

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**Anganwadi**

For every 100 anganwadi beneficiaries in the country, only seven are in urban areas, according to the government's response to a Right to Information (RTI) query from The Hindu Newspaper.

About:

- Anganwadis or day-care centres are set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) by the Women and Child Development Ministry to provide a package of six services.
- The services include supplementary nutrition; pre-school non-formal education; immunisation, nutrition and health education; as well as referral services.
- The aim of the scheme is to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition.
- Beneficiaries include children in the age group of six months to six years, and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- While there were a total 7.95 crore beneficiaries of the anganwadi scheme in the country, as on September 30, 2019, only 55 lakh were registered at urban anganwadis. This is primarily because of an acute paucity of anganwadi centres in urban areas.

Cancer

On World Cancer Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) released two reports that stated that 1 in 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime, and 1 in 15 Indians would die of cancer.

About:

- India had an estimated 1.16 million new cancer cases, 7,84,000 deaths and 2.26 million five-year prevalent cases in 2018.
- Globally in 2018, there were 9.6 million cancer deaths, out of which the most were due to lung cancer at 18.4%, followed by colorectum cancer (9.2%), stomach cancer (8.2%), liver (8.2%), breast (6.6%) and cancer of the oesophagus (5.3%).
- In India, the six most common cancer types are breast, at 1,62,000, followed by oral (1,20,000), cervical (97,000), lung (68,000) and stomach and colorectal, at 57,000 each. These accounted for 49% of all new cancer cases.
- Among 5,70,000 new cancer cases in men, oral cancer incidence was the highest at 92,000 followed by lung cancer at 49,000.
- For women, of the 5,87,000 new cancer cases, breast cancer incidence was the highest at 1,62,000, followed by cervical at 97,000.
- Globally, if the present trends continue, there will be a 60 % increase in cancer cases over the next two decades.

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Udyanotsav**

The President of India opened the annual "Udyanotsav" of Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Mughal Gardens will remain open for the general public from February 5, 2020 to March 08, 2020.

About:

- The Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India, is flanked by the iconic Mughal gardens — spread over 15 acres.
- The gardens are a blend of the Mughal and English style of gardening and is inspired by the Persian Charbagh style. It is replete with canals, fountains, elaborate flower beds, well-trimmed shrubs, and a near endless variety of flowers.
- A part of the gardens — comprising the Herbal Garden, the Bonsai Garden, the main Mughal Garden, the Spiritual Garden — is open to the public every year in February-March under the event called the Udyanotsav (translates to 'Garden Festival').

Charbagh:

- Charbagh is a Persian/Islamic quadrilateral garden layout based on the four gardens of Paradise mentioned in the Qur'an.

- The quadrilateral garden is divided by walkways or flowing water into four smaller parts. Significant use of rectilinear layouts are made within the walled enclosures. Some of the typical features include pools, fountains and canals inside the gardens.
- They are found in countries throughout Western and South Asia, including Iran and India.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Medical Data Leak

According to a recent report published by Greenbone Sustainable Resilience, a German cybersecurity firm, Medical details of over 120 million Indian patients have been leaked and made freely available on the Internet.

About:

- The report also places Maharashtra at the top of the States affected by the global medical data leak. Maharashtra ranks the highest in terms of the number of data troves available online, with 3,08,451 troves offering access to 6,97,89,685 images. The next is Karnataka, with 1,82,865 data troves giving access to 1,37,31,001 images.
- The report classifies countries in the “good”, “bad” and “ugly” categories based on the action taken by their governments in stopping it. India ranks second in the “ugly” category, after the U.S.
- The data leak of records, includes images of CT scans, X-rays, MRIs and even pictures of the patients.

Maitree Express; Bandhan Express

The frequency of the Maitree Express and Bandhan Express trains connecting Bangladesh and India has been increased.

About:

- Maitree Express running between Dhaka and Kolkata will now run 5 days a week.
- Bandhan Express running between Kolkata and Khulna will now be running twice a week.
- The increased frequency of these trains will enhance the connectivity between India and Bangladesh further.

Sustainable Development Fee (SDF)

Ending decades of free entry to Indian tourists visiting Bhutan, the Bhutanese Government has decided to levy a daily ₹ 1,200 (\$17) fee for “regional tourists” from India, the Maldives and Bangladesh, beginning July 2020.

About:

- The fee, called a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), is meant to help the government deal with burgeoning numbers in tourist traffic, which it is seeking to regulate through a new tourism policy.
- The decision was passed by the National Assembly as a ‘Tourism Levy and Exemption Bill of Bhutan’, 2020. The SDF is considerably lower than the \$65 charged to other foreign tourists, who are also charged a compulsory flat “cover charge” of \$250 per day.

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

Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA)

During her Budget speech, Finance Minister said the government was abolishing in “public interest” an anti-dumping duty that was levied on imports of a chemical called PTA.

About:

- Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) is a crucial raw material used to make various products, including polyester fabrics. PTA makes up for around 70-80% of a polyester product.
- This includes products like polyester staple fibre and spun yarn. Some sportswear, swimsuits, dresses, trousers, curtains, sofa covers, jackets, car seat covers and bed sheets have a certain proportion of polyester in them.
- The duty had meant importers were paying an extra \$27-\$160 for every 1,000 kg of PTA that they wanted to import. Removing the duty will allow PTA users to source from international markets and may make it as much as \$30 per 1,000 kg cheaper than now.

Mwps [Membrane-Based Water Purification System]

The Union Environment Ministry has published a draft notification that effectively prohibits users from installing MWPS [Membrane-based Water Purification System], mainly reverse osmosis, in their homes if the water has been sourced from a supply that meets the BIS drinking water norms.

About:

- Installation or use of MWPS shall be prohibited, at the point of use or at the point of entry for purification of supplied water which is subjected to conventional flocculation, filtration and disinfection process or is from any sources which are in compliance with acceptable limit for drinking water prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standard 10500:2012.
- The proposed regulation is not the final word and the Ministry will await comments from the public for 30 days, after which it may incorporate the changes before it becomes a law.

Background:

- The Ministry has issued this order to comply with an order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which has prohibited the use of reverse osmosis (RO) purifiers in places where total dissolved solids (TDS) in the supplied water are below 500 mg per litre.
- The NGT had ordered a ban on RO filters on the grounds that they wasted water and that, in the process of removing salts, they often deprived drinking water of essential salts.
- Current Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) regulations consider 500 mg/litre—1,200 mg/l of total dissolved solids, which consists of salts and some organic matter, as acceptable though there is no lower limit.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY**DefExpo 2020**

DefExpo-2020, a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence is being held for the first time in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 5th to 9th Feb 2020.

About:

- The 11th edition of Def Expo promises to bring new technologies, technological solutions, where Defence manufacturing companies from India and abroad showcase their products and services in Defence arena, on a single platform.
- The DefExpo 2020 is being organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence. Full support is being received from Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and the focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.
- The fifth India Russia Military Industry Conference will be held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2020 at the venue. Over 100 Russian and over 200 Indian industry leaders are expected to participate.
- Bandhan, a ceremony for signing of MoUs, launch of products and major announcements, will be presided by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh.
- Live demonstration will be held at two locations viz. one at the exhibition site and the other at the Gomati river front.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS- INDICES, DAYS, EVENTS, AWARDS ETC**Velutheeyam**

A tri-metal sculpture of Jesus Christ, Healing Christ, on the central courtyard of the Believers Church Medical College (BCMC) Hospital in Thiruvalla has entered the Universal Records Forum's (URF) book of world records.

About:

- A URF team adjudged that the 368-cm tall statue, weighing 2,400 kg, is the 'largest tri-metal Jesus sculpture' in the world.
- The statue is sculpted with an alloy of zinc, copper, and velutheeyam (an alloy of tin and aluminium)

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: The percentage of population of Old age in India is increasing. What are the challenges old age population are facing in the country in present times. Discuss the initiatives taken by government in this regard?

Ans:

India is passing through phase of demographic transition. According to the 2011 Census, there are 104 million elderly persons (aged 60 years or above) in India. It is projected that approximately 20% of Indians will be elderly by 2050, marking a dramatic jump from the current 8.6%. Also, the average Indian can expect to live at least 18 years beyond the age of 60, which means the dependency ratio is also rising. This presents a greater challenge to policymakers as the country, in coming times, is going to face problems of inadequate health care system, housing and dignity of older sections of the society.

Various challenges old age population presently facing in the country are:

- Lack of care
 - Breakdown of joint family system into nuclear family system and
 - Migration of children outside India to seek better job opportunities has reduced the component of care to old age parents.
- Poor health
 - With increase in life expectancy, old age faces problem of loss of memory and also poor and inhumane treatment from their children.
 - Rising incidences of non-communicable diseases and lacked trained professionals in the geriatric department has resulted into poor health status of Old age section.
- Old age homes
 - The country lacks adequate number of old age homes.
 - There is a poor culture of access of old age homes because if any family puts their parents in old age then that is seen as stigma in the society.
 - India's patriarchy system is eroding and authority of old age member in family is decreasing. This has resulted into loss of identity and dignity of Old parents. This has huge psychological impacts on this section.
- Poor social security
 - Large population of the country is yet not covered under various social sector schemes like pension, insurance etc.
 - Lack of pension and insurance results into income insecurity to the old age section
- Feminisation of Old age
 - Large percentage of old age population comprises of female gender.
 - Old aged female faces additional challenge of lack access of bank accounts, no property rights and are unable to seek benefits of welfare schemes.
 - Excessive dependence on their husband because of patriarchal structure. Demise of their husband brings enormous psychological impact on them.

To tackle the present challenge of Old age population the government has taken various initiatives from time to time. Various initiatives are:

- Maintenance of Parents and Senior citizens act 2007: This ensures that it is the children's responsibility to provide all necessary care to their parents.
- "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana", a 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment: Central Sector Scheme of Integrated programme for Older Persons (IPOP) for improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities and by encouraging productive and active ageing. The programme aimed at providing senior citizens basic amenities such as shelter, food, and medical care and entertainment opportunities.
- Ministry of Rural Development: Old age pension is provided under the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) was launched which aims to provide dedicated health care facilities to the elderly people.
- Economic system has provided new healthcare insurance schemes, pension system for Old age and this has strengthened their social security.

Apart from this initiatives there is need to focus on areas like:

- Promoting the culture of Old age home. Presently it is the responsibility of state government to set up old age homes. This has resulted into poor focus on Old age home infrastructure. Hence, Central Government should engage directly. Also, private sector should be allowed to enter into this domain.
- Old age population faces problem of lack of identity. Government can focus on using their skill set and provide them employment opportunities. This can provide them income security and also can contribute to the growth of Indian economy.
- There is need to focus on strengthening geriatric department of the country. This can enhance their health status.
- With increasing number of elderly people in India, there is an opportunity to convert this potential 'elderly burden' into a 'longevity dividend' by charting out effective and targeted policies for harnessing the experience and knowledge wealth of elderly people.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. Maitree Express and Bandhan Express, recently seen in news, are trains connecting India and:
 - (a) Pakistan
 - (b) Nepal
 - (c) Myanmar
 - (d) Bangladesh**
2. With reference to the MWPS [Membrane-based Water Purification System], consider the following statements:
 1. The Union Environment Ministry has published a draft notification that effectively prohibits users from installing MWPS [Membrane-based Water Purification System], mainly reverse osmosis, in their homes if the water has been sourced from a supply that meets the BIS drinking water norms.
 2. Current Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) regulations consider 500 mg/litre—1,200 mg/l of total dissolved solids, which consists of salts and some organic matter, as acceptable though there is no lower limit.

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. According to a recent report published by Greenbone Sustainable Resilience which of the following Indian State is at the top of the States affected by the global medical data leak?
 - (a) Maharashtra**
 - (b) Kerala
 - (c) Tamil Nadu
 - (d) Madhya Pradesh
4. With reference to the Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), consider the following statements:
 1. The Bhutanese Government has decided to levy a daily ₹ 1,200 (\$17) fee for "regional tourists" from India, Nepal, the Maldives and Bangladesh, beginning July 2020.
 2. It is meant to help the government deal with burgeoning numbers in tourist traffic, which it is seeking to regulate through a new tourism policy.

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 Anganwadis, consider the following statements:
1. They are set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide a package of six services.
 2. The aim of the ICDS scheme is to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition.
- 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. Velutheeyam, recently seen in news is an alloy of tin and:
- (a) Aluminium**
(b) Copper
(c) Iron
(d) None of the above
7. With reference to the DefExpo-2020, consider the following statements:
1. It is a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence is being held for the first time in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
 2. The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and the focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.
- 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
8. With reference to the "Udyanotsav" of Rashtrapati Bhavan, consider the following statements:
1. The Mughal Gardens are a blend of the Mughal and English style of gardening and is inspired by the Charbagh style.
 2. Charbagh is a Persian/Islamic quadrilateral garden layout based on the three gardens of Paradise mentioned in the Qur'an.
- 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
9. With reference to the report by World Health Organization (WHO) on cancer, consider the following statements:
1. Globally in 2018, there were 9.6 million cancer deaths, out of which the most were due to stomach cancer.
 2. In India, the most common type of cancer is lung cancer.
- 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