

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**Gender Gap In Science**

February 11 was the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, established by the United Nations to promote equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

About:

- According to a 2018 fact sheet prepared by UNESCO on women in science, just 28.8% of researchers are women. It defines researchers as “professionals engaged in the conception or creation of new knowledge”. In India, this drops to 13.9%.
- Between 1901 and 2019, 334 Nobel Prizes have been awarded to 616 Laureates in Physics, Chemistry and Medicine, of which just 20 have been won by 19 women. The double Laureate is Marie Curie.
- In 2019, the American mathematician Karen Uhlenbeck became the first woman to win the Abel Prize, following 16 male mathematicians.
- The Fields Medal so far has also been awarded to only one woman mathematician, the late Maryam Mirzakhani of Iran, as opposed to 59 men since 1936.
- UNESCO data from 2014-16 show that only around 30% of female students select STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)-related fields in higher education.
- In India, a 2016-17 NITI Aayog report compared female enrolment in various disciplines over five years, until 2015-16. In 2015-16, 9.3% of female students in undergraduate courses were enrolled in engineering, compared to 15.6% across genders.

GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC**Dasuopu Glacier**

Human activity may have contaminated one of the highest peaks in the central Himalayas hundreds of years before a person ever set foot there.

About:

- A study published in the journal PNAS, indicates that the byproducts of burning coal in Europe in the late 18th century made their way to the Dasuopu glacier, about 10,300 kilometres from London, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.
- Industrial Revolution was a revolution in the use of energy adding that the use of coal combustion also started to cause emissions that we think were transported by winds up to the Himalayas.
- Dasuopu Glacier, at 7,200 metres above sea level, is the highest-altitude site in the world where scientists have obtained a climate record from an ice core. It is located on Shishapangma, one of the world's 14 tallest mountains, which are all located in the Himalayas.

Thanatotheristes

Scientists have found that a dinosaur fossil, found in Alberta in Canada in 2010, belongs to a new species of tyrannosaur.

About:

- They have named it Thanatotheristes, which means “reaper of death”.
- Tyrannosaurs were one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs to have ever lived, with very large and high skulls, and the best known among them is the Tyrannosaurus rex, celebrated in the Jurassic Park series.
- The 79-million-year-old fossil that the researchers have found is the oldest tyrannosaur known from northern North America.
- The fossil specimen is important to understand the Late Cretaceous period, which is the period when tyrannosaurs roamed the Earth.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Delhi Assembly Elections**

Aam Aadmi Party has swept Delhi Assembly elections bagging 62 seats in the 70-member Assembly. The party retained power in Delhi for the third time.

About:

- The Legislative Assembly of Delhi, also known as Delhi Vidhan Sabha, is a unicameral law making body of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, one of the eight union territories in India.
- The Delhi Legislative Assembly was first constituted in 1952 under the Government of Part C States Act, 1951.
- With enactment of States Reorganisation Act, 1956 Delhi was no longer a Part-C State and was made a Union Territory.
- Delhi Legislative Assembly was re-established through the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991, followed by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 the Sixty-ninth Amendment to the Constitution of India.
- it declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as National Capital Territory of Delhi and also supplements the constitutional provisions relating to the Legislative Assembly and the Council of Ministers and related matters.

- The Legislative Assembly is selected for period of five years.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Exemption From CRR Maintenance**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said that the special lending window with Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) exemption will be open from 14th of February and incremental loans disbursed under this facility will have CRR exemption for the next five years.

About:

- This means that banks will not be needed to make additional cash reserve ratio against any incremental loans disbursed to the targeted segments.
- The window will open for six months ending 31st of July this year, but the Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) will be calculated as of 31st of January.
- It asked banks to report the CRR exemption availed at the end of a fortnight under exemptions/others in the Section 42 return, under the provisions of the master circular on CRR and SLR issued on 1st of July, 2015.

Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management

The Government of India has decided to rename National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM).

About:

- NIFM, Faridabad, was set up in 1993 as a registered society under Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- Its mandate is to train officers of various Finance and Accounts Services recruited by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) through the Civil Services Examination as also officers of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS).
- The Union Finance Minister is the President of the NIFM Society.

Related Info:

- Late Arun Jaitley – a Padma Vibhushan awardee – during his tenure as Union Finance Minister oversaw a number of path-breaking initiatives, including introduction of Goods and Services Tax, merger of Railway Budget with General Budget, introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code etc.

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

In its mission to Mars this summer, NASA is sending a new laser-toting robot as one of seven instruments aboard the Mars 2020 rover.

About:

- Called SuperCam, the robot is used for studying mineralogy and chemistry from up to about 7 metres away. It might help scientists find signs of fossilised microbial life on Mars.
- From more than 7 m away, SuperCam can fire a laser to study rock targets smaller than a pencil point. That lets the rover study spots it can't reach with its arm.
- SuperCam looks at rock textures and chemicals to find those that formed or changed in water on Mars long ago.
- SuperCam includes a microphone so scientists can listen each time the laser hits a target. The popping sound created by the laser subtly changes depending on a rock's material properties.
- The Mars 2020 rover marks the third time this particular microphone design will go to the Red Planet.

World Unani Day

World Unani Day was celebrated on February 11, 2020 to spread awareness about health care delivery through Unani system of medicine through its preventive and curative philosophy.

Hakim Ajmal Khan:

- World Unani Day is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan.
- He was an eminent Indian Unani physician who was a versatile genius, a great scholar, a social reformer, a noted freedom fighter, a Unani medical educationist and founder of scientific research in Unani System of Medicine.
- He was one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.

Related Info:

- Principles of Unani System: The Unani system postulates the presence of four humours in the body: dam (blood), balgham (phlegm), safra (yellow bile) and sauda (black bile), a parallel to kapha, vata and pitta, the three doshas in ayurveda. The quality and quantity of four humors affect the state of health and disease in the body.
- Origin: Unani system originated in Greece. The theoretical framework of Unani medicine is based on the work of Hippocrates (460-377 BC).

- Role of Arabs: The system owes its present form to the Arabs who not only saved much of the Greek literature by rendering it into Arabic but also enriched it with their own contributions.
- Indian scenario: In India, it was introduced by Arabs and Persians sometime around the eleventh century.
- Revival by Hakim Ajmal Khan: It saw the beginning of its revival during the freedom struggle due to the efforts of Hakim Ajmal Khan. He established Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College and Hindustani Dawakhana a pharmaceutical company for manufacturing of Ayurvedic and Unani medicine in Delhi in 1916.

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

Safer Internet Day

This year, February 11 is being observed as Safer Internet Day (SID). Last year, the Day was marked on February 5.

About:

- SID is an international event taking place in February every year, which aims to increase awareness about emerging online issues, such as cyberbullying, and chooses a topic reflecting current concerns. This year, the theme is “Together for a better internet”.
- It is organised by the Insafe/INHOPE network of awareness centres, that is spread across 30 countries and is funded by the Connecting Europe Facility program (CEF) of the EU.
- SID was first initiated in 2004, and is as part of the EU’s ‘Better Internet for Kids’ policy. The SID initiative is now recognised in around 150 countries worldwide.
- To expand the initiative’s reach, Safer Internet Day Committees were introduced in 2009. In India, the New Delhi-based NGO DISC (Developing Internet Safe Community) Foundation is the SID Committee.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: The term ‘governance’, ‘good governance’ and ‘ethical governance’ though looks similar, yet signifies different idea. In this background, differentiate the above-mentioned terms in light of governance structure in India.

Ans:

The term ‘governance’, ‘good governance’ and ‘ethical governance’ appears to be used interchangeably and are intrinsically interlinked. Yet, each of them signify different meaning in their own sense. The same are discussed below with help of examples.

- The term ‘governance’ is defined as follows:
 - It is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs.
 - It is also the process through which various stakeholders articulate their interest, exercises their rights and mediate their differences.
 - Many times it is defined as interface between the government and those governed. For ex.- delivery of public services like food, education, health.
- In this context, 2nd ARC suggested various measures to improve governance, therefore the word ‘good governance’ implies:
 - Responsive, accountable, sustainable and efficient administration at all levels.
 - Further, transparency, accountability, rule of law, principle of subsidiarity and citizen first form basics of good governance. For ex.- delivery of services like PDS shall be quick, devoid of middlemen, reach even the most marginalised at minimum cost.
- Whereas, the concept of ‘ethical governance’ is value laden, it means:
 - Administrative procedures and policies shall fulfil criteria of ethical handling of public affairs.
 - Utilitarian approach (Bentham’s approach) is followed to serve maximum good and difference between ethical-legal is handled appropriately.
- Hence, governance shall be good as well as ethical.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

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| <p>1. With reference to the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM), consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. The Government of India has recently decided to rename National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM).</p> | <p>2. The Union Finance Minister is the President of the NIFM Society.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> |
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2. With reference to the Safer Internet Day (SID) 2020, consider the following statements:
1. This year, February 5 is being observed as Safer Internet Day (SID).
 2. The theme is "Together for a better internet".
- 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. What is SuperCam, recently seen in news?
- (a) **Laser-toting robot used for studying mineralogy in Mars**
(b) Cryptocurrency of Venezuela
(c) Recently found dwarf planet
(d) None of the above
4. With reference to the rainfall in India, consider the following statements:
1. Rainfall is excess when it is 20-59% higher than normal for the period, and large excess when it is over 60% higher than normal.
 2. Mizoram recorded the highest departure, at 296% above normal between December 2019 and January 2020.
- 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. Consider the following statements:
1. February 11 was the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, established by the United Nations to promote equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.
 2. According to a 2018 fact sheet prepared by UNESCO on women in science, just 28.8% of researchers are women.
- 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. Scientists have found that a dinosaur fossil 'Thanatotheristes', in:
- (a) **Canada**
(b) Mexico
(c) Algeria
(d) Egypt
7. With reference to the exemption from the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) maintenance, consider the following statements:
1. The special lending window with Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) exemption will be open from 14th of February and incremental loans disbursed under this facility will have CRR exemption for the next five years.
 2. The banks will not be needed to make additional cash reserve ratio against any incremental loans disbursed to the targeted segments.
- 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 World Unani Day, consider the following statements:
1. It is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan.
 2. Hakim Ajmal Khan established Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College and Hindustani Dawakhana a pharmaceutical company for manufacturing of Ayurvedic and Unani medicine in Delhi in 1916.
- 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. Which one of the following is the highest-altitude site in the world where scientists have obtained a climate record from an ice core?
- (a) **Dasuopu Glacier**
(b) Siachen Glacier
(c) Pine Island Glacier
(d) Canada Glacier
10. With reference to the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, consider the following statements:
1. The Delhi Legislative Assembly was first constituted in 1950.
 2. Delhi Legislative Assembly was re-established through the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991.
- 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