

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**India on the move: What data from Census 2011 show on migrations?**

- According to the recently released Census 2011 migration data, there over 45.58 crore Indians were found to be migrants as against 31.45 crore during 2001 Census.
- According to the Census, when a person is enumerated in Census at a different place than his/her place of birth, she/he is considered a 'migrant'
- The Census has also reported that Marriage and employment were the major reasons for migration.
- UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and MP had the highest 'outmigration'. Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat had the largest 'in-migration'.
- Among larger states, Bihar had the lowest number of people migrating into the state.
- Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand had more in-migration than out-migration. While, UP, Bihar and Rajasthan had negative net migration i.e. more people left the state than coming in.

Project Sahara – In Ahmedabad new tool to help reduce maternal mortality

An initiative called Project Sahara by the Ahmedabad district administration has reduced maternal deaths due to postpartum haemorrhage (PPH). Under Project Sahara, Non-pneumatic Anti-Shock garment (NASG) has been provided to primary health centres in the district. At present, 40 PHCs in Ahmedabad have an NASG suit each.

Maternal mortality:

- Maternal mortality refers to the number of maternal deaths which occur due to pregnancy or as a result of a complication of the same. Maternal mortality rate (MMR) is taken as the number of recorded maternal deaths, for every 1 lakh live births.
- United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3.1) calls to reduce MMR to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana petition in Delhi High Court**

- Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition seeking directions to the Centre to elevate Vande Mataram to a status equivalent to that of Jana Gana Mana. Jana Gana Mana, composed by Rabindranath Tagore in 1911 is India's national anthem.
- The petitioner in Delhi High Court had argued that Vande Mataram had played a crucial role in the National Movement, and should be accorded the same status as the National Anthem.
- Vande Mataram was written in 1870 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in Bengali. The song became known publicly after Bankim Chandra published his novel Anandamath in 1882.

GEOGRAPHY**Earth Overshoot Day**

- The Earth Overshoot Day fell on 29th July, 2019. The day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources (fish and forests, for instance) and services in a given year exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year.
- The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms of the UK think tank New Economics Foundation, which partnered with Global Footprint Network in 2006 to launch the first global Earth Overshoot Day campaign.
- At that time, Earth Overshoot Day fell in October.
- World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the world's largest conservation organization, has participated in Earth Overshoot Day since 2007.
- It is computed by Global Footprint Network by dividing the planet's biocapacity (the amount of ecological resources Earth is able to generate that year), by humanity's Ecological Footprint (humanity's demand for that year), and multiplying by 365, the number of days in a year:
- Earth Overshoot Day = (Planet's Biocapacity / Humanity's Ecological Footprint) x 365

- Global Footprint Network is an international non-profit organization founded in the year 2003. Its key strategy has been to make available robust Ecological Footprint data.
- The Ecological Footprint is a metric that comprehensively compares human demand on nature against nature's capacity to regenerate.

Eruption on Mount Etna

- Recently, Mount Etna in Sicily (Italy) has erupted. It spewed a plume of ash and lava as two fractures opened at the base of its crater (a bowl-shaped depression, or hollowed-out area, produced by the impact of volcanic activity).
- Eruptions of Etna follow a variety of patterns. Most occur at the summit, where there are currently (as of 2019) five distinct craters.
- Other eruptions occur on the flanks, which have more than 300 vents, ranging in size from small holes in the ground to large craters hundreds of metres across.

Mount Etna

- Mount Etna is the highest Mediterranean island mountain and the most active stratovolcano in the world. It is about 3,326 metres high and is the highest peak in Italy South of the Alps.
- The eruptive history of the volcano can be traced back 500,000 years and at least 2,700 years of this activity has been documented.
- The almost continuous eruptive activity of Mount Etna continues to influence volcanology, geophysics and other Earth science disciplines.
- The volcano also supports important terrestrial ecosystems including endemic flora and fauna and its activity makes it a natural laboratory for the study of ecological and biological processes.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY

Himalayan conclave at Mussorie

Himalayan states gathered together and made the following demands to the centre (11 Himalayan states of India are – Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur)

- A separate Union ministry to deal with problems endemic to them
- A green bonus in recognition of their contribution to environment conservation.

Rationale behind such demands

- Most of the country's rivers originate in the Himalayan states and thus they have to play significant role in water conservation efforts
- Also large part of their land fell into eco-sensitive zones where developmental activities are severely restricted
- A green bonus is thus needed to compensation for their disadvantages

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

RCEP negotiations

Australia is leading a negotiation team of RCEP countries so as to convince India to commit to the deal (Free Trade Agreement) by this year end.

RCEP:

- Regional Comprehensive Cooperation agreement – is a proposed free trade agreement between 10 members of ASEAN and its five FTA partners (China, India, Australia, Japan, New Zealand)
- RCEP negotiation was formally launched in 2012, whose member states together account for 3.4 billion people and approximately 40% of world's GDP.

India's Concern :Members of Indian Industry are resisting RCEP due to following concerns

- Flooding of the market with Chinese goods impacting domestic manufacturers
- Lack of access to Indian services in the RCEP countries (Services is India's strong area and has huge potential to tap into RCEP market)

INDIAN ECONOMY

Railway reforms

Government is contemplating to start import of complete train sets from foreign suppliers if they agreed to establish the coach manufacturing facility in India. Railways would evolve standard eligibility criteria for propulsion systems as was done by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs that operates the Metro Railway.

Govt's Plan of Corporatization:

- Centre plans to corporatize production units of Indian railways like – Integral Coach Factory in Chennai (Largest such facility in the world) , Modern Coach Factory in Rae Bareli, and Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala.(Corporatization is the process of transforming government assets into corporations.)
- In this case, the production units of Indian Railways will be converted into government-owned company
- Advantages of corporatization: Managerial autonomy, superior operational efficiency, attract investments, bring in start-of-the-art technology and export capability
- Opposition to Corporatization: Opposition by trade unions due to increased vulnerability of their jobs, considered as first step of privatization which would increase cost for consumers.

IT Min meets industry on govt-led 'cloud economic zone' plan

Recently, the government has consulted with the industry representatives to understand the potential need for government-led 'cloud economic zones'.

- Cloud Economic Zone are the geographical areas identified for the creation of data storage centers. However, some industry representatives have expressed security concerns with placing sensitive data in restricted economic zones as this will allow for single attacks to threaten the high-risk areas.
- In April 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had asked payment firms to ensure their data are stored exclusively on local server in India. Further, the draft e-commerce policy has also recommended strict data localization.
- Indian government is also under increasing pressure from the US government and foreign industry players not to restrict data storage.
- At the G20 summit in Osaka, Indian Prime Minister did not sign onto a declaration of data free flow with trust proposed by Japan and heavily championed by the US. India has also refused to join negotiations about e-commerce at the World Trade Organization.

Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana

Union Minister of Textiles has informed Lok Sabha about the Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY). The Government has identified and adopted 90 clusters across the country which will also cover aspirational districts, women clusters, weaker section and export potential clusters. The objective is to transform these clusters in a time period of 3 years by ensuring self-sustainment of the Self Help Groups and artisans of these clusters.

- Government has also taken initiative to organize campaign to educate cluster artisans about the scope of Producer Company and its importance for long term sustainable business development for the cluster.
- In addition to the above, the Government has organized Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs at more than 300 places all over the country for providing Aadhaar linked Pahchan card, marketing facilities, facilitating to artisans through Mudra loan and enrolment of artisans under different schemes.

Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana

- The Government had launched the Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) in the year 2001-2002.
- The objective of the scheme is to mobilize the artisans into Self Help Groups and training the groups on various aspects of forming and running the community business enterprises for self-sustainability of artisans.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

PM releases results of 4th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation – 2018

On the occasion of Global Tiger Day, celebrated on 29th July, Indian Prime Minister has released the All India Tiger Estimation Report– 2018.

Highlights of the Report:

- The count of tigers in India, has risen to 2967, in 2018 from 2,226 in 2014. Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442). Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in tiger population.
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu registered the “maximum improvement” since 2014

Tiger Census:

- The tiger census is carried out by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The first census was conducted in 2006.
- The tiger census provides details on the number of tigers in the 18 tiger range states with 50 tiger reserves. However, the current census also included data collected from the rough terrains of north-eastern states which was not possible due to logistic constraints before.
- The All India Tiger Estimation 2018 has used M-STRIPEs (Monitoring System for Tiger-Intensive Protection and Ecological Status). M-STRIPEs was launched in 2010 by NTCA and along with the Wildlife Institute of India. It is a patrol-based wildlife monitoring GIS database, designed to assist wildlife protection, monitoring, and management of Protected Areas.

Project Tiger:

- India had launched Project Tiger in 1973 with an aim to limit factors that leads to reduction of tiger habitats and to mitigate them by suitable management. Established in 2005, NTCA oversees management of Project Tiger and Tiger Reserves in India.
- In 2010, the governments of the world’s 13 tiger range countries put forward the Global Tiger Recovery Plan. The plan outlines how each country could double the number of tiger population in the country.
- The Plan was part of the ambitious species conservation goal called Tx2 set up by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). The goal is to double the number of wild tigers by 2022.

Ministry of mines organises a workshop on Effective utilization of Red Mud

Ministry of Mines has organised a workshop called ‘Waste To Wealth’ on effective utilization of ‘Red Mud’. The workshop was organised in association with Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC). The workshop discussed on the present status regarding the generation of Red Mud and its safe disposal and utilization. The deliberations were also held on efforts for effective utilisation of red mud with necessary government support.

Red Mud

- Red Mud is a solid waste generated during the aluminium production process. This is an environmental concern due to the presence of impurities such as caustic soda and others minerals.
- The global generation of red mud is more than 150 million tonnes and there exists a global inventory of more than three billion tonnes. Red mud generation in India is around 9 million tonnes per year.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE
ETC**

Cyber security – Agent Smith

- Agent Smith is the latest malware to creep into android phones.
- This malware can replace apps on android phones with malicious versions without the user’s knowledge.
- As of now Agent Smith is only infiltrating mobile phones with the intention of throwing up advertisements (sudden rise) for other apps.
- However, once the malware has control over a cell phone, it can do anything, including stealing banking details or other sensitive data, liable to its misuse.

- It is estimated to have already impacted 25 million devices, Indian constituting nearly 60% of them.
- Users are thus advised against downloading third party apps and keep their operating system updated.

DEFENCE

Army's first Integrated Battle Groups

The new concept of Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) which the Army plans to create as part of overall force transformation is close to implementation,

More about Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs):

- IBGs are brigade-sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations, which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.
- IBG would be tailor-made based on Threat, Terrain and Task and resources will be allotted based on the three T s.
- The IBGs will also be defensive and offensive.
 - While the offensive IBGs would quickly mobilise and make thrust into enemy territory for strikes
 - Defensive IBGs would hold ground at vulnerable points or where enemy action is expected.
- The concept of IBGs has already been test-bedded by 9 Corps. They will be able to mobilise within 12-48 hrs based on the location. They need to be light so they will be low on logistics,
- A command is the largest static formation of the Army spread across a defined geography, a corps is the largest mobile formation. Typically each corps has about three brigades.
- The idea is to reorganise them into IBGs which are brigade-sized units but have all the essential elements like infantry, armoured, artillery and air defence embedded together based on the three Ts
- An IBG operating in a desert needs to be constituted differently from an IBG operating in the mountains.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat has initiated four major studies to undertake overall transformation of the force. The aim is holistic integration to enhance the operational and functional efficiency, optimise budget expenditure, facilitate force modernisation and address aspirations.

- Restructuring of Army Headquarters
- Force restructuring which includes creation of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG)
- The cadre review of officers and
- Review of the terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks

Conclusion

- The overall transformation will also see a reduction in the size of the 1.3 million Army
- After the Parliament attack, the Indian military undertook massive mobilisation but the formations which were deep inside took weeks to mobilise losing the element of surprise.
- IBG Groups to be structured by end of next month

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT

GI Tag for Odisha Rasagola

Odisha, has received the Geographical Indication tag (GI) from the Registrar of Geographical Indication.

Rasagola: Odisha Rasagola is a sweet made of chhena (cottage cheese) cooked in sugar syrup using the principle of caramelisation of sugar (caramelization is the browning of sugar, a process used extensively in cooking for the resulting sweet nutty flavor and brown colour). Odisha Rasagola is associated with world famous Puri Jagannath Temple. Both Odisha and West Bengal have been contesting the origin of the Rasagola. West Bengal received GI tag for its variety of Rasgulla in November 2017.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Stop saying tomorrow.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: What is RCEP? Discuss India's concerns over RCEP vis-à-vis China.

Ans: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed regional economic integration agreement among the 10 ASEAN countries and its six free-trade agreement partners—Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, South Korea and India. Once implemented, it would result in one of the largest free trade bloc accounting for 45% of the world's population, and a combined GDP of about \$21.3 trillion and 40% of the world trade.

India's Concerns vis-a-vis China

- India is not comfortable with opening markets in goods being pushed especially by China. India wants to offer much lower market access in goods to China compared to other members such as the ASEAN, Japan and South Korea. However, China is not willing to accept it.
- India wants clearly defined rules of origin to ensure integrity and sanctity of tariff differentiation. This is to prevent Chinese goods from flooding the country through member countries that may have lower or no duty levels.
- Chinese garments are already making their way into India through the duty-free route under the South Asia Free Trade Pact and the Duty-Free Quota-Free window from Bangladesh.
- At least 13 countries including Australia, Japan and New Zealand oppose India's proposal for strict criteria to determine the source country of a product, based on which they get tariff concessions in the 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade pact.
- India had a trade deficit with 11 RCEP members including China, South Korea and Australia in 2018-19.
- India has so far offered to eliminate tariffs for 70-80 % of goods for China over an extended period of time and it is unwilling to give more concessions.
- China runs a trade surplus of over \$60 billion with India and the domestic industry is reeling under heavy competition from Chinese goods.
- India's Aluminium and copper industries are worried about China's presence in the grouping and anticipate widening of the trade deficit due to an alarming spike in imports and a potential threat to the Make in India initiative.
- China is also hinting at going in for a free trade agreement between the ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea (ASEAN+3) if the RCEP talks take too long.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED MCQS

1. Consider the following statements w.r.t Census 2011 migration data.
 1. UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and MP had the highest 'outmigration'.
 2. Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat had the largest 'in-migration'.Which of the given statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Project Sahara initiative which was recently in news is related to which of the following ?
 - (a) Female Infanticide
 - (b) **Maternal Mortality**
 - (c) Abduction and Rape
 - (d) Dowry Prohibition
3. Consider the following statements.
 1. Jana Gana Mana, was composed by Rabindranath Tagore in 1911
 2. Vande Mataram was written in 1882 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in Bengali.Which of the given statements is/are correct?
 - (a) **1 only**
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. On which of the following day is the Earth Overshoot Day observed?
 - (a) July 26
 - (b) July 27
 - (c) July 28
 - (d) **July 29**
5. Mount Etna, which was recently in news because of eruption is located in which of the following countries?
 - (a) Indonesia
 - (b) New Zealand
 - (c) **Italy**
 - (d) Brunei
6. Which of the following states cannot be tagged as a Himalayan State?
 - (a) Uttarkhand
 - (b) **Haryana**
 - (c) Assam
 - (d) Manipur
7. Which of the following are the Non-ASEAN countries are to be members of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Cooperation agreement (RCEP)
 1. China
 2. Japan
 3. Taiwan
 4. IndonesiaSelect the correct answer from the codes given below
 - (a) **1 and 2**
 - (b) 1, 2 and 3
 - (c) 1 and 3
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
8. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Tiger Conservation in India?
 1. The first Tiger census was conducted in 2010.
 2. India had launched Project Tiger in 1973Which of the given statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Recently in News, Agent Smith is a/an
 - (a) **Malware Prevention Tool**
 - (b) India Air Force Drone
 - (c) Operation of the R&AW
 - (d) A Computer Virus
10. Union Textile Ministry has identified how many clusters under Ambedkar Hastasilpa Vikas Yojana?
 - (a) 70
 - (b) **90**
 - (c) 60
 - (d) 80