

INTERNATION RELATIONS

PM Visit to UAE

IN CONTEXT: The Prime Minister recently visited the United Arab Emirates. This was the fifth visit of the Prime Minister to the UAE in the last eight years.

Outcomes of the Visit

- ✓ **MoUs Signed:** For the establishment of a framework to promote the use of local currencies (INR-AED) for cross-border transactions by Governors of the respective Central Banks.
 - On interlinking payment and messaging systems by Governors of the respective Central Banks.
 - For planning to establish Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ **Energy Sector:** Both sides will take forward their cooperation in Green Hydrogen, solar energy and grid connectivity. Both sides also agreed to increase investment across the energy spectrum, including in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve Programme.
- ✓ **Climate Change:** The leaders acknowledged the joint work on issues of climate change, particularly during India's presidency of the G20 and the UAE's presidency of COP28. They resolved to work together to make COP28 a success for all.
- ✓ **Indian Diaspora:** The UAE expressed appreciation that the large Indian diaspora continues to play a significant role in the society and economy of the UAE and further reinforces bilateral relations.
- ✓ **Bilateral Trade:** Two leaders lauded the economic partnership which stands at USD 85 billion currently, and hoped to achieve the target of USD 100 billion in trade before the G20 meeting in Delhi this year.
- ✓ Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, exploring emerging areas of collaboration, and promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Brief on India-UAE Bilateral Relations

- ✓ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established diplomatic relations in 1972.



- ✓ Prime Minister Modi's visit to the UAE in 2015 led to a slew of agreements aimed at strengthening economic, defence, security, and law enforcement cooperation.
- ✓ **Commonalities in long-term vision:** The UAE's Centennial Plan which lays the road map to augment the country's reputation as a reliable soft power runs concurrently with India's Vision 2047, which has set ambitious national imperatives, ensuring prosperity and development for all its people.
 - The commonalities in their long-term domestic and global vision have spurred the India-UAE bilateral trade, commerce and economic ties, further strengthened during the past year following the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)—the UAE's first-ever such partnership and India's first CEPA in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- ✓ **Trade Relations:** India-UAE trade rose to USD 85 billion in 2022, making the UAE India's third-largest trading partner for the year 2022-23 and India's second-largest export destination.
 - India is the UAE's second largest trading partner. In 2022, India became the first country with which the UAE signed a CEPA. Bilateral trade has increased by approximately 15% since the entry into force of the CEPA.
- ✓ **NRI Remittances:** The annual remittances made by the large Indian community in UAE (estimated to be around 3.3 million) amount to over US \$ 17.06 billion in 2019.
- ✓ **Energy Security:** As industrial and manufacturing capacity booms in India, the UAE has proven to be a reliable and resilient energy exporter. In 2018, the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd

(ISPR) and the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) inked an agreement detailing constant pricing and oil supply.

- ✓ **Technology partnerships:** India and the UAE have signed a number of digital innovation, technology partnerships, and also plans for ISRO and UAESA to cooperate on missions like the Red Moon mission.
 - The Emirates has offered “golden visa” residency permits for doctors, engineers, PhD scholars and specialists in high-end technology fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data, virology and epidemiology, and brought over the former ISRO chief K. Radhakrishnan to their space agency.
- ✓ **Common footing on the emerging international issues:** Both the countries have voiced similar opinions on strategic issues such as the US dollar's dominance in international trade, terrorism, and ending the hostilities in Ukraine. The bilateral partners also wish for a rules-based international order that prescribes and acknowledges emerging economies' more significant role in the global economy.
 - These strategic convergences culminated in the formalisation of minilateral groupings, such as the India-Israel-US-UAE (I2U2) and the India-UAE-France maritime trilateral.

Way Ahead

- ✓ The recent developments in India-UAE relations stem from shared economic visions and compatible regional geopolitical outlooks.
- ✓ The fundamentals of economic engagement, diaspora relations, and strategic convergences have deepened the India-UAE ties over the past 10 years.
- ✓ The bilateral is set to become stronger as CEPA finds deeper roots and steers each partner's policy apparatuses and businesses towards more prosperous, mutually-beneficial, and meaningful engagement

ENVIRONMENT

Climate change aiding spread of deadly virus in Europe: What is CCHF

In Context: Recently, Alert has been sounded about the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), an infection spread by ticks that has a high fatality rate, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

About:

- ✓ Europe is facing heatwave and wildfires and the rising temperatures have also raised fears of spread of viruses generally not found in colder climates.
- ✓ CCHF is endemic to Africa, the Balkan countries, Middle East, and parts of Asia. The first fatality from the disease in Europe was in Spain, in 2016.
- ✓ According to Horizon, which publishes articles about European Union-funded research, “Scientists are now warning that CCHF, which can kill between 10% and 40% of patients, is spreading northward and westward in Europe.”
- ✓ Cases have so far been reported in Spain, Russia and Turkey, and the UK.
- ✓ In India, one person succumbed to CCHF last month in Gujarat, the state that reports the majority of the country's cases of this disease.

What is CCHF?

- ✓ According to the WHO, “Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a viral haemorrhagic fever usually transmitted by ticks.
- ✓ It can also be contracted through contact with viraemic animal tissues (animal tissue where the virus has entered the bloodstream) during and immediately post-slaughter of animals.
- ✓ CCHF outbreaks constitute a threat to public health services as the virus can lead to epidemics, has a high case fatality ratio (10–40%), potentially results in hospital and health facility outbreaks, and is difficult to prevent and treat.”

Source and transmission of CCHF:

- ✓ According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), animals such as cattle, goats, sheep and hares “serve as amplifying hosts for the virus.
- ✓ Transmission to humans occurs through contact with infected ticks or animal blood. CCHF can be transmitted from one infected human to another by contact with infectious blood or body fluids”, such as sweat and saliva.
- ✓ The ticks can also be hosted by migratory birds, thus carrying the virus over long distances.

What are the symptoms, cure of CCHF?

- ✓ CCHF symptoms include fever, muscle ache, dizziness, neck pain, backache, headache, sore eyes and sensitivity to light, according to the WHO.

- ✓ “There may be nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and sore throat early on, followed by sharp mood swings and confusion.
- ✓ After 2–4 days the agitation may be replaced by sleepiness, depression and lassitude,” the WHO’s website says.
- ✓ There is no vaccine for the virus in either humans or animals, and treatment generally consists of managing symptoms. According to the WHO, “the antiviral drug ribavirin has been used to treat CCHF infection with apparent benefit.”

Climate change and spread of diseases

- ✓ As temperature patterns are disrupted, pathogens are thriving in geographies that traditionally had a climate hostile to them.
- ✓ “The ticks are moving up through Europe due to climate change, with longer and drier summers.”
- ✓ The CDC says climate change contributes to the spread of diseases in multiple ways, including
 - warmer temperatures expanding the habitat of ticks and other insects and
 - giving them more time to reproduce;
 - the habitat offered by water undergoing changes; and
 - animals moving to newer areas and people coming into contact with them.

THE DEADLY VIRUS

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) virus is considered as biosafety level 4 pathogen with up to 50% fatality rate. In case of nosocomial infection, mortality rate may go up to 80%

It produces little or no disease in its natural hosts (animals) but causes severe infection in humans

FROM THE PAST

It was first described in the Crimea in 1944 and was found to be responsible for an illness in a human in Congo in 1956

The disease is also known as Khungribta (blood taking), KhumYmuny (nose bleeding) and Karakhalak (Black Death) in different parts of the world

SYMPTOMS

Headache, high fever, back, joint & stomach pain, and vomiting

Rarer signs include jaundice, severe bruising and uncontrolled bleeding

TREATMENT

There are limited treatment options for CCHF. Ribavirin is the only known drug that is effective against it

RISK GROUP

Shepherds, campers, agricultural workers, veterinarians, abattoir workers, and other persons in close contact with livestock and ticks are at risk of infection

INFECTIONS IN HUMANS

The regular mode of infection in humans are tick bites, nosocomial (originating in hospital) infection, crushing of infected ticks, direct contact with CCHF virus infected blood or tissue as during slaughtering infected animals

Human-to-human transmission can be encountered in case of close contact with infected blood, secretions, organs or other body fluids of infected persons

WAY FORWARD

- Need for awareness programmes for people living in close proximity to livestock, people working in slaughterhouses, those handling animal carcasses for livelihood and health workers
- Training for those working in primary healthcare centres, rural and district hospitals on biosafety issues, including isolation
- Better surveillance

Peace and prosperity in Mekong region play pivotal role in India’s Act East policy: Jaishankar

In context: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar co-chaired the 12th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting in Bangkok along with his Laos counterpart. While addressing the summit, EAM said that peace and prosperity in the Mekong region play a pivotal role in realising India’s vision for security and growth for all countries in the region under its Act East policy.

About Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

- ✓ MGC is an initiative by six countries for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and



communications.

- ✓ It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- ✓ Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.
- ✓ The MGC is also indicative of the cultural and commercial linkages among the member countries of the MGC down the centuries.
- ✓ The MGC meetings are co-chaired alternatively every year between India and one of the 5 Mekong countries.
- ✓ **Members:** India and five ASEAN countries — Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- ✓ **Objectives**
 - Promoting economic cooperation and trade among member countries,
 - Enhancing cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and
 - Fostering dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest
- ✓ **Areas of cooperation**
 - The four foundational areas of cooperation under MGC include tourism, culture, education, and transport & communication.
 - It has further expanded to include new areas like health and traditional medicine, agriculture and allied sectors, small and medium enterprises, water resources management, science and technology, skill development, and capacity building.

About Act East Policy

- ✓ India's 'Act East' policy is a diplomatic initiative which seeks to enhance India's engagement with the countries of East Asia, particularly the ASEAN member states.
- ✓ Basically, it aims to promote economic, strategic and cultural relations with the vast Asia-Pacific region at different levels.
- ✓ The policy was launched in 2014 by the PM Modi, as a continuation and upgrade of the earlier Look East Policy (LEP).
- ✓ LEP was launched by former PM P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1991.

✓ Differences between LEP and Act East Policy

✓ LEP

- The main focus of this policy was to shift the country's economic focus from the west and neighbours to the booming South East Asian countries.
- Focus was to increase economic integration with the South East Asian countries.

✓ Act East Policy

- It seeks to deepen and diversify engagements through greater connectivity, trade, investment, and cultural exchanges.
- It focusses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region.

✓ Objective

- To promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.
- To increase the interaction of the North-Eastern Indian states with other neighbouring countries.
- This will be done by providing enhanced connectivity to the States of North Eastern Region including Arunachal Pradesh with other countries in our neighbourhood.
- The North East of India has been a priority in Act East Policy (AEP).
- To curb the increasing impact of China in the ASEAN region.

- ✓ **Major projects under this policy:** Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project, Border Haats and Rhi-Tiddim Road Project, etc.

✓ Highlighted importance of MGC

- The lower Mekong region holds immense significance for India both in a historic sense and a contemporary one.
- MGC holds a special place in this region as the oldest sub-regional cooperation rooted in the rich historical, geographical and cultural ties among our six member countries.
- Highlighted India's efforts in the region

- India is steadfast in its dedication to enhancing comprehensive connectivity within the region.
- He underlined various flagship projects undertaken by India. This included - MGC scholarships, the Centre for Excellence in Software Development training and the MGC traditional textile museum.
- Connectivity initiatives
- He stressed the importance of expediting projects that have faced challenges in the recent past, especially the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway.
- India, Thailand and Myanmar are working on about 1,400-km-long highway that would link the country with Southeast Asia by land.
- It would give a boost to trade, business, health, education and tourism ties among the three countries.
- Around 70% of construction work on the ambitious trilateral highway has been completed.
- The strategic highway project, which will connect Moreh in Manipur with Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar, has been delayed because of the situation in Myanmar

PRELIM FACTS

1. Bhoomi Samman Awards:

In Context: As per recent announcements, President Droupadi Murmu will present Bhoomi Samman awards in New Delhi.

Background:-

- ✓ Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister stated this event is extremely significant for Revenue and Registration functionaries of the State, who would receive the “Bhoomi Samman” for the first time in the last 75 years for their outstanding performance.
- ✓ He further said that the “Bhoomi Samman” Scheme is a fine example of Centre-State cooperative federalism based on trust and partnership.

About Bhoomi Samman 2023:-

- ✓ Launched: 2023.
- ✓ Presented by: President of India.
- ✓ Presented at: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development.

Selection Process:-

- ✓ The grading has been done on the basis of the performance of Districts as reflected in the Management Information System (MIS) of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and as reported by the State/UT Governments.
- ✓ Platinum Grading is given to the Districts which have completed saturation i.e. 100% targets in the respective core components of DILRMP.
- ✓ Nine State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors of the various Districts will be presented with “Bhoomi Samman” recognizing their efforts in achieving outstanding performances.

2. Measles:

In context: Recent reports suggest that London is at risk of a major measles outbreak.

Background: Data revealed that there has been a steady rise in measles cases this year which indicates a resurgence of the illness in London.

About Measles:

- ✓ It is a highly contagious airborne disease.
- ✓ Caused by: a virus in the paramyxovirus family.
- ✓ Transmission: it is normally passed through direct contact and the air.
- ✓ The virus infects the respiratory tract, and then spreads throughout the body, causing severe disease, complications and even death.
- ✓ Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.
- ✓ Measles vaccine introduction: 1963.



Symptoms of measles:-

- ✓ Measles signs and symptoms appear **around 10 to 14 days after exposure** to the virus.
- ✓ These include: Fever, Dry cough, Runny nose, Sore throat, Inflamed eyes (conjunctivitis)
- ✓ Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers on a red background found inside the mouth on the inner lining of the cheek — also called **Koplik’s spots**

Risk factors for measles:-

- ✓ Being unvaccinated.
- ✓ Traveling internationally.
- ✓ Having a vitamin A deficiency.

Treatment for measles:-No specific antiviral treatment exists for measles.

Prevention for measles:-

- ✓ **Vaccine:** The vaccine for the diseases is provided in the form of measles-rubella (MR), measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), or measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) combination.
- ✓ **Routine measles vaccination for children**, combined with mass immunization campaigns in countries with low routine coverage, are key public health strategies to reduce global measles deaths. (UPSC CSE: India’s plan to eradicate measles, rubella)
- ✓ **WHO recommends immunization** for all susceptible children and adults for whom measles vaccination is not contraindicated

3. Hwasong-18

In Context: Recently, North Korea tested its latest Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

About Hwasong-18 ICBM

- The Hwasong-18 is a solid-fuelled ICBM.
- The use of solid propellants in the Hwasong-18 allows for faster deployment of missiles.
- Solid propellants can fire faster and accelerate more quickly at liftoff

About ICBMs

- ICBMs are ballistic missiles that have a range of over 5,500 km and have nuclear weapons delivery technology.
- Countries that possess the ICBMs:
 - North Korea, Russia, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, China, India and Israel are the only countries that are in documented possession of land-based ICBMs.
 - Agni-V is India’s ICBM.

4. Leprosy:

In context: India accounts for 52% of world’s new leprosy patients

About:

- ✓ The Union Health Ministry has devised a strategic road map for achieving zero cases of leprosy by 2030.
- ✓ Despite India being declared “Leprosy Eliminated” in 2005, the country still accounts for over half (52%) of the world’s new leprosy patients.

About leprosy:

- ✓ Leprosy is a chronic bacterial infection which affects skin, nerves, lungs and eyes.
- ✓ To aid the fight against Leprosy in the country and to create awareness about the disease India is marking National Anti-Leprosy Day on January 30.
- ✓ Government Initiatives to end Leprosy
- ✓ ABSULS: Asha – based Surveillance for Leprosy Suspects
- ✓ FLC: Focused Leprosy Campaign
- ✓ National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy
- ✓ National Guidelines for AMR in Leprosy

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Discuss the barriers in inculcating human values in the present scenario. How socialisation can help in overcoming such barriers?

Introduction: Human values are defined as values which are related with essence of human element or human being as human. i.e. when a person has interface with other fellow beings there should be reflection of human elements such as feelings, emotions, dignity, respect etc. As a human, people have feelings, emotions, love etc. & therefore there should be mutual respect i.e. one human should respect other human’s emotions & feelings. Human is born with emotions & feelings but not with human values, although human has capability to learn human values which is difference between human & animal.

Barriers in inculcating human values in the present scenario:

- Stereotyping attitude and prejudices in the society: they obstruct the inculcation of human values such as respect for other human beings. E.g prejudices towards women in Indian society. Stereotyping view about certain caste and religions.
- Superiority or egotist attitude held by certain sections of society do not want other people to grow in their life and have socio-economic upward mobility.
- Conflictual and rivalries in society among sections and communities on the basis of certain issues such as caste, religion, region, gender etc.
- Faulty socialization: Parents, society are not promoting human values. Rather they are promoting materialistic goals, behaviour which is largely self-centred.
- Schools are important places to learn and practice human values but present-day focus of education is on scoring maximum marks instead of inculcating and promoting values through education.
- Social evils present in the society such as domestic violence, caste discrimination, communal violence.
- Lack of role models, good leaders to promote human values.
- Growing isolation and loss of human touch: human emotions are generated when there is interface with each other. There is growing individualism nowadays especially in the digital age of social media.

Socialization is a process of learning human behaviour from social institutions both formally & informally. There are three important persons which influence socialization - parents, teachers & leaders.

Socialisation can help in overcoming such barriers in following manner:

Role of family:

- Family is first informal institution to which a child is introduced. Child is considered like clay. It gets molded as accordance with environment in which child is born & brought up. Since child is first introduced to family & it is also tender age of child, it is considered as very suitable time for molding child as per values of family especially parents.
- In general, all families try to inculcate their values with their best efforts. That's why parents, relatives, peers change their behaviour when they have interface with child. E.g. parents do not want to use foul languages or fight before child (reciprocal behavior stage of moral development as given by Lawrence Kohlberg).

Role school:

- School is second such institution where child spend most of the time after family/parents. Therefore, role of school becomes important.
- Teacher, through method of reward and punishments, try to inculcate human values in children. Good behavior is rewarded while bad behavior is punished.
- Children learn human values of helping needy person, love and care for others, truth etc.

Conclusion:

“If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” – Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Children are citizens of tomorrow. Role of family and school becomes very important to make them responsible citizens as well as to make world a humane one.

MCQ

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Considered the following statement regarding Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is located in the heart of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. 2. It Bordered by Simhachalam hill range on the West and Gambheeram reservoir on the North-east. 3. The sanctuary is a tropical deciduous forest. <p>Which of the above statement is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 only c) 3only d) 1,2,and 3 | <p>2. Considered the following statement regarding leprosy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. India accounts for 52% of world's new leprosy patients 2. The Union Health Ministry targeted to achieving zero cases of leprosy by 2050. <p>Which of the above statement is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2 <p>3. Considered the following statement regarding Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).</p> |
|---|---|

1. ICBMs are ballistic missiles that have a range of over 5,500 km and have nuclear weapons delivery technology.
2. India does not have ICBM.
3. North Korea's Hwasong-18 is a solid-fuelled ICBM.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **1 and 3**
 - d) All of the above
4. Recently, President Droupadi Murmu will present Bhoomi Samman awards in New Delhi. It related to which ministry?
- a) **Ministry of Rural development**
 - b) Ministry of Urban development
 - c) Ministry of textile
 - d) Ministry of culture.
5. With reference to Measles, consider the following statements:
1. It is a bacterial disease.
 2. It can be spread through direct contact and air.
 3. No specific antiviral treatment exists for this disease.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
 - b) **Only 2**
 - c) Only 3
 - d) None
6. Recently, the third Sherpas meeting under India's G20 Presidency was recently held in Hampi. With reference to Hampi, consider the following statements:
1. It is located in Karnataka on the banks of the Tungabhadra River.
 2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 3. It was once the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **Only 3**
 - d) None
7. Considered the following statement regarding Mekong Ganga Cooperation.
1. It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Lao PDR.
 2. Its aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting between the Ganga and the Mekong river basins.
 3. Members country are India and five ASEAN countries — Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and china

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only 1
 - b) **Only 2**
 - c) Only 3
 - d) None
8. With reference to Synthetic Biology, consider the following statements:
1. It is a field of science that involves redesigning organisms for useful purposes.
 2. The modified genome of a free-living organism called Mycoplasma mycoides was named JCVI-syn1.0.
 3. It is applied into yeast to produce rose oil as an eco-friendly substitute for real roses to make luxury scents.

How many statements given above are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) **Only 3**
- d) None

9. Considered the following statement Jerdon's Babbler.

1. It is a rare bird species, which was recently spotted in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Uttar Pradesh India.
2. IUCN status – Listed Vulnerable.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements about Hoolock gibbon:

1. The species is included in the schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.
2. Out of the 20 species of gibbons found on earth, It is the only ape species found in India.

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**