

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****One Nation One Ration Card Scheme**

With effect from 1st October 2019, two new clusters, Kerala and Karnataka and Rajasthan and Haryana, will join the initiative of inter-state portability of ration cards.

- It implies that people from a state will be able to buy subsidised food from ration shops in the neighbouring state.
- At present, a pair of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as well as of that Maharashtra and Gujarat are part of the initiative.
- Through this initiative, the government is laying out the roadmap for the One Nation One Ration Card system, which it hopes to implement by June 2020.
- One Nation One Ration Card Scheme will allow portability of food security benefits across the country.
- By 1st January 2020, the Centre hopes that the eight states in these initial experimental clusters, as well as Jharkhand, Punjab and Tripura, can be clubbed into a single grid.
- This means that migrants from these 11 States can access their rations guaranteed under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in any of the other State within the grid.
- These 11 States have already achieved the first step of implementing intra-State portability, where NFSA beneficiaries can use their ration cards in any ration shop within their own state, not just the shop where the card is registered.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria**

India has recently announced a contribution of \$22 million to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFTAM).

- India has stepped an inch closer by enhancing the Global Fund efforts to strengthen health systems and save 16 million more lives across the globe.
- The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria was created to raise, manage and invest the world's money in eliminating three of the deadliest infectious diseases the world has ever known.
- India shares a sustained partnership with the Global Fund since its formation, both as a recipient and as a donor.

**Global Funds**

- Global Fund (with a total investment of \$2 billion) was created in 2002 to pool the world's resources & invest them strategically in programs to end Tuberculosis (TB), Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and Malaria as epidemics.
- It is a partnership of governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.
- India has set a precedent for other donors to contribute generously to the cause.

**INDIAN ECONOMY****T. N. Manoharan task force**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the "Report of the Task Force on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans" for comments. The RBI had constituted a Task Force on Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans under the Chairmanship of Shri T. N. Manoharan, Chairman, Canara Bank, in May, 2019.

**Key recommendations of the Task Force are as follows:**

- setting up of a Self-Regulatory Body of participants which will finalise detailed modalities for the secondary market for corporate loans including standardisation of documentation;
- setting up a Central Loan Contract Registry;
- setting up an online loan sales platform to conduct auctions/sale process of the secondary market loans;

- amending the extant regulations applicable to, inter-alia, securitization and assignment of loans, asset reconstruction, Foreign Portfolio Investment and External Commercial Borrowings; and
- amendments in regulations issued by SEBI, IRDA and PFRDA to enable participation of non-banking entities such as mutual funds, insurance companies and pension funds.

## **ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**

### **Tigers in High Altitudes**

The Global Tiger Forum (GTF), in partnership with the Governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal, and along with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), is undertaking a situation analysis study for assessing tiger habitat status in high altitude ecosystems.

- The study has been supported by the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program (ITHCP) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and KfW (German Development Bank).
- Most of the high-altitude habitats, within the range, have not been surveyed for an appraisal of tiger presence, prey and habitat status.

### **Findings:**

- In its latest report, the study identified possible viable habitats, corridor linkages, anthropogenic pressures, and induced landscape-level changes for evolving an in-situ conservation roadmap.
- It also provided the action strategy for a high altitude tiger master plan, with gainful portfolio for local communities and ensuring the centrality of tiger conservation in development.
- Indian Government will take inputs from the study to develop a high altitude tiger master plan.
- Tiger habitats in high altitude will require protection through sustainable land use, as they are a high-value ecosystem with several hydrological and ecological processes providing ecosystem services.
- Also, they will require adaptation strategies to mitigate the ill effects of climate change.

### **Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program**

- Launched in 2014, the ITHCP is a strategic funding mechanism that aims to save tigers in the wild, their habitats and to support human populations in key locations throughout Asia.
- It has already facilitated 12 projects in six countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Myanmar) to better manage Tiger Conservation Landscapes.
- It is contributing to the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP), a global effort to double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022.

### **Global Tiger Forum**

- The GTF is the only intergovernmental international body established with members from willing countries to embark on a global campaign to protect the Tiger.
- It was formed in 1993 on recommendations from an international symposium on Tiger Conservation at New Delhi, India.
- It is located in New Delhi, India.

### **Svalbard: Fastest Warming Town on the Earth**

- Svalbard located in Norway is facing extreme consequences of climate change.
- It is the result of rising sea level of Arctic sea due to Global Warming.
- Since 1970, average annual temperatures have risen by 4 degrees Celsius in Svalbard, with winter temperatures rising more than 7 degrees.
- The “Climate in Svalbard 2100” report also warns that the annual mean air temperature in Svalbard is projected to increase by 7 to 10 degrees Celsius by the end of this century.
- Since 1979, the Arctic sea ice extent has declined by nearly 12% per decade, with the most pronounced winter reduction in Svalbard and the Barents Sea area.
- Svalbard’s main town, Longyearbyen with a population of slightly more than 2,000 people, it is the northernmost town on the planet and also the fastest-warming town on the earth.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE  
ETC****Shortage of Anti-Rabies Vaccine**

Recently, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked manufacturers and marketers to increase the stocks of anti-rabies vaccine to address its shortage.

- The shortage is due to lack of firm orders from government and late payments.
- According to the Health Ministry's data, India is the hotbed of human rabies.
- India accounts for more than one-third of the world's rabies deaths.
- Each year, as many as 20,000 people die due to the vaccine-preventable fatality.
- India has a population of 30 million stray dogs which cause 96% of rabies in humans.

**Rabies**

- It is caused by a Ribonucleic Acid(RNA) virus that is present in the saliva of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).
- It is invariably transmitted following a bite of a rabid animal that leads to deposition of the saliva and the virus in the wound.
- The death invariably occurs in four days to two weeks due to cardio-respiratory failure.
- However, the time interval between the bite and occurrence of symptoms/signs of rabies i.e. incubation period varies from four days to two years or rarely even more.
- Thus, it is important to remove the virus from the wound as early as possible by immediately washing the wound with water and soap followed by application of antiseptics that reduce/eliminate chances of nerve infection.

**SECURITY & DEFENCE****Declaration Of Certain Individuals As Terrorists**

Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rehman-Lakhvi and Dawood Ibrahim were declared individual terrorists by the government under a new anti-terror law.

About:

Invoking the recent amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central Government has decided to declare the following individuals as terrorists and add their names to Schedule 4 of the Act:

- Maulana Masood Azhar : chief, founder and key leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad
- Hafiz Muhammad: chief: founder and key leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamat-ud-Dawa
- Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi: chief operation commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba and one of its founder members
- Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar: runs an international underworld crime syndicate and is involved in perpetrating acts of terror

All of the above are involved in terrorist attacks in India, and have been designated as global terrorists under United Nations. Earlier when terrorist organizations were banned, the individuals associated with it simply changed names and continued to carry out terrorist activities.

**Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019**

- In August 2019, Parliament passed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- The amended act empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists.
- The amended act empowers the officers of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.
- if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the NIA, the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.
- The earlier act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act. The Bill adds another treaty to the list namely, the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).

**Induction of Apache Helicopter**

Recently, Indian Air Force has formally inducted the AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter into its inventory at Air Force Station Pathankot.

**AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter**

- Better known as an attack helicopter are received from the Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona, USA.
- Apache will replace Russian origin MI-35 helicopters that are on the verge of retirement.
- These are all-weather capable, easily maintainable and have high agility and survivability against battle damage.
- The capabilities of the AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter includes:
- It can carry out precision attacks at standoff ranges and operate in hostile airspace with threats from the ground.
- It can transmit and receive battlefield picture through data uplinking and networking.
- It can also shoot fire and forget anti-tank guided missiles, air to air missiles, rockets while providing versatility to helicopter in network-centric aerial warfare.
- It also carries fire control radar, which has a 360° coverage and nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems.
- The addition of Apache Attack Helicopter is a significant step towards modernisation of Indian Air Force helicopter fleet.

**Yudh Abhyas 2019**

A joint military training, Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2019 will be conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA from 05-18 September 2019.

**About:**

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between India and USA.
- This will be the 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.
- Yudh Abhyas will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**Let us remember: One book, One Pen, One Child and One teacher can change the world.**

**Malala Yousufzai**

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING ANSWER PRACTICE**

**Qns: Terrorism poses a grave challenge to National security. Suggest some possible steps that need to be taken to tackle this menace.**

**Answer**

In the wake of recent Pulwama terror attack on CRPF soldiers, rather than the scope for any knee-jerk or emotional response, this tragic incident provides India yet another opportunity for reflection and introspection about our management of crisis situations in general, and of Pakistan's role in Kashmir, in particular.

We remain deficient in intelligence-analysis, inter-agency coordination, and, above all, a national security doctrine. Having created an elaborate national security framework, post Pokhran II, India has strangely shied away from promulgating a doctrine.

Apart from diplomatic and economic steps that are being initiated, the current juncture would be apt for the urgent promulgation of a security-cum-defence doctrine.

Terrorism poses a grave challenge to National security by leading to loss of lives, creating panic among People; affecting Tourism Industry; decline in Foreign Investment; Damaged Economy (terrorist attacks lead to a loss of property and businesses); and imperil security of the nation .

Dealing with the menace of terrorism would require a comprehensive strategy in which different stakeholders – the Government, political parties, security agencies, civil society and media – would have an important role to play. This strategy should amalgamate political, social, economic, administrative, police and other measures. The necessary elements of such a strategy are listed below:

**Political consensus:** Political parties must arrive at a national consensus on the need for the broad contours of a planned strategy for internal security, which ensures proper integration and smooth information sharing between various security and intelligence agencies.

**Good governance and socioeconomic development:** This would necessitate high priority being given to development work and its actual implementation on the ground for which a clean, corruption-free and accountable administration at all levels, to prevent disaffection of population being turned to radicalism/terrorism.

**Building capacity:** The capacity building exercise should extend to the intelligence gathering machinery, security agencies, civil administration and the society at large. The strategy should encompass preventive, mitigation, relief and rehabilitative measures.

**Countering the Financing of Terrorism:** Terrorist activities in most cases require substantial financial support. The main planks of a strategy would involve Reporting of suspicious financial activity by individuals and institutions; Anti-money laundering measures; Capacity building and coordination mechanisms between financial agencies involved.

**Global Support:** India also needs to bring around a strong global consensus against terrorism to cut down support and supply network of terrorist. India has been pushing for Convention on Countering International Terrorism (CCIT), consensus for arriving at proper definition of terrorism, steps to curb terror funding, efforts at listing Jaish –e-Mohammad, Masood Azhar in UNSC global terrorist list, UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a common platform for action etc.

**Counter-terrorism response:** The success of counter-terrorism operations depend to a considerable extent on a speedy response by the right force that is trained, armed and equipped suitably for the job at hand. As the National Security Guard is India's primary strike force for counter-terrorist operations, it must be given the wherewithal to respond swiftly to terror attacks to minimise casualties and deny the perpetrators the ability to consolidate.

**Community Involvement:** Terrorism is violence aimed at the people watching. Combating terrorism means not only trying to prevent terrorist attacks, but also reducing the terror these create. That can be achieved by actively involving the public and winning their confidence back with regards to safety.

**The Laws to Deal with Terrorism:** The Law Commission in its 173rd Report (2000) examined this issue and highlighted the need for a law to deal firmly and effectively with terrorists.

**Conclusion**

To tackle the menace of terrorism, a multi-pronged approach is needed. In this context, socio-economic development is a priority so that vulnerable sections of society do not fall prey to the propaganda of terrorists promising them wealth and equity; and the administration, particularly the service delivery mechanisms need to be responsive to the legitimate and long standing grievances of people so that these are redressed promptly and cannot be exploited by terrorist groups.

India needs to adopt a Trident Strategy is composed of a strong political will, proactive action and propaganda machinery to fight successfully against terrorism.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ**

1. With reference to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM), consider the following statements:

1. The Global Fund is an international organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.
2. India shares a sustained partnership with the Global Fund since 2002 both as recipient and as a donor.

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. Recently, Svalbard archipelago, located in Norway was in the news. Consider the following statements about it:

1. Global Seed Vault, which is the world's largest seed storage facility is situated at Svalbard, Norway.
2. It hosts HIMANSH, India's first Arctic research station.
3. The fastest-warming town on the earth is located in Svalbard.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Rabies is caused by a protozoan that is present in the saliva of a dog.
2. Rabies leads to Hydrophobia and eventually, it leads to death due to cardio-respiratory failure.

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. Consider the following statements about Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program (ITHCP):

1. It is in concurrence with the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP), a global effort to double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022.

2. It is an initiative of the government of India, under Project Tiger to develop a high altitude tiger master plan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. With reference to the AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter, consider the following statements:

1. It can allow missile to perform in full 'fire and forget' mode and the firing range is 50 to 100km.

2. India is the 2nd nation in the world to be operating the Apache attack helicopters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is a joint military exercise between India and which of the following countries?

- (a) Sri Lanka  
(b) **USA**  
(c) Seychelles  
(d) Indonesia