

**INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY****Kakinada Hope Island**

The project named “Development of Kakinada Hope Island, Konaseema (Andhra Pradesh) as World Class Coastal & Eco Tourism Circuit” which was sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been completed.

**About Hope Island**

- It is tadpole shaped island formed 200 years ago by sand formation in the East Godavari district.
- It is situated 10 km from Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and Sri Kukkuteswara Swamy Temple.

**Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

- The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as a Central Sector Scheme in 2014-15 with the objective of improving connectivity and infrastructure of tourism destinations to enrich overall tourist experience, enhance livelihood and employment opportunities and to attract domestic as well as foreign tourists to the destinations.

**CONSTITUTION AND POLITY****Human Rights Bill cleared amid protests**

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed in the Rajya Sabha amid criticism from the Opposition. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 amends the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993

**Highlights of the bill:**

- The bill provides that besides a former chief justice of India, as is the current requirement, a former Supreme Court judge can also become the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairperson.
- Similarly, a former high court judge can also become a state human rights commission chairperson besides a high court chief
- The bill also provides for including the chairpersons of the National Commission for Backward Classes, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- Further, the bill provides for a reduction in the tenure of chairpersons of national and state human rights bodies to three years from the current five years.
- The bill also provides for increasing the Members of the Commission from two to three of which, one shall be a woman.

**Criticism:** The bill has been criticised by Opposition on the grounds that it gives discretionary powers to the government to appoint the chairperson of the NHRC. Further, it was criticised as it reduced the tenure of chairpersons of national and state human rights bodies from five years to three years

**NHRC:** The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 was enacted to provide for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and the Human Rights Courts for protection of human rights.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****South Africa's carbon tax: Aim to ensure zero waste to landfill**

South Africa has recently introduced a carbon tax. The carbon tax aims to reduce 34% carbon emissions by 2020 and 42% emissions by 2025. The carbon tax also seeks to ensure zero waste to landfill and boost investments for low carbon alternatives.

**Carbon Tax:**

- A carbon tax is a type of carbon pricing. A carbon tax directly sets a price on carbon by defining a tax rate on greenhouse gas emissions or on the carbon content of fossil fuels.
- Another form of carbon pricing is the emissions trading systems (ETS), also referred to as the cap-and-trade system. ETS caps the total level of greenhouse gas emissions and allows those industries with low emissions to sell their extra allowances to larger emitters.

### **Britain calls for European naval mission in Strait of Hormuz to counter Iran's 'piracy'**

Britain has announced plans to develop and deploy a Europe-led naval maritime protection mission to safeguard shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. This decision was taken after Iran had seized a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz. UK has accused Iran for an act of state piracy that must be met with a coordinated international reaction. However, Iranian officials have said that the oil tanker was seized in response to Britain's role in seizing an Iranian oil tanker off the coast of Gibraltar. UK has also sought to put distance between Britain and the United States. It said that this planned European naval mission was not part of the U.S. policy of exerting maximum pressure on Iran.

#### **Strait of Hormuz:**

- The Strait of Hormuz is a vital shipping route linking Middle East oil producers to markets in Asia, Europe, and North America and beyond. It has been at the heart of regional tensions for decades.
- The waterway separates Iran and Oman linking the Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The Strait is 21 miles (33 km) wide at its narrowest point, but the shipping lane is just two miles (three km) wide in either direction.

## INDIAN ECONOMY

### **Andhra Pradesh reserves 75% of private jobs for locals**

Andhra Pradesh has passed the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019. This will make A.P the first state in the country to reserve jobs for locals.

#### **Provisions of the law:**

- The law seeks to reserve 75% jobs for locals in all private industrial units and factories, irrespective of whether or not these companies get financial or other help from the government.
- The law states that if locals with the necessary skills are not available, then the companies would have to train them in association with the state government and then hire them. Experts say that with this, companies will not be able to hide behind the excuse of not finding skilled labour.
- The act also says that only those units that are listed in the first schedule of the Factories Act will be exempted from the act after the government looks into each application and takes a call. These are mostly hazardous industries like petroleum, pharmaceuticals, coal, fertilisers and cement, among others.
- The act also says that companies will have to comply with these provisions within three years of the commencement of the act and will have to provide quarterly reports about local appointments to a nodal agency.

### **Govt. must reduce borrowing by divesting stake in PSEs: Acharya**

According to Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor, an increase in government borrowing runs the risk of flooding the debt market which will make it expensive for companies to borrow. He said that the disinvestment in public sector enterprises (PSEs) would help in alleviating the effects of the government's borrowing in the country.

#### **Other observations:**

- He also said serious rationalisation could be undertaken including cutting back on subsidies and programmes that are not delivering long-term growth and instead focus should be on providing education, health and infrastructure.
- He also said that the Government could strengthen its commitment to fiscal responsibility by setting up an independent fiscal council as suggested by the Fourteenth Finance Commission.
- The fiscal council could monitor the Government performance on sticking to the fiscal targets and roadmap by assessing regularly the progress in fiscal consolidation.
- The government has resorted to stretching the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) targets with an aim to aid the growth process. For FY20, the Centre is targeting to get the fiscal deficit at 3.3% of GDP.

**ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES****Madhya Pradesh government to declare Ratapani sanctuary a tiger reserve**

The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to declare the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary a tiger reserve for better conservation of tigers. The state had received an approval for the same from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

**Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary**

- Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary was established in the year 1976. It has a forest area of around 688 sq. km mainly comprising a beautiful teak forest.
- Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary has a population of about 40 tigers while the movement of 12 tigers has been reported in the forest area of Bhopal. The whole area will be combined as one to declare it as a tiger reserve.

**NTCA:**

The NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. NTCA was constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE  
ETC****Third trip in works to bring back samples**

According to experts, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) might collaborate with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for a third lunar mission- Chandrayaan 3

Discussions about Chandrayaan 3 were first held between ISRO and JAXA at the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum APRSAF-24- organised by ISRO in Bengaluru in 2017.

**APRSAF:** APRSAF annual meetings are open fora for those who have interest in cooperation in the field of space activities in the Asia-Pacific region and are organised under four working groups namely 'Space Applications', 'Space Technology', 'Space Environment Utilisation' and 'Space Education'.

**Other Lunar Missions:** Recently, there is a widespread enthusiasm and commercial interest in several countries for moon missions.

- China has proposed its Chang'e 5 mission which will be China's first sample return mission. It aims to come back with least 2 kg of lunar soil and rock samples back to the Earth.
- The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has outlined plans to send humans back to the moon by 2024 in a mission called ARTEMIS.
- Russia has announced Luna 26 mission which will consist of a Soyuz rocket to descend a lander that will engage in exploring the lunar surface
- Japan has announced SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) mission.

**JATAN: Virtual Museum Software**

Archaeological site museums under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have been digitised through JATAN software.

**JATAN:**

- JATAN is a virtual museum builder software, that enables creation of digital collection management system for Indian museums and is deployed in several national museums across India.
- It's objective is to make a digital imprint of all the objects preserved in museums and help researchers, curators and other people interested in the field.
- Designed and developed by Human Centres Design and Computing Group, Centre for Development of Smart Computing (C-DAC) Pune.
- The digital imprints (of preserved objects and monuments) created using the JATAN software are integrated in the national digital repository and portal for making them accessible to the public.

- The National portal and digital repository (developed by C-DAC, Pune) for museums of India provides an integrated access to theme based collections and artefacts (in terms of sculptures, paintings, manuscripts, weapons, coins and numerous other categories of artefacts) irrespective of the physical and geographical locations of museums.
- Centre for Development of Smart Computing (C-DAC) Pune has also developed “Darshak”, a mobile-based application aimed at improving the museum visit experience among the differently-abled.
- It allows real-time museum visitors gather all details about objects or artifacts simply by scanning a QR code placed near the object.

### **DEFENCE**

#### **Bhabha Kavach to block 7.62 mm AK-47 bullets for paramilitary forces**

India's Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket 'Bhabha Kavach' was launched at the International Police Expo 2019. The Bhabha kavach was Indigenously Developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI).

#### **Bhabha Kavach:**

- Bhabha kavach is a state-of-the-art jacket that can withstand bullets fired from an AK-47 rifle and INSAS (Indian Small Arms System). It has four hard armour plates that offers 360 Degree Protection to wearer from the front, back and either side.
- It is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The BARC's carbon nanomaterial sprayed on hard armour plate instils the toughness and tenacity needed to slow down and trap a bullet as it passes through the plate.
- This jacket was launched due to rising graph of instances related to terrorism, cyber-crime & various other kind of ethnic group conflicts have increased demand for a robust homeland infrastructure in India.

### **ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Odisha renews effort to revive gharial population**

Odisha has released five gharials into the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi- the southernmost limit of gharials home range in India. Odisha is the only State in India having all three species of crocodile — gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodile.

#### **Gharial:**

- Gharial is a species of crocodile. It derives its name from ghara, an Indian word for pot because of a bulbous knob present at the end of their snout.
- It is listed as “Critically Endangered” in the IUCN Red List. Presently, the wild populations of gharials can only be found in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
- In India, Gharials are present in Son River, Girwa River, the Ganges, Mahanadi River and the Chambal River.
- The major threat to gharials in India include: a) construction of Dam, barrages, and water abstraction, b) entanglement in fishing nets, c) River bed cultivation and d) sand mining.
- The National Chambal Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) and Ken Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) are wildlife sanctuaries in India that are dedicated to conservation and breeding programs of Gharial.
- The Indian government had initiated Project Crocodile with collaboration with UNDP and FAO in 1975. It included an intensive captive rearing and breeding programme intended to revive dwindling gharial population.

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**At first they will ask why you're doing it. Later they'll ask how you did it.**

### **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns: What are the types of disinvestment in India? Critically examine its drawbacks.**

**Ans:** Disinvestment is the process of reducing the share of government in public sector undertakings (PSUs). It is the sale of shares of the government in these companies to financial institutions, employees or the public at large. In disinvestment, also called divestment, there is no change in the management of PSUs from the public to private hands as the government still holds majority equity (51 percent). Even when the government's share falls below 51 percent, the rest of the equity may be sold in such a way that no one institution or individual holds enough stake to take control of the management. Disinvestment is primarily a money-raising exercise. The proceeds of disinvestment are treated as non-debt creating capital receipts. Though the government can technically hold a stake less than 51 percent and still be the largest shareholder in PSUs, it was not done on a large scale. This is because a PSU ceases to be a public sector company post such exercise.

**Types of Disinvestment**

- Disinvestment of a minority stake in PSUs can be done in the following ways:
- Initial Public Offering (IPO): an offer of shares by an unlisted PSU to the public for the first time.
- Follow-on Public Offering (FPO): also known as Further Public Offering, it's an offer of shares by a listed PSU.
- Offer for sale (OFS): shares of a PSU are auctioned on the platform provided by the stock exchange. This mode has been used extensively by the government since 2012.
- Institutional Placement Programme (IPP): under this, only selected financial institutions are allowed to participate and the government stake is offered to only such institutions. E.g., mutual funds, insurance, and pension funds such as LIC etc.
- CPSE Exchange Traded Fund (ETF): Through this route, the government can divest its stake in various PSUs across diverse sectors through a single offering. This mechanism allows the government to monetize its shareholding in those PSUs which form part of the ETF basket.
- Cross-holdings: in this method, one listed PSU takes up the government stake in another listed PSU.

**Drawbacks of Disinvestment**

- Government shareholding in PSUs is a public asset which should not be liquidated to meet the immediate needs.
- PSUs contribute to public finances through dividends and disinvestment can reduce this important source of finance.
- PSUs act as a check on private enterprises and safeguard the wider public interests in the market. For example, in the absence of PSUs, private enterprises may form a cartel.
- When the government goes for a strategic sale/privatization, there are chances of a PSU being sold off at a lower value to a private entity which can be against the larger public interest.



**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED MCQS**

1. Consider the following statements w.r. t Swadesh Darshan Scheme

1. Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) in 2017-18 for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
2. Swadesh Darshan Scheme has overall included 10 Theme based circuits including North-Western, Ganga, Urban circuits.
3. The Kakinada Hope Island in Andhra Pradesh has been developed as a World Class Coastal & Eco Tourism Circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

2. 'JATAN', sometimes mentioned in the news is a-

- (a) Virtual Museum Software**
- (b) Women Safety App
- (c) MSME Trade Portal
- (d) Free Educational Direct to Home (DTH) Channel.

3. Consider the following statements w.r.t The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019

1. It proposes a former high court judge can also become a state human rights commission.
2. It also provides for including the chairpersons of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the NHRC.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct w.r.t Carbon Tax?

1. It directly sets a price on carbon by defining a tax rate on greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Recently South Africa has introduced it. 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

5. Consider the following statements w.r.t Strait of Hormuz

1. The Strait of Hormuz lies between Oman and Iran.
2. It links the Persian gulf in the south, Gulf of Oman in the north and Arabian sea beyond.
3. Almost 1/5th of the global oil supplies passes through the strait per day.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

6. Which of the following states has reserved its 75% of private jobs for its local population?

- (a) Telengana
- (b) Andhra Pradesh**
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

7. Bhabha Kavach is a

- (a) Stealth technology
- (b) Bullet Proof Jacket**
- (c) Technique to deflect Ultraviolet Rays
- (d) Electrified Fence of BARC

8. Consider the following statements w.r.t Ghariyal Crocodile

3. It is listed as "Critically Endangered" in the IUCN Red List
4. It is a salt water Crocodile.

Which of the statements is/are NOT correct?

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