

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**National Security Guard (NSG)**

Recently, the Union Minister for Home Affairs celebrated the 35th raising day ceremony of National Security Guard (NSG) at NSG headquarters located in Manesar, Gurugram.

National Security Guard (NSG)

- The NSG is a counter-terrorism unit that formally came into existence in 1986 by an act of Parliament- 'National Security Guard Act, 1986'.
 - The idea behind raising such force came in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star (an Indian military action carried out to remove militant religious leader from the Golden Temple, Amritsar) in 1984, Akshardham Temple attack and the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi, for 'combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances.'
- It operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is a task-oriented force that has two complementary elements in the form of:
 - Special Action Group (SAG) comprising of the Army personnel- is the main offensive or the strike wing of the NSG, and
 - Special Ranger Groups (SRG) comprising of personnel drawn from the Central Armed Police Forces/State Police Forces. They generally handle VIP securities.
 - The head of NSG- designated as Director General (DG), is selected and appointed by the Minister of Home Affairs.
- The motto of 'Sarvatra, Sarvottam, Suraksha' has always been upheld by it with a focus on its basic philosophy of swift and speedy strike and immediate withdrawal from the theatre of action.
- National Security Guard has been given the specific role to handle all facets of terrorism in any part of the country as a Federal Contingency Force.
 - The NSG is trained to conduct counter-terrorist task including counter hijacking tasks on land, sea, and air; Bomb disposal (search, detection, and neutralization of IEDs), Post Blast Investigation (PBI), and Hostage Rescue missions.
- The NSG personnel are often referred to in the media as Black Cat Commandos because of the black outfit and black cat insignia worn on their uniform.

Operations undertaken:

- Operation Black Thunder (Golden Temple, Amritsar, 1986 & 1988)
- Operation Ashwamedh (Indian Airlines Flight-IC427 hijacking, India, 1993)
- Operation Thunderbolt or Vajra Shakti (Akshardham Temple attack, Gujarat, 2002)
- Operation Black Tornado (Mumbai Blasts, 2008)

Merger of Manipur and Tripura with India

The outlawed insurgent groups, Alliance for Socialist Unity, Kangleipak (ASUK) and National Liberation Front of Twipra (NLFT) in Tripura and Manipur, have called for a total shutdown in the two north-eastern states on 15th October, 2019 arguing that the two states were merged with the Indian Union "under duress". NLFT was banned in 1997 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and then under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).

Merger of Manipur with India

- Before 15th August 1947, peaceful negotiations had brought almost all states whose territories were contiguous to the new boundaries of India, into the Indian Union.
- The rulers of most of the states signed a document called the 'Instrument of Accession' which meant that their state agreed to become a part of the Union of India.
- A few days before Independence, the Maharaja of Manipur, Bodhachandra Singh, signed the Instrument of Accession with the Indian government on the assurance that the internal autonomy of Manipur would be maintained.
- Under the pressure of public opinion, the Maharaja held elections in Manipur in June 1948 and the state became a constitutional monarchy. Thus Manipur was the first part of India to hold an election based on universal adult franchise.

- In the Legislative Assembly of Manipur there were sharp differences over the question of merger of Manipur with India. The Government of India succeeded in pressuring the Maharaja into signing a Merger Agreement in September 1949, without consulting the popularly elected Legislative Assembly of Manipur.

Merger of Tripura with India

- Tripura was princely state till the merger with Indian union on 15th November, 1949.
- The last king Bir Bikram who was on the throne, immediately before India's independence, died on 17th May, 1947.
- After his demise, his minor son Kirri Bikram Mannikya took the throne of Tripura kingdom, but he could not rule as he was minor.
- So his widow queen Kanchan Prabha took the charge of regency of Tripura and took over the administrative charges.
- She was instrumental for Merger of Tripura kingdom in Indian Union.

Arguments of the Outlawed Groups

- Merger agreements were signed under duress by two incompetent authorities of the two kingdoms.
- Manipur king was reduced to a 'mere figurehead' of the kingdom after installation of an elected legislature and government.
- Tripura's queen regent had 'questionable legitimacy' after the unilateral dissolution of the council of regency.
- These two states' merger was done out of 'pure miscalculation' and 'unrealistic comprehension' that the then Dominion of India would become a loose confederation of states and provinces like it existed under British colonial India.

INDICES, DAYS, AWARDS, EVENTS ETC.

Third India Energy Forum

Recently, the India Ministerial Dialogue was held at 3rd India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK in New Delhi. The Indian, as well as regional energy companies, institutions, and governments, participated at the forum held under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Key Points

- As India is experiencing the fastest growth in energy consumption among all large economies, the country will be the key driver of global energy demand in the coming decades.
 - To meet the huge demand for energy, India would be implementing a healthy mix of all commercially viable energy sources.
- India plans its course of the energy transition in a responsible manner which would greatly influence global energy transition.
 - The shares of renewables in electricity capacity has significantly gone up now to 22% from around 10% in 2014-15.
 - The ethanol blending percentage has risen from 0.67% in 2012-13 to now close to 6%.
 - Also, more than 95% of households now have access to LPG, making their kitchens smoke-free.
- Three critical transitions to be addressed in the Indian energy sector are:
 - Mobility
 - Urbanization
 - Power generation
- India's per capita consumption of coal is about 1/10th of that of the United States but still, India aims to use cleaner technology for low- carbon energy future.
- In addition to the above initiatives, India is planning to transform itself into Gas Economy.
 - Natural Gas offers an option of a balancing fuel, as it has proven capability to complement renewables.

- The contribution of modern technologies, efficiency in production has been recognized for transforming the landscape towards climate justice, and a sustainable future.

World Food Day

World Food Day is observed annually on October 16 to address the problem of global hunger.

- The theme for 2019 is 'Our Actions are our Future; Healthy Diets for a #ZeroHunger World'.
- Achieving Zero Hunger is not only about addressing hunger, but also nourishing people while nurturing the planet.
- It emphasizes the Second Sustainable Goal (SDG 2) i.e. Zero hunger.
- The initiative aims to eradicate hunger as well as to address all types of malnutrition including obesity.
- According to the Global Burden of Disease Study (2017) by the University of Washington, malnutrition is among the leading causes of death and disability in India.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that about 14.5% of the total population of India are undernourished.
- The Global Hunger Index 2018 ranks India 103 out of 119 countries on the basis of three leading indicators:
 - The prevalence of wasting and stunting in children under five years of age.
 - Child mortality rate under five years of age
 - The proportion of undernourished in the population.
- World Food Day, 2019 calls for action across sectors to make healthy and sustainable diets affordable and accessible to everyone.
- At the same time, it aims to make everyone aware of nutritious dietary habits.

Global Hunger Index-2019

In the recently released Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report-2019, India was ranked at 102nd position out of 117 countries. The report is an annual publication that is jointly prepared by the Concern Worldwide (an Irish agency) and the Welt Hunger Hilfe (a German organization). The report is based on four GHI indicators namely, undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.

Key Findings

- India's rank has slipped from 95th position (in 2010) to 102nd (in 2019). Over a longer-term duration, the fall in India's rank is sharper, i.e., from 83rd out of 113 countries in 2000 to 102nd out of 117 in 2019.
- According to the report, India's child wasting rate was extremely high at 20.8% - the highest for any country.
 - Child wasting refers to the share of children under the age of five who are wasted, i.e., they have low weight with respect to their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
 - The share of wasting among children in India marked a steep rise from 16.5% in the 2008-2012 to 20.8% in 2014-2018.
 - According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), child wasting is a strong predictor of mortality among children (under 5 yrs. of age).
- India has demonstrated an improvement in other indicators that includes, under-5 mortality rate, prevalence of stunting among children, and prevalence of undernourishment owing to inadequate food.
- The report also took note of open defecation in India as an impacting factor for health. It pointed out that as of 2015–2016, 90% of Indian households used an improved drinking water source while 39% of households had no sanitation facilities.
- Open defecation jeopardizes the population's health and severely impacts children's growth and their ability to absorb nutrients.

State Of The World's Children Report For 2019

UNICEF released its State of the World's Children report for 2019.

Key findings of the report:

- One in three children under the age of five years — around 200 million children worldwide — are either undernourished or overweight.

- Half of India's children suffer from some form of malnutrition. 35% of Indian children suffer from stunting due to lack of nutrition, 17% suffer from wasting, 33% are underweight and 2% are overweight.
- Among countries in South Asia, India fares the worst (54%) on prevalence of children under five who are either stunted, wasted or overweight. Afghanistan and Bangladesh follow at 49% and 46%, respectively. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are the better performing countries in the region.
- India also has the highest burden of deaths among children under five per year, with over 8 lakh deaths in 2018. It is followed by Nigeria, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, at 8.6 lakh, 4.09 lakh and 2.96 lakh deaths per year.
- Only 61% Indian children, adolescents and mothers consume dairy products at least once a week, and only 40% of them consume fruit once a week. One in five children under age 5 has vitamin A deficiency, which is a severe health problem in 20 states.

QUOTES FOR ESSAY PAPER- Gender Equality

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved"

Dr. Ambedkar

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIR MCQS

- Consider the following statements:
 - National Security Guard is a statutory body.
 - Operation Black Tornado was an operation undertaken by the NSG.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2**
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following events:
 - Merger of Manipur into India.
 - Accession of princely state of Hyderabad.
 - Banning of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT).

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

 - 1-2-3
 - 2-3-1
 - 3-2-1
 - 2-1-3**
- With reference to the 'Global Hunger Index Report', consider the following statements:
 - The report is annually released by the International Food Policy Research Institute.
 - India's performance has progressively improved over the last decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2**
- According to UNICEF 'State of the World's Children report for 2019', which of the following country fares the worst on prevalence of children under five who are either stunted, wasted or overweight in South Asia?
 - India**
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Maldives