

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT
ETC****Chandipura Virus**

Medical officers are on high alert after a 5 year old died of Chandipura Virus in Gujarat.

Chandipura virus

- The Chandipura virus was discovered by 2 Pune-based virologists of the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in 1965.
- The Chandipura Vesiculovirus (CHPV) predominantly affects children.
- The virus spreads mainly through the bite of sand flies and sometimes through mosquitoes.
- The symptoms include sudden high fever accompanied by headache, convulsions and vomiting, sometimes leading to unconsciousness.
- Cases have mostly been reported during monsoon and pre-monsoon, when sand flies breed.

Union HRD Minister releases Deeksharambh

- The Union Minister of Human Resource Development has released UGC Guide to Student Induction Programme called “Deeksharambh”.

Objective:

- The Programme aims to engage with the new students as soon as they come into the institution before regular classes start. The programme will be implemented by University Grants Commission (UGC).
- The programme will help new students (a) adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment (b) inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution (c) help them build bonds with other students and faculty members and (d) expose them to a sense of larger purpose and self-exploration.

Gender neutral POSCO bill introduced in RS

The government has introduced Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2019 in the Rajya Sabha. The bill seeks to amend POSCO Act, 2012.

Highlights of the Bill:

- The amendment bill provides for gender neutral application of stringent punishment, including death penalty, for aggravated penetrative sexual assault of both girl and boy below 16 years of age.
- For the first time, the bill carries a definition of child pornography and provide for levy of fines and imprisonment of up to 5 years to curb child pornography.
- Amendments are also proposed to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities.

POCSO Act: The POCSO Act, 2012 was enacted to protect the children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age.

Ujjawala Scheme

The Ujjawala scheme is the Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation. The scheme is run by Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched in 2007.

Objectives:

- The scheme aims at preventing trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and provide both immediate and long-term rehabilitation to the victims.
- The scheme also seeks to facilitate reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large.
- Further the scheme also seeks to facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

Other Laws for preventions of trafficking:

- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (amended in 1986) is the primary legislation for the prevention of human trafficking and sexual exploitation for women and girls. Further, Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) defines trafficking and penalizes offenders.
- Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018 was passed in Lok Sabha in 2018. It creates a law for investigation of all types of trafficking, and rescue, protection and rehabilitation of trafficked victims.
- Article 23 of the Indian Constitution prohibits trafficking in human beings and forms of forced labour.

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Zakir Hussain, Sonal Mansingh selected as 2018 Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows**

Recently, the General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi has announced its awards in the field of performing arts for the year 2018. The Akademi has selected table maestro Zakir Hussain, classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, dancer Jatin Goswami and scientist K Kalyanasundaram Pillai as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows.

Sangeet Natak Akademi:

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- It was created by a resolution of the then Ministry of Education, Government of India in 1952 with Dr P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman.
- It is presently an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.
- The Akademi is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of institutions and projects of national importance in the field of performing arts.
- The awards given by Akademi are: Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna), Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) and Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar.

Incredible India Campaign Wins Pata Gold Award 2019

The "Find the Incredible You" campaign (Incredible India) of the Tourism Ministry, has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019. The award was won under the "Marketing – Primary Government Destination" category. As part of its promotional initiatives annually, the Ministry of Tourism releases global media campaigns under the 'Incredible India' brand line.

Incredible India:

- The 'Incredible India 2.0' was launched in September 2017. The campaign focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of niche tourism products of the country.
- As part of the 2.0 campaign, five new television commercials were produced by the ministry, which were aired globally on television and social media.
- These are – Yoga – "The Yogi of the Racetrack", Wellness – "The Reincarnation of Mr. and Mrs. Jones", Luxury – "The Maharani of Manhattan", Cuisine – "The Masala Master-Chef" and Wildlife – "The Sanctuary in Paris".
- The campaign strategy was to shift the focus from the external experience of tourist destinations to the internal experience of travellers themselves.
- The transformative experiences was brought out in the form of films in the format of autobiographies of travellers, with the tagline "Find the Incredible You".

PATA Awards: PATA Gold Awards are given to tourism industry organizations and individuals making outstanding contribution towards the successful promotion of the travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

Lok Sabha has passed The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Why such Amendment?

- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 was enacted to provide for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the State HRC and the Human Rights Courts for protection of human rights.
- Certain State Governments have proposed for amendment as they have been facing difficulties in finding suitable candidates to the post of Chairperson of the respective SHRCs owing to the existing eligibility criteria.
- The proposed amendments will enable both the NHRC and SHRCs to be more compliant with the Paris Principles.

Highlights of the Amendment

- A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the Commission in addition to the person who has been the CJI;
- To increase the Members of the NHRC from two to three of which, one shall be a woman;
- To include Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as deemed Members of the Commission;

- To reduce the term of the Chairperson and Members of the NHRC and the SHRCs from five to three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment;
- To provide that a person who has been a Judge of a High Court is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the SHRC in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of the High Court; and,
- To confer upon State Commissions, the functions relating to human rights being discharged by the UTs, other than the UT of Delhi which will be dealt with by the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Palau signs International Solar Alliance Framework agreement

Palau has signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement. Palau became the 76th country to sign the ISA Framework Agreement, which till now has been ratified by a total of 54 of the 76 countries.

ISA:

- The ISA is an alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- The ISA was established by the Paris Declaration. It is headquartered at Gurugram, India. The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Motihari- Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline will be a game-changer for Nepal

Indian Ambassador to Nepal has announced that Motihari- Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline will start commercial operation by August, 2019.

Motihari- Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline

- The 69-kilometre long petroleum pipeline from Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal has been constructed by India.
- The project will reduce the huge transportation cost for Nepal. The commercial operation of the oil project will also ensure reduction in fuel prices.
- The project will ensure smooth, cost-effective and environmentally friendly supply of petroleum products to Nepal and will also help in tackling the oil storage problem in Nepal.
- The Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline project was first proposed in 1996. However, the project finally edged closer to reality during Indian Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in 2014.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Issues with Zero Budget Natural Farming

A dramatic policy shift towards Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) was announced in the Budget, 2019. This emphasis on ZBNF must be analysed critically and holistically.

What are some concerns?

- Cost - ZBNFs ability to reduce the cost of production and raise farmers' net returns from cultivation is yet to be proved.
- Little research has been done on these so far.
- Yield - There is a concern whether there will be more yield under this practice in comparison to chemical farming as there are varied agro-ecological conditions across states.
- As the demand for high-value commodities is increasing by the day, there is a doubt whether ZBNF would be appropriate for this.
- Training - Farmers aren't equipped with appropriate training to make the shift.
- The availability of livestock for urine and dung is doubtful.
- Farmers might go back to a system followed by their parents during pre-Green Revolution period.

What are the other measures to be taken?

- More investment in irrigation is needed. 50% of net sown area is rain-fed.
- Farmers cannot remain dependent on rain.
- The government expenditure is more on the operation and maintenance of operational dams in the country and less towards capital intensity.
- The government should encourage private investment through provision of subsidised credit and subsidy on capital.
- Farmers are unaware of tech interventions and new farming practices. The NSSO 70th round (2012-13) noted that government extension programmes have not been able to reach most farmers.

- Marketing of agricultural commodities has hardly progressed. Farmers receive a small share of the consumer rupee due to a long chain of intermediaries in marketing.
- Sale of produce in APMC-run regulated markets hardly provides solace.
- A survey says that a majority of farmers prefer to sell their produce to village traders and they receive prices below MSP for wheat and rice in most states.

SEBI opposes Centre's proposal to transfer surplus money to CFI

Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) has written to the government seeking a review of the Budget proposal that mandates transferring 75% of the market regulator's surplus funds to the central government

SEBI's Concern:

- SEBI said that the proposal would result in compromising its autonomy and its ability to function effectively towards the progress and development of the Indian securities market.
- The Finance Bill,2019 has proposed a 75% cash transfer from the Sebi's general fund to the Central government after creating a 'reserve fund' of the annual surplus. The transfer is proposed to take place after SEBI incurs all expenses mandated under the law establishing it.

SEBI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) is the regulator for the securities market in India. It was established in 1988 and given statutory powers in 1992 through the SEBI Act,1992.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**Ramanujan Machine**

Researchers from Technion – Israel Institute of Technology have developed a concept, which is described as a 'Ramanujan machine'. It is named after renowned Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

Functions of the Machine:

- The Ramanujan machine is more of a concept than an actual machine. It exists as a network of computers running algorithms dedicated to finding conjectures about fundamental constants in the form of continued fractions.
- The purpose of the machine is to come up with conjectures that humans can analyze and hopefully prove to be true mathematically.
- Typically, people provide the input and the algorithm finds the solution. The Ramanujan machine reverses the process. So if a constant such as π is fed into the machine, it will generate a series whose value would lead towards π .

Conjectures:

- These are mathematical statements that are, as yet, unproven. New conjectures in mathematics, however, have been scarce and sporadic.
- The machine is created in the hope that their idea will inspire future generations of mathematicians

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**Odisha gets first foreign post office**

Odisha has got its first Foreign Post Office (FPO) with the opening of the facility in Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar.

Functions of the FPO:

- It will facilitate customs clearance and booking of articles or consignments for foreign countries.
- The new facility has come as a boon for the customers, who earlier faced delay in processing and transmission of mails and articles
- The newly set up FPO will, initially, facilitate export. After customs clearance, the articles will be dispatched to the destination countries through the Office of Exchange in Kolkata
- Subsequently, the office will deal with the inbound as well as outbound foreign articles, once international flights to other countries operate from Bhubaneswar
- The new office will help customers, including exporters from Odisha, and play a significant role in promoting and popularising handlooms and handicraft products of the state
- From now, the FPO will process all the foreign consignments and mails booked in the post offices across the state.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

**Khaki vardi se ek ajeeb sa hi pyaar raha hai, kandhe pare sitaren chamkaane ka bhoot jo sawar
raha hai.**

An IPS Aspirant

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: Briefly discuss the human traffic scenario in India. How far is the Govt successful in implementing the initiatives which are meant for its prevention?

Ans: As per official estimates, 15 children go missing every hour in India and 8 are never found. As per the data from Home Ministry, 1379 cases of human trafficking were reported from Karnataka in the period of four years, in Tamil Nadu the number is 2,244 whereas Andhra Pradesh has 2,157 cases of human trafficking. Delhi is the hotspot for illegal trade of young girls for domestic labour, forced marriage and prostitution.

Human trafficking outside India, although illegal under Indian law, remains a significant problem. People are frequently illegally trafficked through India for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced/bonded labour. Although no reliable study of forced and bonded labour has been completed, NGOs estimate this problem affects 20 to 65 million women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage especially in those areas where the sex ratio is highly skewed in favour of men. A significant portion of children are subjected to forced labour as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, and agriculture workers, and have been used as armed combatants by some terrorist and insurgent groups.

India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

India has ratified the three protocols of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the UN Trafficking Protocol.

India's government policies

- Ujjawala: A comprehensive scheme for prevention of Trafficking and Rescue and Rehabilitation and Re-integration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitations.
- Sudhar Greh: A Scheme for women in difficult circumstances.
- Juvenile Justice (care and protecting of children) Act 2002: Act defines, a child in need of care and protection to include a child "who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into . . . trafficking. The Act establishes procedures for the recovery and social reintegration of such children, including the creation of shelter homes and the provision of foster-care services. However, this scheme only applies to minors defined as persons below the age of 18 years.
- Code of Criminal Procedure: Responsibility for providing compensation to trafficking victims is fragmented between the central government and individual states. This is largely the result of Section 357, Code of Criminal Procedure, which states that the Central Government should be responsible for compensating victims of any crime (not limited to trafficking) who have suffered loss or injury. However, it fails to note the form or degree of such compensation.

Issues in policy implementation

- India's trafficking recovery laws and policies are piecemeal and haphazardly applied moreover, Lack of coordination among the police and government agencies. for eg. the holding facilities for rescued trafficked girls often have miserable conditions and may be worse than the brothels in which they had previously been housed. Male victims of human trafficking face a double barrier to protection because not only are they less easily identified and thus less likely to be rescued, but they are also left without any recourse after they have been rescued from their traffickers.
- In 2013, India enacted groundbreaking legislation, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 which amended various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including provisions on human trafficking in India. These reforms reflect a step towards aligning the country with its obligations under the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UN Trafficking Protocol).

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED MCQS

1. Consider the following statements w.r.t the Chandipura Virus which was recently in news.
 1. It was found recently in Rajasthan
 2. It predominantly affects Children
 3. It spreads through sand flies and mosquitoes
 Which of the statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 1 and 3
 - (c) 2 and 3**
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Deeksharambh, an induction programme, recently introduced by the MHRD is for which of the following categories of students?
 - (a) Anganwadi Students
 - (b) Higher Secondary Students
 - (c) University Students
 - (d) Both (b) and (c)**
3. Which of the following is/are feature/s of the proposed POCSO(amendment) Bill, 2019?
 1. Death penalty as a punishment.
 2. Definition of Child Pornography.
 Select the correct answer from the codes given below
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2**
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Which of the following is the objective of the Ujjwala Scheme?
 - (a) Subsidized LPG connection**
 - (b) Rural Electrification
 - (c) Prevention of Human Trafficking
 - (d) Distribution of affordable LED bulbs
5. Who among the following has/have received the award for Performing Arts by Sangeet Natak Akademi?
 1. Zakir Hussain
 2. Sonal Mansingh
 3. Jatin Goswami
 Select the correct answer from codes given below
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 2 and 3
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
6. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect w.r.t the Sangeet Natak Akademi?
 1. It was created by the Ministry of Education in 1952
 2. It awards the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar.
 Select the correct answer from the codes given below
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2**
7. Consider the following statement w.r.t the Incredible India Campaign.
 1. Incredible India 2.0 campaign focuses on digital and social media.
 2. It has recently won the José Vasconcelos award .
 Which of the statements is/are incorrect?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only**
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Which of the following is not a function of the National Human Rights Commission?
 - (a) To interfere in the proceedings related to any human rights violation case pending in the court
 - (b) Protecting human rights of prisoners
 - (c) To provide Economic compensation to any human rights violation victim**
 - (d) Promoting research in the field of human rights
9. Who can be appointed as the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission?
 - (a) Any sitting judge of the Supreme Court
 - (b) Any retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court**
 - (c) Any retired Judge of the Supreme Court
 - (d) Retired Chief Justice of any High Court
10. Which of the following country is the newest member in the International Solar Alliance?
 - (a) Haiti
 - (b) Jamaica
 - (c) Martinique
 - (d) Palau**