

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC****Women Entrepreneurs In The Country**

Government of India informed Rajya Sabha about the various initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurship within the Country.

**Initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurship within the Country:**

- Start-up India aims to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Start-ups in the country under which 10% of the total corpus of Fund of Funds amounting to Rs 1000 crore, has been reserved for women led start-ups.
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a portal namely "Udyam Sakhi" for encouraging women entrepreneurs and to aid, counsel, assist and protect their interests.
- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), is a major credit-linked subsidy scheme to promote and set up MSMEs. Under the scheme the women entrepreneurs are provided 25% and 35% subsidies for the project set up in urban and rural areas respectively.
- Ministry of Skill Development is running a pilot project named 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women' in collaboration with GIZ, Germany. The project pilots incubation and acceleration programmes for micro women entrepreneurs to start new businesses and scale up existing enterprises in Assam, Rajasthan and Telangana.

**AYUSH82**

Minister for AYUSH informed Lok Sabha about the AYUSH82 formulation.

**About:**

- The Central of Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS), and autonomous body under Ministry of AYUSH has been engaged in extending research oriented Ayurveda based on integrative health care services for the management of Madhumeha which is Diabetes Mellitus.
- CCRAS had developed the AYUSH82 formulation for diabetes through scientific process of drug development and commercialized through National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for wider public utility.

**BGR-34:**

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), through its constituent laboratories namely CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow; and CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow developed NBRMAP-DB as anti-diabetic formulation.
- The knowhow for the product was licensed to M/s AIMIL Pharma Ltd., Delhi who are manufacturing and marketing it as BGR-34, across the country.

**INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY****Paika Rebellion**

President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for the Paika Memorial at the bottom of Barunei Hill in Odisha's Khurda district to mark 200 years of the Paika Rebellion, which is sometimes described as the first war of independence.

**About:**

- It was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in Odisha in 1817, forty years before the revolt of 1857.
- The Paikas (pronounced "paiko", literally 'foot soldiers') were the traditional landed militia of Odisha who served as warriors and were charged with policing functions during peacetime.

**Key events of rebellion**

- In March 1817, The Paiks rose in rebellion under their leader Bakshi Jagabandhu and projected Lord Jagannath as the symbol of Odia unity.
- The rebellion quickly spread across most of Odisha before being ruthlessly put down by the company's forces.
- By May 1817, the British managed to re-establish their authority over the entire province, but it was a long while before the tranquillity finally returned to it.
- Recognition: The Ministry of Culture has recognised the Paika Rebellion at the national level. The decision to commemorate the bi-centenary of the revolution was announced in the 2017-18 Budget Speech.

**GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC****Large Igneous Provinces**

According to a study published in the journal Nature Communications, Greenhouse gas emissions directly from the movement of volcanic rocks can create massive global warming effects.

About:

- The researchers said one such role in climate change could be played by Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs), extremely large accumulations of rocks forming when magma travelled through the crust towards the surface.
- They created a model of changes in carbon emissions during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) - a short interval of maximum temperature lasting around 100,000 years some 55 million years ago.
- As part of the study, the researchers calculated the greenhouse gas fluxes associated with the North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP) - one of Earth's largest LIPs that spans Britain, Ireland, Norway and Greenland.
- The simulations by the researchers predicted that the volcanic rocks part of the NAIP could have initiated PETM climate change. According to the researchers, the PETM is the largest natural climate change event of this era.

### **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**

#### **Instrument In Support Of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX)**

Six new European countries – Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden – joined to the INSTEX barter mechanism.

About:

- Type: INSTEX is a European special-purpose vehicle (SPV)
- Objective: To circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding use of the dollar.
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Established in: January 2019.
- Owner: France, Germany and United Kingdom are the founding members of INSTEX.
- Objective: It's purpose is to facilitate "legitimate trade" with Iran for any EU member and has been conceived to be open to non-EU countries.
- Functioning:
  - INSTEX functions as a clearing house allowing Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services in exchange. The system has not yet enabled any transactions.
  - In Iran, INSTEX is mirrored by the STFI (Special Trade and Finance Instrument), a similar SPV. STFI matches incoming and outgoing transactions in the same way.
  - As of now, the use of the SPV is limited to humanitarian purposes, such as the purchase of otherwise embargoed foods or medicines.
- Background:  
In 2018, U.S. withdrew from the international agreement governing Iran's nuclear programme and reinstated heavy sanctions against Tehran.

#### **OPEC**

OPEC group of oil-producing countries and their allies, including Russia, have decided to cut oil production by 500,000 barrels per day, effective from 1st January 2020.

About:

- In a meeting in Vienna, they agreed to reduce production to stem pressure on prices from abundant reserves and weak global economic growth.
- This would bring production 1.7 million barrels per day below October 2018 levels.
- Oil prices surged following the announcement, with US benchmark WTI and its European counterpart Brent crude by about two per cent higher.

#### **Organization Of The Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):**

- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 14 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- Origin: OPEC was founded in 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq by five countries namely Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- Present member countries: Qatar terminated its membership on 1 January 2019. Thus, currently, the Organization has a total of 14 Member Countries.
- HQ: Vienna, Austria.

#### **Red Tourism**

China has stepped up efforts to promote "red tourism" which features visits to sites with significance of revolutionary history of China. The 'Red tourism' focuses on the historical heritage of the Chinese Communist Party for tourism development.

Significance of the glorification of the Chinese revolution are:

- It aims to improve the education of the party's revolutionary traditions, promote patriotism especially among youth, and stimulate economic development in revolutionary areas.
- The elimination of rural poverty, along with promoting the legitimacy of the Communist Party of China (CPC).
- At the heart of China's flourishing red tourism is the Long March. It includes locations and the choreographed stories of how the founding father of Red China, Mao Zedong, and his comrades battled for the communist revolution in 1949.

Long March

- The Long March was a military retreat undertaken by the Red Army of the Communist Party of China to evade the pursuit of the Kuomintang (KMT or Chinese Nationalist Party) army during the Chinese Civil War (1934-35).
- There was not one Long March, but a series of marches, as various Communist armies in the south escaped to the north and west.
- It was a key moment in the civil war, and also in the development of communism in China. Mao Zedong emerged as the leader of communist forces from the long march. He led the communist to victory over the nationalists.

## INDIAN ECONOMY

### Allocation Of 5 Coal Mines Approved

The Ministry of Coal, after a long gap of 4 years, has approved the allocation of five Coal Mines. This was the result of the electronic auction conducted by Ministry of Coal in November 2019.

About:

- The five Coal Mines allocated are:
  - Bikram (Madhya Pradesh)
  - Brahampuri (Madhya Pradesh)
  - Bhaskarpara (Chhattisgarh)
  - Jagannathpur B (West Bengal)
  - Jamkhani (Odisha)
- Of the five mines, two were allocated to Birla Corporation Ltd and one each to Vedanta Ltd, Prakash Industries Ltd and Powerplus Traders Pvt Ltd.
- The significant feature of the allocations is that for the first time, the successful bidders shall have the flexibility to sell 25% coal produced in the open market. This will boost the coal production in the country and reduce the dependence of industries on imported coal.

### Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit

The 2nd edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is being held in Goa on 6th and 7th of December, 2019 for Fund Managers and Limited Partners of Top Global Venture Capital Firms.

About:

- It has been organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in partnership with Government of Goa.
- The theme for Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 is "India Opportunity – Investing in tomorrow together".
- The focus of the Summit is to mobilize global capital for innovation in India. The Summit will bring together representatives of leading Global Venture Capital Firms, Limited Partners, Family Offices, High-Network Individuals, Government of India officials, top Corporates, and select innovative Startups.
- The first edition of the Summit was held in 2018 in Goa.

### Fifteenth Finance Commission

Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission N K Singh submitted the interim report of the Commission to President Ram Nath Kovind for the financial year 2020-21 for further necessary action.

About:

- The 15th Finance Commission submitted its interim report on devolution formula for the financial year 2020-21 to President Ram Nath Kovind.

- The devolution formula spells out how the Centre plans to share the taxes collected by it with the States. Since, the formula is to be applied in the new Budget, the award has not been made public.
- Now, the report will first be studied and then a final view will be taken by the Cabinet following which it will be tabled in Parliament just before the Union Budget next year. Only after that will the contents be made public.
- Normally, the government accepts the award in toto, however, it is free to accept or reject other suggestions in the report.

#### Related Info:

- Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution on 27th of November 1917 to make recommendations for a period of five years from 1st April 2020 to 31 March 2025.
- Last month after a Cabinet decision, the Gazette Notification dated 27 November 2019 mandated the Commission to submit the report for the financial year 2020-21 by 30 November 2019 and then the final report for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026 by 30 October 2020.
- This has been necessitated after Article 370 of the Constitution was amended. Following this the State of Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Thus, there was a need to change the terms of reference and extension of the term.
- The last time an interim report was submitted was during the term of 11th Finance Commission (2000-05), when the new States of Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh were created.

#### **Definition Of Farmer**

Union Agriculture Minister failed to reply in Parliament to a question that Who is a farmer? What is the government's definition of a farmer, and how many farmers are there in India by that definition?

#### About:

- In a written response, the Minister only noted that the Centre provided income support to all farmer families who owned cultivable land through PM-KISAN.
- Opposition MPs pointed out that the number of land holdings did not necessarily equate with the number of farming households.
- The government's ambiguity has serious implications for the design and beneficiaries of the schemes meant to help them, including its flagship PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi).

#### Related Info:

- There is a clear and comprehensive definition available in the National Policy for Farmers drafted by the National Commission of Farmers headed by M.S. Swaminathan and officially approved by the Centre in 2007. The term 'FARMER' includes
  - A person actively engaged in the economic activity of growing crops and producing other primary agricultural commodities.
  - All cultivators, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, beekeepers, gardeners, pastoralists, non-corporate planters as well as persons engaged in sericulture, vermiculture and agro-forestry.
  - Tribal families/persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce.
  - According to Census 2011, there are 11.8 crore cultivators and 14.4 crore agricultural workers.

#### **Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

The Rajya Sabha approved the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, replacing an ordinance that was promulgated to cut corporate tax rates to boost growth rate in a slowing economy. Since it deals with taxes, the bill was introduced as a money bill in the Lok Sabha earlier.

#### Key Points

- The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 replaces an ordinance that reduced the tax rate for domestic companies from 30% and 25% (for those with an annual turnover of over ₹ 400crores) to 22%.
- These rates are applicable for companies if they don't claim certain exemptions under the Income Tax Act.
- The rate for new domestic manufacturing companies set up after October 1 was lowered to 15%.
- The new effective tax rate inclusive of surcharge and cess for domestic companies would be 25.17% and for new domestic manufacturing companies would be 17.01%.

## ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

### India's Top 10 Police Stations, 2019

Government of India has released the list of best performing Police stations from across the country for 2019.

#### About:

Background: Prime Minister Modi, while addressing the DsGP during the 2015 Conference in Kutch, Gujarat, directed that parameters should be laid down for grading Police Stations and assessing their performance based on feedback.

- Methodology: In the final stage 19 parameters were identified to evaluate the standards of service delivery and identify techniques of improvement in policing. This part constitutes 80% of weightage in overall scoring. The balance 20% was based on infrastructure of Police Station and approachability of personnel and Citizen feedback.
- The Top 10 Police Stations in the country are:-
  - Aberdeen (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)
  - Balasinor (Gujarat)
  - Ajk Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)
  - AWPS Theni (Tamil Nadu)
  - Anini (Arunachal Pradesh)
  - Baba Haridas Nagar, Dwarka (Delhi)
  - Bakani (Rajasthan)
  - Choppadandi (Telangana)
  - Bicholim (Goa)
  - Bargawa (Madhya Pradesh)

## ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

### Torrefaction Technology

To find a solution to this issue of Pollution from stubble burning in winter, India is testing a Swedish technology — torrefaction that can convert rice stubble into 'bio-coal'.

#### About:

- The torrefaction technology involves heating up straw, grass, saw mill residue and wood biomass to 250 degrees Celsius - 350 degrees Celsius.
- This changes the elements of the biomass into 'coal-like' pellets. These pellets can be used for combustion along with coal for industrial applications like steel and cement production
- So far, the technology has only been substantially tested in Scandinavia as a 16,000 ton/year plant.

#### Recent development:

- The Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to Government of India has funded a pilot project in Punjab to evaluate the feasibility of the Torrefaction technology.
- Bioendev, a Swedish company, has set up a pilot plant at the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute in Mohali.

### Wildlife Crimes

The Union Ministry of Environment informed parliament about the wildlife crimes.

#### About:

- In 2018, 388 cases of wildlife-related crimes were registered under the Wildlife Protection Act.
- In nearly one in every three cases —123 of the 388 — the species involved was leopards or tigers. Leopards alone accounted for over one in five cases, at 81, while 42 cases involved tigers.
- Just five species accounted for two in every three cases — 259 of 388 — with leopards (21%), scheduled birds (16%) and tigers (11%) being followed by star tortoises or turtles (10%) and deer (9%).
- Overall, the number of cases of wildlife crime has come down since 2016, when 565 were registered, and risen slightly since 2017, when 342 were registered.

#### Indian leopard:

- Scientific Name: Panthera pardus.
- Common Name: Indian leopard or Common leopard.
- Characteristics: The leopard is the smallest of the big cats, and is known for its black-spotted coat. It is known to carry its prey up on trees. This is especially common in leopards that share their habitat with tiger.
- Melanism: Melanism is a common occurrence in leopards, wherein the entire skin of the animal is black in colour, including its spots. A melanistic leopard is often called black panther or jaguar, and mistakenly thought to be a different species.



- Habitat: In India, the leopard is found in all forest types, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests. It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, the only exception being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans.
- Status:
  - Listed on a par with Tigers under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.
  - Listed in Appendix I of CITES.
  - Listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**

### **Antivenom Therapy**

A new study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has revealed that commercially available antivenom in India can be ineffective in treating bites from some snakes that are poorly studied. The findings were published in PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

#### **Key findings of the study:**

- India is the snakebite capital of the world. Annually, about 46,000 people die and 1,40,000 others are disabled in the country because of snakebites.
- In India, a polyvalent antivenom is produced against the so-called 'big four' snakes: the spectacled cobra, the common krait, Russell's viper, and the saw-scaled viper."
- However, India is home to many other species of venomous snakes. But specific antivenom is not produced to combat the poison of other snakes, and the 'big four' antivenom is routinely used to treat bites from all snakes.

#### **Snakebite envenoming:**

- Snakebite envenoming is a neglected tropical disease (NTD). In 2017, WHO, formally categorised "snakebite envenoming" as a Neglected Tropical Disease.
- Casualties: It affects 1.8–2.7 million people each year, claiming 81,000–1,38,000 lives and causing 4,00,000 cases of permanent disability.
- Key regions affected: Most of the Snake bite occurs in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Treatment: Most deaths and serious consequences from snake bites are entirely preventable by making High quality snake antivenoms accessible. They are included in the WHO List of essential medicines.
- Target under WHO Global Strategy: 50% reduction in mortality and disability caused by snakebite envenoming by 2030.

## **DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

### **Blue Water Force**

On the occasion of Navy Day (December 4), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called Indian Navy as a Formidable Blue Water Force.

#### **About:**

- While it is evident that Blue Water navies belong to the most powerful nations, there is no one internationally agreed upon definition.
- Navies are classified in terms of colours. A navy whose operations are restricted close to the shore, where the water is muddy, is called a Brown Water Force. A navy that can go farther out is called a Green Water Force. And then there is a Blue Water Force.
- A Blue Water Navy is one that can go into the vast, deep oceans of the world. A Blue Water Force is able to carry out operations far from its borders, without being required to return to its home port to refuel or re-stock. Owning one or more aircraft carriers is sometimes seen as a marker of a Blue Water Navy.

## **PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS- INDICES, DAYS, EVENTS, AWARDS ETC**

### **Ripu Daman Bevli**

Fit India Plogging Run, which was launched on October 2, 2019, concluded in Delhi's Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, having covered 50 cities across the country.

#### **Ripu Daman Bevli:**

- During the event, Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports felicitated Ripu Daman Bevli, popularly known as the Plogman of India and named him the Plogging Ambassador of India.
- Bevli, who started plogging in 2017, started the Fit India Plogging Run with the aim to make India litter-free. Bevli and his team have cleaned up 50 cities and covered over 1000km in about 2 months, collecting 2.7 tonnes of garbage.

#### **Plogging Ambassador Mission:**

- The minister also launched the nation-wide Plogging Ambassador Mission.

- Under it, Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts, will be nominated as Plogging Ambassadors of their region.

Related Info:

- Plog Run is a unique way of picking up garbage while jogging and was added to the Fit India Movement as a unique way of combining cleanliness and fitness.
- Plogging Run combines the Fit India Movement and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

**Poet Viswanath Prasad Tiwari To Get Gangadhar National Award**

Eminent Hindi poet Viswanath Prasad Tiwari would be honoured with the prestigious 'Gangadhar National Award' during the 53rd Foundation Day celebrations of the Sambalpur University.

About:

- The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a shawl and citation, would be presented to Tiwari in January.
- Instituted in memory of Odisha's renowned bard Gangadhar Meher, the award is conferred on a poet of national repute every year since 1991, Behera said.
- Tiwari, a former president of Sahitya Academy, has authored several anthologies. Notable among his creations are 'Rachana ki sarokar', 'Kavita kya hai', 'Saath chalte hue' and 'Bistar duniya le liye'.

**ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

**Odisha Will Witness 139MW Peak Deficit In Dec 2019: CEA Report**

Questions have been raised whether the power cuts return this winter in Odisha, as it was in 2018, especially when a Central Electricity Authority's report predict a 139 MW peak deficit in December 2019.

Current Scenario:

- When last year poor hydropower generation was behind the power crisis in winter, the situation is not so this winter. The hydropower generating reservoirs in the State like Hirakud, Rengali, Upper Indravati and Upper Kolab currently have a storage position, which is higher than the average storage position of last 10-years.
- The storage position of Hirakud at present is 4.778 BCM (Billion Cubic Metres) vis-a-vis last year's position of 3.94 BCM and 10-year average level of 4.59 BCM. Similar is the scenario for Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab and Rengali. The current position is much higher than last 10-years average level.
- But as per the Load Generation Balance Report (LGBR) 2019-20, Odisha will witness a peak deficit of around 2.8 per cent or 139 MW in the month of December 2019. However, it forecasts that the State will not see any peak deficit during the span of January to March 2020.
- Significantly, the report predicts Odisha going to witness high energy deficit in the coming months from December 2019 to March 2020. It observed that Odisha will record an energy deficit of 20 per cent in December 2019, 15.4 per cent in January, 11.1 per cent in February and 14.5 per cent in March 2020, respectively.
- The energy crunch the State will be experiencing during the period Dec 2019 – March 2020 will be ranging from 510 million units (MU) to 423 MU, the report added.
- Though such high energy crunch during the months of Dec 2019 – Mar 2020 will not result in any power cuts, rather, the fallout will be felt on the rural electrification programme under the Soubhagya Yojana. Power supply to agriculture and Industries may also witness disruptions, experts observed.
- Since the current month of December is predicted to witness 139 MW peak deficit, this will impact the power supply scenario in the State and power cuts may be resorted to meet the deficit, they added.
- Even as LGBR's prediction didn't see any peak deficit in Odisha for Jan – Mar 2020, the forecast could go haywire as its peak demand prediction for the last fiscal (2018-19) had been around 21 per cent less than the actual peak demand.

**'Jeet Zindagi' Campaign**

- An organisation here is helping wards of humble vegetable sellers, fishermen and marginal farmers crack the NEET exam to qualify for admission in medical colleges and has launched a campaign to reach out to more such students.
- The NGO runs a foundation called 'Zindagi' in Odisha, which is similar to the 'Super 30' experiment of mathematician Anand Kumar, to help students hailing from poor family become medicos.
- It has now launched a campaign called 'Jeet Zindagi' (win life) to reach out to more aspiring students.

## **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns: What are the challenges faced by the AYUSH System with respect to its integration in the mainstream medical system? Examine the potential and suggest measures to capitalise it.**

**Ans:**

The traditional Indian system of medicine, which comprises of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH), is a perennially neglected alternative medicine sector. It played an important role against the imperialistic British reign by the cultural nationalistic reassertion but is losing its significance in modern times.

Challenges faced by the AYUSH with respect to its integration in the mainstream medical system:

- Historical: Steps were taken to uplift the sector after the Report of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine, published by the Ministry of Health in 1948 but they were scrapped later. Almost all attempts of integration of AYUSH sector has failed till now.
- Inadequacy of resources: The policy to mainstream AYUSH faces the problem of inadequate medicines, lack of health centres, capacity building, practitioners and public faith on its efficiency.
- Quantity vs Quality: Integration of AYUSH into the health-care system faces the debate of whether to provide AYUSH facilities everywhere leaving no place behind or to improve the existing facilities to full potential.
- Competition with modern medicine:
  - Dishonest practices by most of the AYUSH practitioners makes allopathy look more trustworthy.
  - Scepticism towards AYUSH treatments and procedures by people, mainly the allopathic sector.
  - Mindless cosmeticisation of AYUSH products in the name of natural-organic origin in comparison to the artificial allopathic products.
  - More focus on the export promotion of AYUSH products to gain market attention.
- Lack of dedicated efforts: There is a sharp status gap between modern medicine and AYUSH and little has been done to harmonise both the sectors. Merely expanding AYUSH's framework will only expand the present list of problems.
- Conflict of Interests: AYUSH lobby fears a loss of identity following such integration. The allopathic lobby alleges that standards of medical care would be diluted after the integration.

Measures to be taken for capitalizing AYUSH:

- Strategising for facilitating meaningful cross-learnings and collaborations between the modern and traditional systems on equal terms.
- Envisioning the integration of education, research, and practice of both systems at all levels.
- Including training of AYUSH practitioners in modern medicine through curriculum changes and vice versa.
- However, prerequisites of such integration need substantial groundwork:
  - Building a strong traditional medicine research and scientific evidence corpus.
  - Delineating the relative strengths, weaknesses, and role of each system.
  - Negotiating the philosophical and conceptual divergences between systems.
  - Standardising and regulating AYUSH practices and qualifications.
  - Addressing the unique issues associated with research into AYUSH techniques.
- India can learn from the Chinese example of integrating Traditional Chinese Medicine with Western medicine.
- Recently, the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 was passed, despite the opposition from the orthodox medical community, which shows the political will to work towards the goal.

Conclusion

- A middle path needs to be found out by an integrated framework- merging the two systems of medicine while also leaving enough scope for their autonomous growth.
- Medium and long-term plans for seamless integration should be developed expeditiously in view of the massive drive for achieving universal health care already underway in the country.
- Through this India will be able to address the subservient status of AYUSH and foster its legitimate inclusion into mainstream health care.



**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs**

1. Recently the Ministry of Coal has approved the allocation of which of the following Coal Mines?

1. Bikram (Madhya Pradesh)
2. Brahampur (Madhya Pradesh)
3. Jamkhani (Odisha)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

2. With reference to a new study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore on antivenom, consider the following statements:

1. India is regarded as the snakebite capital of the world.
2. In India, a polyvalent antivenom is produced against only the spectacled cobra and Russell's viper.

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

3. Who among the following is popularly known as the Plogman of India?

- (a) Ripu Daman Bevi**
- (b) Vijender Singh Beniwa
- (c) Rohan Bopanna
- (d) Yogeshwar Dutt

4. With reference to the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit, consider the following statements:

1. It has been organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in partnership with Government of Goa.
2. The theme for Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 is "India Opportunity – Investing in tomorrow together".

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 Blue Water Force, consider the following statements:

1. A navy whose operations are restricted close to the shore, where the water is muddy, is called a Green Water Force.

2. A Blue Water Force is able to carry out operations far from its borders, without being required to return to its home port to refuel or re-stock.

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. Which of the following police station has been selected as the best performing Police stations from across the country for 2019?

- (a) Aberdeen**
- (b) Farakka
- (c) Kirti Nagar
- (d) Nettapakkam

7. With reference to the initiatives by the government to encourage women entrepreneurship within the Country, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a portal namely "Udyam Sakhi" for encouraging women entrepreneurs and to aid, counsel, assist and protect their interests.

2. Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) the women entrepreneurs are provided 25% and 35% subsidies for the project set up in urban and rural areas respectively.

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 Fifteenth Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution.

2. The government is bound to accept Finance Commission report.

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 Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), consider the following statements:

1. It is a European special-purpose vehicle (SPV) to circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with North Korea by avoiding use of the dollar.

2. France, Germany and United Kingdom are the founding members of INSTEX.

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. According to the National Policy for Farmers drafted by the National Commission of Farmers headed by M.S. Swaminathan, the term 'FARMER' includes:

1. A person actively engaged in the economic activity of growing crops and producing other primary agricultural commodities.

2. All cultivators, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, beekeepers, gardeners, pastoralists, non-corporate planters as well as persons engaged in sericulture, vermiculture and agro-forestry.

3. Tribal families/persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) **1, 2 and 3**

11. With reference to the Indian leopard, consider the following statements:

1. In India, the leopard is found in all forest types, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests

2. It is listed on a par with Tigers under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.

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

12. With reference to the Large Igneous Provinces, consider the following statements:

1. It is extremely large accumulations of rocks forming when magma travelled through the crust towards the surface.

2. North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP) is one of Earth's largest LIPs that spans Britain, Ireland, Norway and Greenland.

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