

**SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC****National Institute Of Sowa Rigpa (NISR)**

The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa in Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh.

**About:**

- The setting up of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa would provide an impetus for the revival of Sowa-Rigpa in the Indian Sub-continent. The Institute will also provide opportunities for students of Sowa-Rigpa not only in India but also from other countries.
- The Institute will be an autonomous National Institute under Ministry of AYUSH with the mandate to undertake interdisciplinary education and research programmes in Sowa-Rigpa in collaboration with premier national and international Institutes.
- After setting up of NISR, the synergy among the existing Sowa Rigpa Institutions – Central University of Tibetan Studies at Sarnath, Varanasi and Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh – which are under the administrative control of Ministry of Culture and NISR will be established.

**Sowa- Rigpa:** Sowa-Rigpa is a Traditional Medical system of the Himalayan belt in India. It has been popularly practiced in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling (West Bengal), Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh.

**Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2019**

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti conferred the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards to top ranked states, union territories, and districts in the various categories on the occasion of World Toilet Day. Tamil Nadu has been ranked first among the states.

**About:**

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) had commissioned “Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2019” (SSG 2019) through an independent survey agency to develop ranking of all districts of India on the basis of sanitation parameters.
- This ranking was done based on parameters including surveys of public places like schools, Anganwadis, PHCs, Haat/ Bazaars, Panchayat and citizen’s perception of Swachhata and their recommendations for improvement of the program and data from the SBM-G IMIS.
- The top ranked States and Districts which received awards are:
  - Top 3 States – 1) Tamil Nadu, 2) Haryana, 3) Gujarat
  - Top 3 Districts – 1) Peddapalli, Telangana, 2) Faridabad, Haryana, 3) Rewari, Haryana
  - State with maximum citizen participation – 1) Uttar Pradesh

**Following are the key findings of the SSG 2019 survey:**

- 5% of people surveyed were aware of SSG 2019;
- 3% of respondents credited SBM-G for the substantial improvement in cleanliness level;
- 83% of respondents reported sufficient arrangements in their village to manage liquid waste and
- 1% citizens reported sufficient arrangements in their village to manage solid waste.

**Female Labour Force Participation**

According to an internal study conducted by the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC), just one out of five persons — in the 15-30 years age bracket — entering the labour force is expected to be a female in the five years ending 2023.

**NSDC:**

National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) is a public-private-partnership working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Key findings of an internal study conducted by the NSDC are:

- 7 crore additional individuals in the working-age (15-59 years) are expected to enter the labour force by 2023, of which 84.3 % or 5.9 crore will be in the age group 15-30 years.
- Only six states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — are expected to account for 50 % (about 3 crore) of the new youth entrants (15-30 years) during 2019-23.
- Just one out of five persons — in the 15-30 years age bracket — entering the labour force is expected to be a female in the five years ending 2023.

- Many female candidates in the age group of 15-19 years may not be actively in the labour force, instead choosing to opt for higher education, and so, with the changing education pattern, female labour force participation rate should be watched closely for the 20-34 years age group.

#### Comparison with other countries:

- While the NSO's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 had estimated female labour force participation rate for 15 years and above at 23.3 %, the comparative numbers of other countries highlight the labour market's gender skew.
- According to World Bank data, India's female labour force participation rate ranks much lower than other Asian economies in 2019, including Vietnam (73 %), China (61 %), Singapore (60 %), Bangladesh (36 %), and is closer to the estimates in countries such as Lebanon (24 %), Pakistan (24 %), Libya (26 %), Tunisia (24 %) and Sudan (24 %).

#### Agra

The government of Uttar Pradesh may be planning to change the name of Agra to Agravan. The Department of History at the Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Agra has been asked to examine whether the city was known by any other name in ancient times.

#### About:

- The move was initiated after some local people wrote a post on UP government's Stamp and Registration website demanding to rename Agra. There is no well known documented evidence that Agra was known by a different name in the past.
- The Yogi Adityanath government in U.P. has changed the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj, of Mughalsarai Junction railway station to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction, and of Faizabad district to Ayodhya.

#### Timeline of Agra:

- The Greek astronomer, mathematician and geographer Claudius Ptolemy who lived in the 2nd century AD in the city of Alexandria in the Roman province of Egypt, is believed to be the first person to refer to the city of "Agra" in his well known work 'Geographia' (The Geography).
- A UP government website says: "It is generally accepted that Agra was both an ancient city from the times of the Mahabharata and yet nevertheless Sultan Sikandar Lodi, the Muslim ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, founded Agra in the year 1504."
- The "golden age" of the city began with the Mughals, when it was known as Akbarabad. It served as the capital of the Delhi Sultanate in the early 16th century.
- After the decline of the Mughal Empire, the city came under the influence of the Marathas, and began to be called Agra.

### **GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**

#### UDAN 4.0

Recently, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation has announced that UDAN 4.0 will be launched. UDAN 4.0 seeks to offer priority routes connecting Bilaspur and Ambikapur airports in Chhattisgarh.

#### Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- It is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market.
- The objective of scheme is to create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
- The scheme envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through the revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years.
- Under-served airports are those which do not have more than one flight a day, while unserved airports are those where there are no operations.

#### UDAN 1.0

- Under this phase, 5 airlines companies were awarded 128 flight routes to 70 airports (including 36 newly made operational airports)

**UDAN 2.0**

- In 2018, the Ministry of Civil Aviation announced 73 underserved and unserved airports.
- For the first time, helipads were also connected under phase 2 of UDAN scheme.

**UDAN 3.0**

- Key Features of UDAN 3 included:
- Inclusion of Tourism Routes under UDAN 3 in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism.
- Inclusion of Seaplanes for connecting Water Aerodromes.
- Bringing in a number of routes in the North-East Region under the ambit of UDAN.

**INDIAN ECONOMY**
**Section 47 Of RBI Act**

Union Finance Minister informed Lok Sabha that transfer of surplus reserves from the RBI to the government in future would depend on net income and other financial parameters of the RBI besides the recommendations of the expert committee on excess capital.

**About:**

- The surplus distribution policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is determined in accordance with Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- Section 47 says that "after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contributions to staff and superannuation funds and for all other matters for which provision is to be made by or under this Act or which are usually provided for by bankers, the balance of the profits shall be paid to the central government".
- The quantum of surplus transfer to the government in the coming years would depend on RBI's net income, 'required realised equity' as a % of RBI's balance sheet and 'available realised equity' as a % of RBI's balance sheet in the coming years, and shall be governed by the legal provisions of the RBI Act, 1934 read with the recommendations of the committee as accepted by RBI.

**Industrial Corridors**

Government has approved the development of the five industrial corridor projects which will be implemented through National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

- NICDIT is an apex body under the administrative control of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry for coordinated and unified development of the 5 Industrial Corridors in India.
- In 2017, Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project Implementation Trust Fund (DMIC-PITF) was re-designated as National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).
- NICDIT supports project development activities and appraisal, approval and sanction of projects. It also coordinates and monitors all central efforts for the development of Industrial Corridor projects.

**The Five Industrial Corridors**

S.No.	Industrial Corridor	States
1.	Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)	Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra
2.	Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC)	Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal
3.	Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC)	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala
4.	East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) with Vizag Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) as Phase-1	West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
5.	Bengaluru Mumbai Industrial Corridor (BMIC)	Karnataka, Maharashtra

**Industrial Corridors**

- Industrial corridors offer effective integration between industry and infrastructure, leading to overall economic and social development. Industrial corridors constitute:

- High-speed transportation network – rail and road
  - Ports with state-of-the-art cargo handling equipment
  - Modern airports
  - Special economic regions/industrial areas
  - Logistic parks/transshipment hubs
  - Knowledge parks focused on catering to industrial needs
  - Complementary infrastructure such as townships/real estate
  - Other urban infrastructure along with enabling policy framework
- The 5 industrial corridors are spread across India, with a strategic focus on inclusive development to boost industrialization and planned urbanization.
  - Manufacturing is a key economic driver in each of these projects. Industrial Corridors are expected to play a critical role in raising the share of contribution of the manufacturing sector from approximately 16% to 25% by 2025.
  - Smart cities are being developed along these corridors. These cities, with state-of-the-art infrastructure, will house the new workforce that is required to power manufacturing, in turn leading to planned urbanization.

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

#### **Plague**

China reported a third case of bubonic plague after two other plague cases were revealed last week, but the disease remains rare despite its fearsome reputation and authorities say the cases appear unrelated.

#### **About:**

- Cause: Plague is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, a zoonotic bacteria, usually found in small mammals and their fleas.
- Transmission: It is transmitted between animals through fleas. Humans can be infected through:
  - the bite of infected vector fleas
  - unprotected contact with infectious bodily fluids or contaminated materials
  - the inhalation of respiratory droplets/small particles from a patient with pneumonic plague.

#### **Two main forms of plague infection, depending on the route of infection are:**

- Bubonic plague is caused by the bite of an infected flea. *Plague bacillus*, *Y. pestis*, enters at the bite and travels to the nearest lymph node where it replicates itself. The lymph node then becomes inflamed, tense and painful, and is called a 'bubo'. Human to human transmission of bubonic plague is rare.
- Pneumonic plague, or lung-based plague, is the most virulent form of plague. Any person with pneumonic plague may transmit the disease via droplets to other humans.
- Where is plague found? As an animal disease, plague is found in all continents, except Oceania. Since the 1990s, most human cases have occurred in Africa. The three most endemic countries are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, and Peru.
- Treatment: Nowadays, plague is easily treated with antibiotics and the use of standard precautions to prevent acquiring infection.

#### **Timeline:**

- Historically, plague was responsible for widespread pandemics with high mortality. It was known as the "Black Death" during the fourteenth century, causing more than 50 million deaths in Europe.
- Between 2010 and 2015 there were 3,248 cases worldwide, leading to 584 deaths – a fatality rate of 18%, according to the World Health Organization.

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.**

## DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

**Qns. Objectives of gender justice go beyond the boundaries of the courts. Comment.**

Ans:

Gender justice seeks to achieve a life of dignity and freedom to women as a basic human right. It includes sharing of power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace, and in the wider national and international communities.

Gender justice is indispensable for development, poverty reduction, and is crucial to achieving human progress.

### Provisions for gender justice

- The Constitution of India (Article 14, 19 and 21) guarantees the right of equality and freedom from sexual discrimination to Indian women.
- India is also signatory to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, or CEDAW.

Gender discrimination and injustice in India: India was ranked 108th in the Global Gender Gap Index 2018. Mentioned below are some facts about gender discrimination in India:

### Role of judiciary towards achieving gender justice

- Addressing sexual harassment at workplace: Supreme Court in a landmark judgement in the Vishakha and others v State of Rajasthan 1997 case gave 'Vishakha guidelines' which formed the basis for the The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 ("Sexual Harassment Act").
- Voluntary Health Association of Punjab vs. Union of India, 2013: Supreme Court issued guidelines for the effective implementation of Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.
- Shayara Bano v. Union of India & Others. 2017: Supreme Court in a 3:2 majority judgement, held the practice of triple talaq as unconstitutional.
- Recently, Supreme Court clubbed and referred four cases of contentious religious practices to a larger 7-judge bench. Those are:
  - Entry of women into the Sabarimala temple
  - Muslim women's entry into mosques
  - Female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras
  - Entry of Parsi women married to non-Parsis in the Agyari

### Limitations of judicial interventions

- Conflict between constitutional morality and customary morality: The 'doctrine of essentiality' allows courts taking upon themselves the responsibility of determining the essential and non-essential practices of a religion, which often creates a clash with religious beliefs and faith.
- Addressing contentious issues may lead to judicial overreach: For ex: Supreme Court had to modify its directions regarding formation of Family Welfare Committees, given in Rajesh Sharma v/s State of U.P, 2017 arguing that they are an extra-judicial authority, which cannot exercise powers and functions of police and court. [Section 498-IPC Anti dowry law]
- Opening up of Pandora's Box: Judicial intervention in select cases would raise a demand for similar interventions against a number of unethical but permissive religious practices.
- Enforceability of judicial orders: It becomes difficult to enforce the judicial orders in matters of faith and religion which are not aligned with public sentiments, as seen in the Sabarimala temple issue.
- Inequality in judiciary: There are only three sitting women judges (8.8%) out of the total sanctioned strength of the apex court, 34. Hence, it has been alleged that the higher judiciary itself is not representative.

### Way Forward

- Need for social transformation: There is a need to remove the rigidities in traditions and beliefs which can be achieved only at societal level through awareness and education.
- There is an urgent need to address the problems of lack of education, development deficit, poverty, improper enforcement of the laws, lack of awareness among women, deep rooted patriarchy, etc. to achieve the goal of gender justice in India.
- Government interventions in the form of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao are steps in the right direction which could lead to a dignified life to every woman in the country.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs**

1. With reference to the 'National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust', consider the following statements:
  1. It monitors the development of industrial corridor projects in India.
  2. Its administrative control lies with the Ministry of Finance.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
**(a) 1 only**      (b) 2 only      (c) Both 1 and 2      (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. With reference to the Section 47 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934, consider the following statements:
  1. The surplus distribution policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is determined in accordance with Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934.
  2. RBI had recently constituted a committee chaired by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to review the extant economic capital framework of the RBI.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
**(a) 1 only**      (b) 2 only      (c) **Both 1 and 2**      (d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Who among the following founded Agra in the year 1504?  
**(a) Sultan Sikandar Lodi**  
(b) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq  
(c) Muhammad bin Tughluq  
(d) Muhammad Shah
4. With reference to a study conducted by the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) on female labour force participation, consider the following statements:
  1. Many female candidates in the age group of 15-19 years are actively entering in the labour force.
  2. Just one out of five persons in the 15-30 years age bracket, entering the labour force is expected to be a female in the five years ending 2023.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
**(a) 1 only**      **(b) 2 only**      (c) Both 1 and 2      (d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. With reference to the Plague, consider the following statements:
  1. It is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria Yersinia pestis, a zoonotic bacteria, usually found in small mammals and their fleas.
  2. Any person with bubonic plague may transmit the disease via droplets to other humans.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
**(a) 1 only**  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Recently Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa in which of the following places?  
**(a) Leh**  
(b) Chennai  
(c) Jammu  
(d) Kohima
7. Consider the following statements:
  1. Sowa -Rigpa is a traditional system of medicine.
  2. It originated in Thailand.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
**(a) 1 only**  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2