- It has been seen as a development which further bolsters the '**terrorism-free Assam**' image of the current BJP-led government.
- Among the surrendered militants is **Ingti Kathar Songbijit**, a primary accused in multiple cases of militancy and ethnic violence in the state.

The surrendered militants comprised cadres from five outfits —

1. Karbi People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT),
2. People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK),
3. Karbi Longri NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF),
4. Kuki Liberation Front (KLF) and
5. United People's Liberation Army (UPLA).



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History of Karbi insurgency:

Insurgency by Karbi — a **major ethnic community of Assam** — groups has had a long history in Assam, marked by killings, ethnic violence, abductions and taxation **since the late 1980s**. These outfits **originated from a core demand of forming a separate state**.

Today, the **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC)** is an autonomous district council, protected under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

- The Karbi National Volunteers (KNV) and Karbi People's Force (KPF) came together to form the **United People's Democratic Solidarity (UPDS) in late 1990s**.
- **In November 2011**, UPDS gave up arms and signed a tripartite memorandum of settlement with the Centre and the government of Assam.
- It settled for enhanced autonomy and special packages for the KAAC.

The entire political discourse in this constituency — **comprising three districts of Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong (split from the former in 2016) and Dima Hasao** — revolves around the demand for granting of "Autonomous State" status to the region and more autonomy and power to the KAAC and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (which administers over Dima Hasao district).

What is the significance of the surrender?

It's a very significant development, not only for Karbi Anglong or Assam but also for Nagaland. It means that all insurgent outfits of Karbi Anglong district have now been brought into the mainstream.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 26th FEBRUARY – 2021

COVAX PROGRAM

GENERAL STUDIES - II (ISSUES RELATING TO RELATING TO HEALTH)

Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive a shipment of coronavirus vaccines under the COVAX program.

- About 600,000 doses of the **Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine**, manufactured by the **Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune (the largest vaccine manufacturer in the world)**, were sent to Accra in Ghana on February 23.
- The AstraZeneca vaccine (**known as Covishield in India**) was given **Emergency Use Listing (EUL)** by the WHO this month.

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What is the COVAX program?

The COVAX program is led by the vaccine alliance GAVI, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) in partnership with UNICEF, vaccine manufacturers and the World Bank, among others.

- The aim is to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally in what is being called the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history.
- The program wants to vaccinate roughly 20 per cent of the population in the 92 Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries.
- AMC countries include middle and lower-income nations that cannot afford to pay for COVID-19 vaccines.

Under the COVAX program, over 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be delivered by the end of 2021.

Eligibility:

The countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of less than US \$4000 and some other countries which are eligible under the World Bank International Development Association (IDA).

Funding:

- The funding is partly coming from high and middle-income countries that will also receive a share of the vaccines produced for COVAX.
- The US has pledged to give US \$2 billion to COVAX and make available further funding of US \$2 billion over the course of the next two years.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 27th FEBRUARY – 2021

A THIRD OF FRESHWATER FISH FACE EXTINCTION: REPORT

GENERAL STUDIES - III (CONSERVATION)

Nearly a third of all freshwater fish are threatened with extinction, according to a recent report, **World's Forgotten Fishes**, published by 16 global conservation organisations.

- The report, **World's Forgotten Fishes**, stated that freshwater fish provide main source of protein to 200 million people across Asia, Africa and South America.
- The industry provides jobs and livelihoods to 60 million people, more than half of whom are women.

- In total, jobs in freshwater fisheries account for between 2.5 and 6 per cent of the global agricultural workforce.



Pressures on global freshwater fish populations:

Conservation groups including **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** and **Global Wildlife Conservation**, point to a combination of pressures on global freshwater fish populations, including:

- Habitat degradation
- Poorly planned dams
- Releasing wastewater and draining wetlands
- Overfishing
- Pollution
- Introduction of invasive species
- Wildlife crime
- Climate change

Key highlights of report:

- The population of migratory freshwater fish fell 76 per cent since 1970; that of mega-fish by 94 per cent, according to the report.
- Much of this decline was driven by the **poor state of freshwater habitats** in parts of the United Kingdom.
- 80 freshwater species have already been declared extinct. Of these, as many as **16 freshwater fish species were declared extinct in 2020 alone**.

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- Of **more than 10,000 species** whose **conservation status** has been assessed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, **30 per cent are considered at risk of extinction**.

Need for:

WWF has called on all governments to back the implementation of a **global Emergency Recovery Plan for freshwater biodiversity**.

- **This would involve** reducing pollution, allowing rivers to flow more naturally, controlling invasive species and ending overfishing, removing obsolete dams and unsustainable sand mining.
- But the solution will require more than just government action. **Implementing the new biodiversity agenda also needs to move beyond the realm of conservation.**



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PRELIMS FOCUS GROUP (PFG), 2021 - BATCH - 2

Test No.	Date	Subject (Code)	Syllabus
1.	01 st Mar.	Polity (P1)	Historical Background; Making of the Constitution; Salient features of Indian Constitution; Preamble; Citizenship, Parliamentary and Federal System of Government. Fundamental Rights; DPSP; Fundamental Duties; Amendment to the Constitution; Basic structure of the Constitution, Union & its Territory. Indian Parliament; State Legislature. Emergency Provisions; Constitutional Bodies; Non Constitutional Bodies.
2.	03 rd Mar.	Current Affairs (CA1)	CURRENT AFFAIRS FULL LENGTH TEST-1 BASED ON JAN, FEB, MARCH, APRIL (2020).
3.	05 th Mar.	Economy (E1)	National Income accounting; Income determination (demand-supply curve dynamics); Balance of Payment and Exchange rate determination. Money and Banking. Government budgeting and Fiscal policy; Planning and its changing dynamics.
4.	07 th Mar.	Modern History (MH1)	Advent of Europeans; Expansion and Establishment of British Paramountcy; The Rule of East India Company. Governor Generals - Related Facts and their Policies; Impact of British Rule in India; Constitutional, Administrative and Judicial Developments 1773 - 1858. Tribal and Caste Movements; Socio - Religious and Cultural Reforms in 19th - 20th century. Revolt of 1857; The Rise and Growth of Indian Nationalism (1858-1885); Indian National Movement: Phase of Moderates and Extremists (1885-1905); Revolutionary Trends in India (1906 - 1916).
5.	09 th Mar.	Geography (G1)	Indian Physiography; Geological structure. Natural Vegetation; Soils; Agriculture. Resources - Energy, Water, Marine, Mineral; Power; Industries; Transport. Climate; Indian Drainage system.
6.	11 th Mar.	Revision Test (P1 + E1)	Revision Test on Syllabus Covered in P1 (25 th Jan) and E1 (1 st Feb)
7.	13 th Mar.	Revision Test (MH1 + G1)	Revision Test on Syllabus Covered in MH1 (5 th Feb) and G1 (8 th Feb)
8.	15 th Mar.	Current Affairs (CA2)	CURRENT AFFAIRS FULL LENGTH TEST-2 BASED ON MAY, JUN, JULY, AUGUST (2020).
9.	17 th Mar.	Polity (P2)	Local Government; Union Territories & Special areas; Union Executive; State Executive Supreme Court; High Court; Subordinate Courts. Special Provisions for some States; Special Provisions relating to certain classes; Cooperative Societies; Official language and Issues. Special Provisions for some States; Special Provisions relating to certain classes; Cooperative Societies; Official language and Issues. Centre State Relations; Inter State Relations; Tribunals; Elections and electoral reforms; Anti Defection Law.
10.	19 th Mar.	UPSC-PYQ (POLITY)	Full Length Test Based Exclusively on UPSC Previous Year from POLITY Section.
11.	21 st Mar.	Economy (E2)	Indian Financial markets & commodity exchanges; Foreign investment & foreign trade. Economic reforms; Industry & Infrastructure. Inflation, subsidies and related issues; Agriculture and food management; Land reforms; International economic organizations; Terminologies and associated concepts; Current trends; Poverty, unemployment and rural development; Human development and inclusive growth.
12.	23 rd Mar.	UPSC-PYQ (ECONOMY)	Full Length Test Based Exclusively on UPSC Previous Year from ECONOMY Section.
13.	25 th Mar.	Modern History (MH2)	Indian National Movement (I) : Gandhian Era (1917- Civil Disobedience Movement-Round Table Conferences - 1947) Development of Indian Press; Development of Education; Movement of the Working Class; Misc.
14.	27 th Mar.	UPSC-PYQ (MODERN HISTORY)	Full Length Test Based Exclusively on UPSC Previous Year from MODERN HISTORY Section.
15.	29 th Mar.	Geography (G2)	The Universe, solar system, origin and evolution of the earth, earth movements and related aspects, geological time scale, interior of the earth, formation of earth's crust, and atmosphere. Continental drift, seafloor spreading, endogenetic and exogenetic forces and basics of plate tectonics, supercontinents, seismicity, volcanicity, Tsunami etc. and associated formations. Mountain building, island formations, hotspots etc., rock types and formations, geomorphic processes, ground water, different types of landforms and landscape formation. Climate Types. Insolation, earth's heat balance, different atmospheric circulations - global winds, cyclones, Ocean Currents. Map based Questions
16.	31 st Mar.	UPSC-PYQ (GEOGRAPHY)	Full Length Test Based Exclusively on UPSC Previous Year from GEOGRAPHY Section.
17.	02 nd Apr.	Revision Test (P2 + E2 MH2 + G2)	Revision Test on Syllabus Covered in P2 (22 nd Feb) + E2 (1 st Mar) + MH2 (8 th Mar) + G2 (15 th Mar)
18.	04 th Apr.	Current Affairs (CA3)	CURRENT AFFAIRS FULL LENGTH TEST-3 BASED ON SEP., OCT., NOV., DEC. (2020).
19.	06 th Apr.	Art & Culture (AC)	Indian Architecture and Sculptures; Religion and Philosophy; Promotion and Preservation of Indian Heritage. Indian Music and Dances; Paintings; Puppetry and Theatre; Indian cinema; Indian Languages & Literature; Fairs, Festivals and Art & Craft.
20.	08 th Apr.	Ancient History (AH)	Pre Historic Age; Indus Valley Civilization; Vedic Era; Jainism and Buddhism. Mauryan and Post Mauryan Empire; Sangam Age; Gupta and Post Gupta Period.
21.	10 th Apr.	Medieval History (M)	Delhi Sultanate; Vijaynagar and Bahamani Kingdoms; Religious movements Mughal Empire; Maratha Empire; Rise of regional states
22.	12 th Apr.	UPSC-PYQ (ART & CULTURE, ANCIENT HISTORY and MEDIEVAL HISTORY)	Full Length Test Based Exclusively on UPSC Previous Year from ART & CULTURE, ANCIENT HISTORY and MEDIEVAL HISTORY Section.
23.	14 th Apr.	Science & Tech. (S&T)	Static portion of Science and Technology with special focus on Current Affairs
24.	16 th Apr.	Environment (Env.)	Ecology and Ecosystem: Basic Concepts & Components; Global warming and Climate Change; Pollution and Environmental issues; Biodiversity; Wildlife Conservation; Sustainable Development; Energy Crisis and Natural Resource conservation; Environmental Monitoring and Impact Assessment; various acts and Laws related to environment; Regulatory Bodies and Policies at national and international level; Intergovernmental Organizations, Treaties and Conventions related to climate change, biodiversity, Agriculture.
25.	18 th Apr.	UPSC-PYQ (S&T and ENVIRONMENT)	Full Length Test Based Exclusively on UPSC Previous Year from S&T and ENVIRONMENT Section.
26.	20 th Apr.	Current Affairs (CA 4)	CURRENT AFFAIRS FULL LENGTH TEST-4 BASED ON JAN, FEB, MARCH, APRIL (2021).
27.	22 nd Apr.	Revision Test (AC + AH + M)	Revision Test on Syllabus Covered in AC (29 th Mar) + AH (2 nd Apr) + M (5 th Apr)
28.	24 th Apr.	Revision Test (S&T + Env.)	Revision Test on Syllabus Covered in S&T (12 th Apr) + Env. (16 th Apr) Including current Affairs on Science & Tech. and Security
29.	3 rd May	Polity Full Length	Full Length Polity (Including Current Affairs on POLITY + IR + SOCIETY)
30.	7 th May	History Full Length	Full Length History (Including Current Affairs on GOVERNMENT SCHEMES + ART & CULTURE)
31.	10 th May	Geography Full Length	Full Length Geography (Including Current Affairs on ENVIRONMENT + PLACE IN NEWS + ISFR)
32.	14 th May	Economy Full Length	Full Length Economy (Including Current Affairs on BUSINESS & ECONOMICS + ECONOMIC SURVEY + BUDGET)
33.	17 th May	Current Affairs (CA5)	CURRENT AFFAIRS FULL LENGTH TEST-5 BASED ON JAN-2020 TO MAY-2021
34.	21 st May	Full Length (FL1)	Full Length 1 + CSAT - 1
35.	24 th May	Full Length (FL2)	Full Length 2 + CSAT - 2
36.	28 th May	Full Length (FL3)	Full Length 3 + CSAT - 3
37.	31 st May	Full Length (FL4)	Full Length 4 + CSAT - 4
38.	4 th June	Full Length (FL5)	Full Length 5 + CSAT - 5
39.	7 th June	Full Length (FL6)	Full Length 6 + CSAT - 6
40.	11 th June	Full Length (FL7)	Full Length 7 + CSAT - 7



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