

**GOVERNANCE****NPR and Census 2021**

The office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) has said the schedule or the questionnaire of the National Population Register (NPR) is “being finalised” and the information about the expected date of first phase of Census 2021 is “not available.”

- The first phase of Census 2021 and updating of the NPR were postponed indefinitely until further orders on 25th March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- As many as 13 States and Union Territories have opposed the update of the NPR due to its link with the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA).

**Key Points****National Population Register:**

- NPR is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country. Its objective is to have a comprehensive identity database of people residing in the country.
- A usual resident for the purposes of NPR is a person who has resided in a place for six months or more, and intends to reside there for another six months or more.
- The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015.
- It is generated through house-to-house enumeration during the “house-listing” phase of the census, which is held once in 10 years.
- The last census was in 2011, and the next was scheduled for 2021.

**NPR vs Census:****Objective:**

- The census involves a detailed questionnaire - there were 29 items to be filled up in the 2011 census - aimed at eliciting the particulars of every person, including age, sex, marital status, children, occupation, birthplace, mother tongue, religion, disability and whether they belonged to any Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.
- On the other hand, the NPR collects basic demographic data and biometric particulars.

**Legal Basis:**

- The census is legally backed by the Census Act, 1948.
- The NPR is a mechanism outlined in a set of rules framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

**NPR and NRC:**

- According to the Citizenship Rules framed in 2003, the NPR is the first step towards compilation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) or NRC.
- Section 14A was inserted in the Citizenship Act, 1955, in 2004, providing for the compulsory registration of every citizen of India and the issue of a “national identity card” to him or her. It also said the Central government may maintain a “National Register of Indian Citizens”.
- The Registrar General India shall act as the “National Registration Authority” (and will function as the Registrar General of Citizen Registration).
- The Registrar General is also the country’s Census Commissioner.
- After a list of residents is created (i.e. NPR), a nationwide NRC could go about verifying the citizens from that list.
- Recently, NRC for Assam was prepared.

**Concerns:**

- Some States such as West Bengal and Rajasthan have objected to additional questions to be asked in the fresh NPR such as “date and place of birth of father and mother, last place of residence and mother tongue”.
- There are apprehensions and fears that the CAA 2019, followed by a country-wide NRC, will benefit non-Muslims excluded from the proposed citizens’ register, while excluded Muslims will have to prove their citizenship.
- The CAA 2019 allows citizenship on basis of religion to six undocumented communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December, 2014.
- Six Communities are: Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians.

**Government’s Stand:**

- The government has denied that the CAA and the NRC are linked.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed a parliamentary panel earlier this year that there was a need to update the NPR to “incorporate the changes due to birth, death and migration” and “Aadhaar is individual data whereas NPR contains family wise data.”
- The MHA informed the panel that it proposes to collect details on additional questions such as “date and place of birth of parents” in the NPR to “facilitate back end data processing and making the data items of date and place of birth complete for all household(s)”.

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Guillain Barre Syndrome

Some patients infected with Covid-19 have been found suffering from Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS).

#### **Key Points**

##### **Guillain Barre Syndrome:**

- It is a very rare autoimmune disorder in which the patient's immune system attacks nerves.
- The exact cause of Guillain-Barre syndrome is unknown, but as per the World Health Organisation (WHO), GBS is often preceded by an infection. This could be a bacterial or viral infection. It may also be triggered by vaccine administration or surgery.
- In the past, patients of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), Zika virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Herpes virus and Campylobacter jejuni have shown symptoms of GBS.

##### **Link with Covid-19:**

- The immune system, in an attempt to kill the coronavirus, accidentally starts attacking its own peripheral nervous system.
- The peripheral nervous system is a network of nerves that lead from the brain and spinal cord (i.e. central nervous system) to different parts of the body. Attacking them can affect limb functions.
- An interval of 5-10 days is noticed between onset of GBS symptoms and Covid-19 infection, but some doctors say it can also take weeks after Covid-19 infection for a person to develop GBS.

##### **Symptoms:**

- Weakness or tingling sensations, which usually start in the legs, and can spread to the arms and face.
- Difficulty with facial movements, including speaking, chewing or swallowing.
- Double vision, rapid heart rate, low or high blood pressure.

##### **Complication:**

- There could be respiratory failure as the worst outcome, or weakness and effect on walking and limb movement.

##### **Treatment:**

- Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG).
- Plasma therapy.

##### **Campylobacter jejuni**

- Campylobacteriosis is an infection by the Campylobacter bacteria. It is more commonly known as C. jejuni. It is among the most common bacterial infections of humans, often a foodborne illness. It produces bloody diarrhea or dysentery syndrome, mostly including cramps, fever and pain.

##### **Herpes Virus**

Herpes results from infection with the herpes simplex virus (HSV). It causes sores or blisters to form in or around the mouth or genitals, as well as other symptoms such as fever and fatigue.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### Global Coalition Against HIV

Recently, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally addressed the Ministerial meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) for Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Prevention.

- It was hosted by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on behalf of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC).

#### **Key Notes**

##### **Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC):**

- It is a global coalition of United Nations Member States, donors, civil society organizations which was established in the year 2017 to support global efforts to accelerate HIV prevention.
- Membership: It includes the 25 highest HIV burden countries, UNAIDS Cosponsors, donors, civil society and private sector organizations.

- Goal: To strengthen and sustain political commitment for primary prevention by setting a common agenda among key policy-makers, funders and programme implementers.

**Significance of the Conference:**

- The conference this year holds significance in achieving the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) commitment to end Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) by 2030.
- Member States of the GPC had agreed to reduce new adult HIV infections by 75% at the end of 2020 from 2010 levels.

**India at the Conference:**

- Acknowledged that Global AIDS response has shown remarkable success in reducing new infections, improving access to prevention services for key population and treatment services for People Living with HIV (PLHIV), reducing AIDS related mortality, enabling reduction in mother to child transmission of HIV and creating an enabling environment.
- GPC has shown to the world a model where multiple stakeholders can come together and work cohesively towards a common goal.
- Observed that the global AIDS response in general has been a fountainhead of innovative service delivery models with rich civil society involvement and cross learning.

**India Against HIV:****India's unique HIV prevention model:**

- Aim: To provide outreach, service delivery, counselling & testing and ensuring linkages to HIV care
- Centered around the concept of Social Contracting through which the Targeted Interventions (TI) programme is implemented.
- Protected the gains made in HIV during Covid-19 by taking swift and timely action to reach out to the last mile with a robust implementation plan for Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARV) dispensation.
- Advisories and guidance notes were issued by National Aids Control Organization (NACO) from time to time aligned with global guidelines in the context.
- Revamped its Targeted Intervention (TI) programme to focus on hard-to-reach populations to keep its commitments- People living in prisons and other closed settings were considered as priority populations and interventions launched were gradually scaled up since 2016.
- The HIV Counselling & Testing Services (HCTS) and Community based Screening of HIV for improving early diagnosis were also ramped up.
- The coverage of testing for HIV across the country was increased to achieve the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV.
- The Test and Treat Policy: Approximately 50,000 PLHIV who were lost to follow-up were linked back to Antiretroviral Treatment services through Mission SAMPARK, while Viral Load Testing facilities have been scaled up from the existing ten public sector labs to 64 labs across the country.
- Enacted The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 which has provided a legal and enabling framework for safeguarding the human rights of the infected and affected populations.

**Project Sunrise**

- A new initiative called 'Project Sunrise' was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016, to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in north-eastern states in India, especially among people injecting drugs.

**Helping the world:**

- India's provision of generic (ARV) to the world has had a critical impact in controlling the HIV epidemic.
- India is ready to extend its unique HIV prevention model to the rest of the world by tailoring the intervention as per local settings.

**Other international initiatives against AIDS:**

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)
- Founded in 2002, it is a partnership organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS****India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit**

Recently, the Prime Ministers of India and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg have held the first-ever India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit.

- Both countries have cordial and friendly relations for over more than seven decades since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948.

### **Key Points**

#### **Focus Areas:**

- Strengthening India-Luxembourg relationship in the post-Covid-19 world, especially in the areas of financial technology, green financing, space applications, digital innovations and start-ups.

#### **Promote Multilateralism:**

- Strengthen cooperation on realising effective multilateralism and combating global challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic, terrorism and climate change.
- New Initiatives:
- India welcomed Luxembourg's announcement to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and also invited it to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

#### **Agreements Signed at the Summit:**

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India International Exchange (India INX) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange.
- MoU between State Bank of India (SBI) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange.
- Both these provide for cooperation in financial services, industry maintenance of orderly markets in securities, ESG (environmental, social and governance) and green finance in the local market.

#### **MoU between Invest India and Luxinnovation.**

- It provides for support and development of mutual business cooperation, including promotion and facilitation of inbound FDI, coming from or proposed by Indian and Luxembourgish investors.

### **India-Luxembourg Relations**

#### **Economic Relationship:**

- Both countries have a long-standing cooperation in the steel sector and the leaders called upon businesses, including SMEs and startups, to explore further opportunities for expanding the economic relationship.
- Both nations look forward to the 17th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union to review the economic and trade relations.

#### **Finance:**

- The proposed agreement between the regulatory authorities Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) would deepen bilateral cooperation in the financial sector.
- Luxembourg, as a leading international financial centre in Europe, can act as an important bridge to help connect India's financial services industry with international markets and reach European and global investors.

#### **Space and Digital Cooperation:**

- Both countries have an ongoing space cooperation, including in the domain of satellite broadcasting and communications.
- Luxembourg based space companies have started utilising the services of India for launching their satellites into space.
- In November 2020, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C49 mission, which included 4 satellites from Luxembourg.
- A cooperation instrument in the area of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes is currently under discussion between the two Governments.
- In the wake of the pandemic, both India and Luxembourg are promoting digitalisation through the "Digital India" programme and the "Digital Luxembourg" initiative respectively and agree to explore convergences between the two initiatives.

#### **Higher Education and Research:**

- Indian National Brain Research Centre and the Luxembourg Institute of Health and the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine have an ongoing collaboration in the field of neurodegenerative diseases.

- Neurodegenerative diseases are a heterogeneous group of disorders that are characterised by the progressive degeneration of the structure and function of the central nervous system or peripheral nervous system.
- Examples: Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.
- IITs in Bombay, Kanpur and Madras and the National Law School of India have links with the University of Luxembourg which will be further expanded for higher education and research in both countries.

**Culture and People-to-people Ties:**

- In 2019, Luxembourg issued a commemorative stamp to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Both countries intend to conclude a Migration and Mobility agreement to further strengthen mobility as well as an agreement on an exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and official/service passports.

**EU-India Relations:**

- In July 2020, a virtual summit between India and the European Union (EU) was held, where India expressed support for further intensification of the India-EU relationship, through strengthening cooperation in areas of common interest in the Indo-Pacific region, and through comprehensive, sustainable and rules-based connectivity.
- Luxembourg, as one of the founding members of the EU, has played a constructive role in supporting stronger India-EU ties, which becomes even more important for the post-Covid-19 economic recovery.

**Multilateral Cooperation:**

- Luxembourg welcomed India's election to a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the term 2021-2022 and reiterated its support for the reforms in the UN Security Council, including its expansion in both categories of permanent and non-permanent membership. It supports India's candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council.
- Luxembourg supported India's entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and India's participation in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- India supports Luxembourg's candidatures to the UN Human Rights Council for the term 2022-2024.
- Both condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agree on the need for continued cooperation to support international efforts at the UN and at forums like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to prevent and combat terrorism.

**Way Forward**

The first stand-alone Summit between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades marks a new phase in the bilateral relations where both countries reaffirmed their commitment towards widening and deepening the spectrum of the bilateral relations and enhancing consultation and coordination in regional and multilateral fora on matters of mutual and global interest.

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM****Lilavati Award-2020**

Recently, the Union Minister of Education virtually launched the Lilavati Award-2020.

**Key Points****About:**

- The award has been named after the 12th century book called "Lilavati". The book was written by the mathematician Bhaskara II.
- Lilavati was the daughter of Indian Mathematician Bhaskara II.
- It is AICTE's (All India Council for Technical Education) Innovative education program to empower women.
- All the stakeholders (especially the girl students) in AICTE approved institutions would get an opportunity to present a solution to the prevalent issues of gender discrimination, such as illiteracy, unemployment, economic and nutritional disparities, maternal mortality, human rights, etc.

**Theme: Women Empowerment**

- Objective: To create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women.

- Areas Covered: Women's health, self defense, sanitation, literacy, entrepreneurship and legal awareness.
- Benefit: Ensures the participation of women and enables them to hold higher positions in educational institutions.
- Prize: In each sub-category, the top three winners will be awarded with certificates as well as prize money. The first prize winner will get Rs 1 lakh, the second winner will get Rs 75,000 and the third winner will get Rs 50,000.

**Other government initiatives for the welfare of girl child and women:**

- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana: It is a small saving scheme under the Government of India which focuses on encouraging the parents of the female child for building a fund for their future education and marriage expenses.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: The scheme is aimed at promoting gender equality and the significance of educating girls.
- CBSE Udaan: It is aimed at promoting girl education and addressing the issue of lowering of girl enrollment rates in engineering colleges in the nation. It is going to provide a platform for empowerment of girl students and will provide better learning opportunities for them.
- Smart India Hackathon: It is a nationwide initiative to provide students (with a minimum one woman in the team of six) a platform to solve some of the pressing problems of daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns “The caste-based discrimination in India is different from the racial discrimination in the USA”. Evaluate. (250 Words)**

Ans:

India's caste system is the world's one of the longest surviving vertical social hierarchies. It encompasses a complex ordering of social groups on the basis of descent.

- The groups at the bottom like untouchables or Dalits are considered ‘lesser human beings’, ‘impure’ and ‘polluting’ to other caste groups, it involves massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- Racial discrimination occurs when a person is treated less favourably, or not given the same opportunities, as others in a similar situation, because of their race, the country where they were born, their ethnic origin or their skin colour.

**Factors Behind Discrimination**

**Caste Based Discrimination**

- Sense of caste prestige: Feeling of own caste superiority over other castes is the main factor. It is people’s strong desire to enhance caste prestige. Members of a particular caste or sub-caste have the tendency of developing loyalty to their own caste.
- Caste endogamy: Caste endogamy refers to marriage within the same caste. Caste endogamy is therefore responsible for the emergence of the feeling of casteism.
- Belief in religious dogmas: Due to illiteracy, people are governed by belief in religious dogmas, blind beliefs and superstitions. Due to the practice of ‘Jati Dharma’ they take interest in their own caste. It leads to caste feeling and casteism.
- Social distance: Especially in rural areas, people belonging to the higher caste maintain social distance from the lower castes.
- Dalits in rural villages are forbidden in Hindu temples and disallowed with their shoes on in higher-caste neighborhoods.
- They maintain it through different restrictions like inter-caste marriages, Inter-dinning etc.
- The ideology of an individual is associated with his caste norms and values. This has given rise to casteism.

**Racial discrimination in US**

- Trans-Atlantic slave trade: The European colonies imported African slaves to US, for making plantation agriculture in the Americas profitable. It led to poor economic conditions of the blacks which persists even today.
- Systematized racism: European Americans who participated in the slave industry tried to justify their economic exploitation of black people by creating a "scientific" theory of white superiority and black inferiority.

- Segregation of population: Cultural and political segregation of the public space continues to occur despite anti-segregation laws.
- Financial distress: Despite the emancipation of slavery system the black population faces severe problems in gaining employment and attaining standard of living.
- Law enforcement: Prejudiced law enforcement officials are often seen violating legal norms and being discriminatory towards black population.

#### Legal Measures

- Article 17 of the constitution abolished the practice of untouchability and made its practice a punishable offence.
- The legislations focused on the discrimination and oppression of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These include:
  - The Untouchability Offences Act of 1955 (renamed to The Protection of Civil Liberties Act) was enacted which provided penalties for preventing a person from entering a place of worship or from taking water from a tank or well.
  - The Scheduled Castes And the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- The United Nations (UN) has declared 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- After the American civil war, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime.
- In U.S, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in public accommodations and employment.
- The United Nations through the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaim the right of everyone to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms, without distinction to race, colour or national origin.

#### Comparison of Racial and Caste Discrimination

- Economic condition: Various data shows one-fourth of Afro-American population is at the poverty line, which is much higher than other groups.
- In India, the condition of Dalits has been extremely pathetic for centuries. They are mostly landless communities and forced to live in small hamlets out of the village.
- Mob violence: Mob violence is committed against Dalits on the name of animal slaughtering and a disproportionate number of rapes are committed against Dalit women.
- In comparison, post-Civil War white mob violence against blacks has morphed into state-condoned violence of homicides of African Americans by police.
- Racial inequality in America has its parallel in caste inequality in India even though by definition, race and caste are not the same thing.
- According to the United Nations, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), “the term “racial discrimination” shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.
- Caste discrimination is recognised by the United Nations as a contemporary form of racial discrimination.

#### Conclusion

- People affected by descent-based discrimination face significant challenges with respect to their enjoyment of human rights. These challenges arise from a variety of legal, social, and structural barriers and constructs, both historic and contemporary in nature.
- To address descent-based discrimination we must tackle the broader social norms, perceptions, attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate and reinforce prejudices and stereotypes of hierarchy, and accompanying forms of domination and exclusion that are endemic to caste and other systems of inherited status.

### DAILY QUIZ

1. With reference to the Munda Rebellion, consider the following statements:

1. It is also known as the Great Tumult.
2. The rebellion was against the land policies of the Britishers.

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 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), consider the following statements:

- 1. Members of the RCEP make up nearly two-third of the world's population.
- 2. RCEP will be the largest free trade agreement (FTA) in the world.
- 3. India is a member of RCEP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) **2 only**
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

3. With reference to Border Area Development Programme (BADP), consider the following statements:

- 1. The BADP was launched by the Ministry of Defence as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
- 2. Only the north eastern and Himalayan states are covered under the programme.

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**

4. With reference to Lonar Lake, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Ramsar site.
- 2. It is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument.
- 3. It is a freshwater lake in Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) **1 and 2 only**
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

5. With reference to the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was launched by the Ministry of Defense as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management
- 2. It is funded by the central and state governments with international borders on a 60:40 basis.

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**





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### VST : TEST CENTRES

**BHUBANESWAR, CUTTACK, BERHAMPUR, SAMBALPUR, KOLKATA**

Syllabus	No. of Questions
History of Modern India	5
Geography of India	5
General Science	8
Environment & Ecology	7
Indian Constitution	8
Indian Economy	7
Current Affairs	10

#### TEST PATTERN: OBJECTIVE TYPE OFFLINE TEST

Total Marks	: 100
Total Questions	: 50Q
Time Duration	: 1 Hour
Per Question	: 2 Marks
Negative Marking	: 0.66 Marks

- Ex. Vanik Students refers to those students who were previously enrolled in classroom courses like Banking, SSC, Banking+ SSC+ Railway, OSSC, ASO, CT/B.Ed batches.
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