

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**National Animal Disease Control Programme (Nadcp); National Artificial Insemination Programme**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) and the National Artificial Insemination Programme at Mathura.

National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP):

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for eradicating the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock in the country.
- With 100 Percent funding from the Central Government, of Rs 12,652 Crores for a period of five years till 2024, the programme aims at vaccinating over 500 Million Livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against the FMD.
- The programme also aims at vaccinating 36 Million Female Bovine Calves annually in its fight against the Brucellosis disease.
- The Programme has two components – to control the diseases by 2025 and eradication by 2030.

National Artificial Insemination Programme

- He also launched the National Artificial Insemination Programme and a country wide workshop in all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in all the 687 Districts of the country on vaccination and disease management, Artificial Insemination and Productivity.

Related Info :

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis are very common diseases amongst the livestock – cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc.
- If a cow/buffalo gets infected with FMD, the milk loss is upto 100% which could last for four to six months.
- Further, in case of Brucellosis the milk output reduces by 30%, during the entire life cycle of animal. Brucellosis also causes infertility amongst the animals. The infection of brucellosis can also be transmitted to the farm workers and livestock owners.

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Lord Natraja**

An antique panchaloha (an alloy of gold (Au), silver (Ag), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn) and iron (Fe)) idol of Lord Nataraja, stolen from a temple in southern Tamil Nadu and smuggled to Australia 37 years ago, has been brought back to India.

Lord Natraja

Nataraja (Lord of the Dance), the Hindu god Shiva in his form as the cosmic dancer, is represented in metal or stone in many Shaivite temples, particularly in South India. It is an important piece of Chola sculpture. Some of the features of the Nataraja sculpture are:

- The upper right-hand holds the drum, which signifies the sound of creation. All creations spring from the great sound of the damru.
- The upper left-hand holds the eternal fire, which represents the destruction. Destruction is the precursor and inevitable counterpart of creation.
- The lower right hand is raised in the gesture of Abhay mudra signifying benediction and reassuring the devotee to not be afraid.
- The lower left-hand points towards the upraised foot and indicates the path of salvation.
- Shiva is dancing on the figure of a small dwarf. The dwarf symbolises ignorance and the ego of an individual.
- The matted and flowing locks of Shiva represent the flow of river Ganges.
- In ornamentation, one ear of Shiva has a male earring while the other has female. This represents the fusion of male and female and is often referred to as Ardhanarishwar.

- A snake is twisted around the arm of Shiva. The snake symbolises the kundalini power, which resides in the human spine in the dormant stage. If aroused, one can attain true consciousness. The Nataraja is surrounded by a nimbus of glowing lights which symbolises the vast unending cycles of time.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY

Ladakh Under Sixth Schedule

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has recommended that the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. If included, Ladakh will be the only UT in the Sixth Schedule. Also, bestowing such a status to Ladakh would require a constitutional amendment.

Reasons Behind the Recommendation

- It is estimated that more than 90% of Ladakh's population is tribal. The primary Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Ladakh are Balti Beda, Bot (or Boto), Brokpa (or Drokpa, Dard, Shin), Changpa, Garra, Mon and Purigpa.
 - Thereby several distinct cultural heritages of these communities in Ladakh region needs to be preserved and promoted.
- Prior to the creation of Union Territory of Ladakh, people in Ladakh region had certain agrarian rights including right on land which restricted people from other parts of the country to purchase or acquire land in Ladakh.
- Inclusion in the sixth schedule will help in democratic devolution of powers in the region and will also enhance the transfer of funds for speedy development of the region.

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

Amidst mounting losses to apple growers in the Kashmir Valley, the Centre has now announced that it will procure apples directly from the growers and that money will be transferred directly to their accounts.

About

- The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) is slated to complete the process by December 15 through state agencies under the Centre's Special Market Intervention Price Scheme.
- Government will ensure payments to the bank accounts of the apple growers through direct benefit transfer (DBT).
- Since the August 5 move of the Centre to read down Article 370, the Kashmir Valley has been in a state of lockdown. Because the harvest began in mid-August during the government-enforced security clampdown, growers have been unable to transport their produce to markets.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

- MIS is implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (Government of India).
- All the agricultural and horticultural commodities for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are not fixed and are generally perishable in nature are covered under MIS.
- The basic objective of MIS is to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in case of glut in production and fall in prices. Further, the MIS is implemented on the specific requests of the State Government/UT Administrations willing to share the loss with Central Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).
- Under MIS, funds are not allocated to the States. Instead, central share of losses as per the guidelines of MIS is released to the State Governments/UTs, for which MIS has been approved based on specific proposals received from them.

Jeevan Kaushal Programme

Recently, the Government has launched the Curriculum for Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) programme designed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

- Jeevan Kaushal is aimed at:
 - Inculcation of an Emotional Intelligence.
 - Development of Intellectual Competencies.
 - Development of verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- The program has been framed for Undergraduate courses across the country.
- The Designed program is for 8 credit points and can be accommodated in any semester of the course.
- The program will comprise of four courses:
 - Communication skills,
 - Professional and Leadership skills,
 - Problem-solving and Decision-making,
 - Universal human values.

Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai

- Also, to make India the Skill Capital of the World, the Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has laid the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Mumbai.
- It will provide skill training to students who want to pursue technical education after completing Class X and Class XII, making them employable and industry-ready.
- The Tata Education Development Trust (TEDT) is the private partner for setting up IIS in Mumbai.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**16th AEM-India Consultations**

Economic Ministers from ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Commerce of India recently met at Bangkok (Thailand) for the 16th AEM-India Consultations.

Key highlights of 16th AEM-India Consultations:

- During the meeting, India and ASEAN agreed to review their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods to make it more business-friendly and boost economic ties. The two sides also decided to constitute a joint committee for this purpose.
- The Ministers noted that the two-way merchandise trade between ASEAN and India grew by 9.8 per cent from USD 73.6 billion in 2017 to USD 80.8 billion in 2018. There is also recovery of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from India in 2018, amounting to USD 1.7 billion.
- This placed India as ASEAN's sixth largest trading partner and sixth largest source of FDI among ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

India-ASEAN FTA

- The India-ASEAN FTA in goods was signed in 2009 and came into force from January 2010. Under the pact, two trading partners set timelines for eliminating duties on the maximum number of goods traded between the two regions.
- The 10 ASEAN members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam.

INDIAN ECONOMY**India Urban Data Exchange (Iudx)**

Starting with an open data platform for the 100 cities that are a part of its Smart Cities Mission by 2020, the government is planning to make a wide range of data — from health, education to finances — of all 4,041 urban local bodies public by 2024 and eventually monetising it.

About:

- The India Urban Data Exchange set up by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for its Smart Cities would be expanded, eventually leading to a “marketplace”.
- MoHUA said that the open data platform for the 100 cities would be expanded to cover 500 cities by 2022 and all urban centres in the country by 2024.

India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)

- IUDX is a research project under smart cities mission being implemented by Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- IUDX will be an open source software platform for cities, industry and researchers to share Smart City data with each other that could be monetised in the future, similar to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for bank accounts and digital payments.
- It will facilitate secure, authenticated and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms, third-party authenticated and authorized applications and other data sources, data producers and consumers, both within a city to begin with and scaled up across cities eventually at a national level, in a uniform and seamless way.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUESZingiber

Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered two new species of Zingiber, commonly referred to as ginger, from Nagaland.

Zingiber perenense:

- Zingiber perenense: It has been discovered from the Peren district of Nagaland. In this, the lip of the flower is white with purplish-red streaks throughout, and the pollen is ellipsoidal.
- Zingiber dimapurens: It was found in the Dimapur district of Nagaland. In this, the lip of the flower is white in colour, with dense dark- purplish red blotches.
- Of the two species, Zingiber dimapurens is taller in size, with leafy shoots measuring 90-120 cm high, whereas the leafy shoots of Zingiber perenense reach up to 70 cm in height.

Zingiber

- The genus Zingiber has 141 species distributed throughout Asia, Australia and the South Pacific, with its centre of diversity in Southeast Asia.
- More than 20 species have been found in northeastern India. Recent discoveries of Zingiber include Hedychium chingmeianum from Nagaland, Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis from Manipur in 2017, and Zingiber bipinianum from Meghalaya in 2015.

Cryodrakon Boreas

Paleontologists have identified a new species, named Cryodrakon boreas, and declared that it could be one of the largest flying animals.

About:

- Cryodrakon ("cold dragon") is a genus of azhdarchid pterosaur that lived over 77 million years ago during the Late Cretaceous period in what is now Canada.
- It contains a single species, Cryodrakon boreas, recovered from the Dinosaur Park Formation (in Alberta, Canada).
- With a wingspan of over 10 metres, it is believed to have flown over the heads of dinosaurs.
- The study by researchers from the Queen Mary University of London has concluded that the remains belong to a new species, which is also the first pterosaur to be discovered in Canada.

DEFENCEGolden Arrows

The Indian Air Force (IAF) resurrected the Air Force Station Ambala-based 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows', which will operate the first squadron of Rafale fighter jets in the near future. The resurrection ceremony was presided over by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa.

Background:

- The squadron was formed at Ambala in 1951 under the command of Flight Lieutenant D L Springett and was then equipped with Harvard-II B aircraft.
- The Squadron converted to the Mig-21 M in 1975.
- In 1988, the Squadron was presented colours by then President of India R Venkataraman.
- Under the command of then Wing Commander BS Dhanoa, Golden Arrows participated actively in Operation Safed Sagar during the Kargil conflict in 1999.
- The squadron was disbanded in 2016, but now has been resurrected.

Way ahead:

- In the near future, 17 Squadron will be the first Squadron to be equipped with the State of the art Rafale aircraft, which is an extremely capable, fourth generation, multirole aircraft with advanced weapons.
- The first batch of Rafale jets are scheduled to be formally handed over to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 8 in France. The jets are set to arrive in India in May 2020.

Exercise HimVijay

The Army is scheduled to conduct a major Exercise 'HimVijay' beginning October 2019 in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam with its newly created Integrated Battle Groups (IBG). It will witness around 15,000 soldiers in three IBGs, carved out of the 17 Mountain Strike Corps, being tested for mountain warfare in terms of operational viability and logistics. The Indian Airforce (IAF) will also participate for airlifting of soldiers and equipment as well as inter-valley transfer.

Integrated Battle Groups

- The IBGs are part of overall force transformation initiated by the Army.
- They are brigade-sized agile self-sufficient combat formations which can swiftly launch strikes against an adversary in case of hostilities.
- The Army is in the process of reorganising its major Corps into the IBGs, though the number of IBGs had not been decided yet.
- Each IBG is tailor-made based on three T's (Threat, Terrain and Task) and resources will be allotted based on the three T's. They are tailored to mobilise within 12-48 hrs based on their location.

17 Mountain Strike Corps

- The creation of the Corps was cleared by the Cabinet Committee of Security in 2013.
- These are formed to launch offensive operations against the northern adversary.
- Also known as the Brahmastra Corps, it seems to be China-specific Strike Corps as it is located in close proximity to China.
- These are based at Panagarh, West Bengal.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Little by Little, Day by Day, what is meant for you, will surely find its way.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. To deal with agrarian crisis, government has been adopting short term measures like farm loan waivers, MSP for crops without addressing the real causes of farm distress. Discuss the reasons for present agrarian crisis, impact of populist measures and suggest long term reforms needed in agrarian sector.

Ans

Agriculture employs more than 50% of the total workforce in India and contributes around 17-18% to the country's GDP. Compared to the 4.9% growth in 2016-17, agriculture growth slowed down to 2.1% in 2017-18.

The push to adopt high-yielding varieties, the system of purchase at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) that covered costs and offered a remunerative return, and the sale of foodgrains through the public distribution system at subsidised prices to protect the consumer and clear acquired stocks are some steps taken by the government to address the current agrarian distress.

From trade liberalisation, deregulation and a greater role for market forces to the proposal of doubling the farmers' income by 2022 and several announcements of farm loan waiver have failed to address the real reasons behind the persisting farm distress.

Reasons for Present Agrarian Crisis

- Lack of infrastructure development which includes irrigation facilities. Lack of comprehensive groundwater and surface-water management, to provide all farmers sustained and equitable access.
- The decline in investment in agriculture leading to slow technological development in the sector.
- Higher input costs: Increasing monetization and mechanization of agriculture has also increased the cost of cultivation.
- Frequent droughts and increasing vulnerability to climate change followed by loss of biodiversity.
- Lack of market interventions and lack of institutional credit availability for small and marginal farmers who do not have collateral.

Impact of Populist Measures

Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- The market prices continue to remain below the MSP in the absence of market intervention by the government.
- Not all crops under MSP are procured by the government.
- No stable policy regime of procurement and disposal of various commodities and lack of marketing infrastructure.
- Higher MSPs lead to food inflation. The MSP formula based on just cost is not followed by proper procurement policy.

Loan waivers:

- Diversion of funds for loan waivers which can be used for capital investment.
- It provides temporary relief measure.
- Lack of implementation:
- Various Price Support Scheme, Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) and Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme that were announced have not been implemented by most of the states.
- Agriculture is a state subject, and there remains a gap between Centre and States' approach to agrarian distress.

Long-Term Reforms Needed

- Connecting to market: large-scale agri-marketing reforms.
- Reforming APMC markets to abolishing the Essential Commodities Act and rolling back all export restrictions.
- Encouraging contract farming, allowing private agri-markets in competition with APMC markets, opening and expanding futures trading, negotiable warehouse receipt system, focus on e-NAM with a due system of assaying, grading, delivery and dispute settlement mechanisms.
- Investment in infrastructure and research: Supply-side reforms including those pertaining to technological improvements and water management to boost productivity in a sustainable manner. Large-scale investments in building infrastructure, market access, storage, technology and revival of the non-farm sector to absorb the excess labour from agriculture.
- Policy intervention: Need to move from price support policies or loan waivers to income/investment support on a per acre basis.
- Avoiding leakages: The money should be directly deposited into the farmers' accounts, linked with their Aadhaar number, and the information sent to their mobile phones through an SMS.
- Public-Private Partnerships are needed to build efficient value chains, especially of perishables, creating more number of jobs.
- As the Chakravarty Committee on Banking had suggested, long-range market cost of delivering rural financial services is needed. Making rural lending not just a part of 'Priority Lending' but also a business.

Conclusion: The government has been making efforts through Soil Health Cards, PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017, Kisan RuPay Card, CHAMAN Project. However, effective implementation and continuous monitoring are required to make the benefits reach its targeted beneficiaries.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS

1. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
2. Any area can be included in the Sixth schedule, by president's notification on the recommendation by the governor of the concerned region.

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 features of the Nataraja sculpture, consider the following statements:

1. The drum in the upper right hand signifies the sound of creation.
2. The figure of a small dwarf signifies Ignorance and the ego of an individual.
3. The snake twisted around the arm of signifies Kundalini power.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Paleontologists have recently identified a new species, named Cryodrakon boreas, and declared that it could be one of the largest flying animals. It was discovered in:

- (a) **Canada**
- (b) Israel
- (c) U.S.A
- (d) China

4. Recently in news, what is 'Golden Arrows'?

- (a) **Resurrected Ambala-based 17 Squadron Air Force Station.**
- (b) Israel's new anti-missile system
- (c) A mobile all-weather air defence system developed by Russia
- (d) None of the above

5. Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have recently discovered two new species of Zingiber, commonly referred to as ginger, from which of the following Indian states?

- (a) **Nagaland**
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

6. Which of the following are the members of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

1. Brunei
2. Cambodia
3. Indonesia
4. Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 4
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) **1, 2, 3 and 4**
7. With reference to the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), consider the following statements:
1. All the agricultural and horticultural commodities for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are not fixed and are generally perishable in nature are covered under MIS.
 2. Under MIS, funds are allocated to the States.
- 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
8. With reference to the India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), consider the following statements:
1. It is a research project under smart cities mission being implemented by Union Ministry of Finance.
 2. It will be an open source software platform for cities, industry and researchers to share Smart City data with each other that could be monetised in the future, similar to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for bank accounts and digital payments.
- 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
9. With reference to the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), consider the following statements:
1. It has been launched for eradicating the Swineflu amongst the livestock in the country.
 2. The Programme has two components – to control the diseases by 2025 and eradication by 2030.
- 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
10. Consider the following statements:
1. Exercise 'HimVijay' is an exercise of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police conducted in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
 2. IBG is also known as the Brahmastra Corps, which is the China-specific Strike Corps as it is located in close proximity to China.
- 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**