

GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC**Typhoon Kammuri**

Recently, a typhoon struck the Philippines, bringing heavy rains and suspending air travel. The government issued the warnings of floods, storm surges and landslides.

Key Points

- It is known locally as Tisoy and is the 20th typhoon to hit the country this year.
- Tropical Cyclone
- Cyclone is the formation of a very low-pressure system with very high-speed winds revolving around it. Factors like wind speed, wind direction, temperature and humidity contribute to the development of cyclones.
- Cyclones are called 'Hurricanes' in the North Atlantic and Eastern Pacific, 'Typhoons' in South-East Asia and China and 'Tropical Cyclones' in the South-West Pacific and Indian Ocean Region

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System” (PPRTMS)**

Election Commission of India (ECI) is set to implement “Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System” (PPRTMS).

About:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has reviewed the system and process of registration of political parties. The new guidelines will be effective from 1st January, 2020.
- Accordingly, the PPRTMS will be implemented through an online portal, to facilitate tracking of status of application by applicants.
- Under PPRTMS, the applicant (who is applying for party registration from 1st January, 2020 onwards) will be able to track the progress of his / her application and will get status update through SMS and email.
- The applicant is required to provide contact mobile number and email address of the party / applicant in his application if he/she wishes to track the progress of the application.
- The new guidelines have been hosted on the Commission's website <https://eci.gov.in>.

Related Info :

- The Registration of Political Parties is governed by the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- A party seeking registration under the said section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**NATO @ 70**

The leaders of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met in London to mark the 70th birthday of the organization.

About:

- NATO is also called the North Atlantic Alliance.
- Objective: It is an intergovernmental military alliance between North American and European countries. It constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- HQ: Brussels, Belgium.
- Origin: The alliance is based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed in 1949.
- Member Countries: It consists of 29 independent member countries. Three former Soviet states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) are members of NATO.
- Partners: NATO cooperates with a range of international organisations and countries in different structures (as mentioned below):
 - Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)
 - NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue
 - Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)

- Partners across the globe: Under it, countries develop cooperation with NATO in areas of mutual interest, including emerging security challenges. Pakistan is also NATO's partner across the globe.

Samjiyon

North Korea has celebrated the completion of Samjiyon a new city which is leader Kim Jong-un's signature construction project.

About:

- Samjiyon County is a city, in Ryanggang Province, North Korea.
- It takes its name from three lakes in the county, which are collectively known as the Samjiyon.
- Samjiyon is situated near Mount Paektu.
- In December 2019, Kim Jong-un inaugurated a completed expansion, described by state media as a "modern" city with residences and industrial parks.
- North Korea is projecting Samjiyon as a 'socialist utopia' with new apartments, hotels, a ski resort and commercial, cultural and medical facilities. The city is one of the largest economic initiatives Mr. Kim has launched as part of his drive for a self-reliant economy.

Haj

India has become the first country to make the entire process for pilgrims going on Haj completely digital.

About:

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said this after signing the bilateral annual Haj 2020 agreement between India and Saudi Arabia for next year's pilgrimage with the Saudi Haj Minister in Jeddah.
- An online application, e-visa, Haj mobile app, 'e-MASIHA' health facility, "e-luggage pre-tagging" providing all information in India itself regarding accommodation and transportation in Mecca and Madina will be provided to 2 lakh Indian Muslims going for Haj in 2020.
- For the first time facilities were provided for digital pre-tagging of pilgrims' baggage.
- E-MASIHA (E-Medical Assistance System for Indian Pilgrims Abroad), an online system to maintain the health database of Indian pilgrims has been developed to deal with any emergency in Mecca and Madina.
- A portal of Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) – <http://haj.nic.in/pto/> – has been developed which contains all the details of HGOs and their packages.

YuWaah Youth Skilling Initiative

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched the 'YuWaah' Generation Unlimited in India

Key Points

- Generation Unlimited (GenU), called YuWaah in India, is a global multisector and multi-stakeholder alliance created to meet the need of expanded education, skill development and employment opportunities for young people aged 10-24.
- It brings together partners from government, multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector and young people from around the world.
- The target age group of YuWaah includes adolescent girls and boys and its key mission is to promote access to foundational, transferable and 21st-century skills for youth inside and outside formal education systems.
- YuWaah intends to create platforms to guide youth to market opportunities (career guidance, mentorship, internships, apprenticeships) and facilitate the integration of career guidance in school education.

GenU aims to:

- Modernize secondary education and training to build the skills young people need for productive lives and work.
- Increase and improve the number of quality work opportunities available to youth.
- Foster entrepreneurship as a mindset and a livelihood for young people.
- Collaborate with youth as problem-solvers and engage citizens to help create the world they want.
- GenU is also an effective way to operationalize the vision and priorities of the UN Youth Strategy—in particular, youth engagement, participation and advocacy; supporting young people's greater access to quality education and skills development; and economic empowerment through decent jobs.

INDIAN ECONOMY**GDP and GNP**

With the news of a decline in India's Gross Domestic Product growth rate, the ruling party has offered several arguments to deny the existence of a slowdown. One of them even questioned the merit of the basic variable used to map economic growth — that is, the GDP.

About:

- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the monetary value of all goods and services produced within the domestic boundaries of a country within a timeframe (generally, a year).
- The Gross National Product (GNP) measures the monetary value of all goods and services by the people and companies of a country regardless of where this value was created.
- For example, if Apple manufactures its mobile phone worth \$1 million within India, then this \$1 million will be counted in India's GDP and US' GNP. If the US office of Infosys created software worth \$1 million, then it will be counted in US' GDP and India's GNP. It is the domestic boundary that distinguishes the GDP.

History:

- The modern-day definitions of GDP and GNP can indeed be traced back to Simon Kuznets, who was entrusted with the task of creating National Accounts in 1933 by then US President Franklin D Roosevelt. The final report, National Income, 1929-32, was presented to the US Congress in January 1934.
- However, the origins of GDP as a concept date far back. The man credited with inventing the concept is William Petty (1623-1687), an Englishman who was a professor of anatomy at Brasenose College.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**Water Contamination**

Ministry of Jal Shakti tabled data on water contamination in Parliament.

About:

- Among rural habitations in Indian states, 55,511 face quality issues with drinking water.
- As of November 27 this year, 3.22 per cent of rural habitations across all states and UTs, accounting for 3.73 per cent of the population, were consuming drinking water with quality issues.
- Iron is the most common contaminant of drinking water, with over 18,000 rural habitations affected, followed by salinity that affects roughly 13,000 rural habitations, arsenic (12,000), fluoride (nearly 8,000) and heavy metal.
- Rajasthan has the highest number of rural habitations affected by contamination overall, at 16,833. Most of these – 12,182 – are affected by salinity in drinking water, at 12,182.
- West Bengal has the highest number of rural habitations affected by arsenic contamination, at 6,207, followed by Assam (4,125)
- Assam has the highest number of rural habitations affected by iron contamination, at 5,113, followed by West Bengal (5,082).
- States and UTs that are not affected by any of these contaminants include Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS- INDICES, DAYS, EVENTS, AWARDS ETC**International Day of Persons With Disabilities**

International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed on December 3, 2019.

About:

- International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD) is a United Nations sanctioned day celebrated internationally on 3 December each year.
- The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.
- Its objective is to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness.
- The theme this year is - Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their leadership: Taking Action on the 2030 Development Agenda.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. “India needs smart urbanization”. In light of this, discuss the issues and challenges associated with urbanization in India.

Ans

Urbanisation in India is taking place at a faster rate with over 34% of India’s current population living in urban areas (UN World Urbanisation Prospects Report 2018). It has expanded rapidly as an increasing number of people migrate to towns and cities in search of economic opportunity. Smart urbanisation involves effective integration of physical, digital and human systems in the built environment to deliver sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future for its citizens.

Issues associated with urbanisation in India:

- Urban sprawl or real expansion of the cities, both in terms of population and geographical area, which has encroached upon the agricultural and forest lands.
- Overcrowding and haphazard development of urban areas which has led to annually recurring instances of floods, diseases and fire in many cities.
- Rising demands for basic services such as clean water, public transportation, sewage treatment and housing.
- The proliferation of slums due to policy, planning, and regulatory deficiencies.
- Huge quantities of garbage generated by the cities which are posing a serious health problem.
- Environmental concerns such as urban areas becoming heat islands, rising air pollution, groundwater pollution and persistent water crisis.
- Rising urban poverty, inequality and unemployment.
- Urban Crimes such as human trafficking, sexual assault, child labour etc.

Several smart urbanisation measures like Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT etc are being taken up by the government to address these issues. However, there are various challenges which impede progress such as:

- Many urban local governments lack a modern planning framework which limits effective land utilisation and cities’ abilities to grow in accordance with changing needs.
- 74th Amendment Act has been implemented half-heartedly by the states, which have not fully empowered the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). ULBs need clear delegation of functions, functionaries and funds.
- The state governments have not given enough autonomy to ULBs to generate revenues and at the same time, the ULBs have failed to utilize even those tax and fee powers that they have been vested with.
- On the ‘Smart City’ front, while over 90 ‘Smart Cities’ have identified 2,864 projects, India lags on implementation, with about 148 projects completed and over 70% still at various stages of preparation.
- Low level of urban infrastructure investment and capacity building.
- Wide inter-state disparity in urbanization levels also poses a challenge to the urban planners. An urban area that has an advanced model of technology but is badly planned, with outdated legal frameworks or lacking a good financial model, will only aggravate the dysfunction in the area.

Conclusion:

- The announcement of a new urbanisation policy that seeks to rebuild Indian cities around clusters of human capital, instead of considering them simply as an agglomeration of land use, is a welcome transition. We need to empower our cities, with a focus on land policy reforms, granting urban local bodies the autonomy to raise funds and enforce local land usage norms.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. Consider the following statements:
 1. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the monetary value of all goods and services by the people and companies of a country regardless of where this value was created.
 2. The modern-day definitions of GDP and GNP can indeed be traced back to Adam Smith.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. Samjiyon County is a city located in which of the following country?
 - (a) North Korea**
 - (b) South Korea
 - (c) China
 - (d) Thailand
3. With reference to the data for this year on water contamination tabled in Parliament, consider the following statements:
 1. Iron is the most common contaminant of drinking water.
 2. Rajasthan has the highest number of rural habitations affected by contamination overall.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. With reference to the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD), consider the following statements:
 1. It is a United Nations sanctioned day celebrated internationally on 3 December each year.
 2. The theme this year is - Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their leadership: Taking Action on the 2030 Development Agenda.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 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:
 1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance between North American and European countries.
 2. Pakistan is NATO's partner across the globe.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. With reference to the Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF), consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by the International Organisation of Migrants (IOM) in 2016.
 2. The International Organisation of Migrants (IOM) is the European Union's migration agency established in 2000.
- 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
7. Which of the following has become the first country to make the entire process for pilgrims going on Haj completely digital?
- (a) Pakistan
(b) **India**
(c) Indonesia
(d) Bangladesh
8. With reference to the "Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System" (PPRTMS), consider the following statements:
1. Under PPRTMS, the applicant (who is applying for party registration from 1st January, 2020 onwards) will be able to track the progress of his / her application and will get status update through SMS and email.
 2. The Registration of Political Parties is governed by the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- 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. Recently, YuWaah was in news. It is related to:
- (a) **Skill Development Initiative by UNICEF**
(b) Skill India
(c) Indian army's joint exercise
(d) Ayushman Bharat