

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme**

The 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme was inaugurated in Puducherry under which tribal youths will be visiting many places to know about the language, customs, culture, arts, dressing patterns, food pattern and other aspects of Puducherry.

About:

- Bodies involved: Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) organizes Tribal Youth Exchange Programme with the support of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.
- Objective: To provide an opportunity to the tribal youth to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio –economic & Cultural Development & Development process unity in diversity aspect of our national life.
- Background: The first programme was held in 2006.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**World Economic Forum (Wef)**

The four day 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) began at Davos in Switzerland with the theme 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World'. Indian actress Deepika Padukone will be given a WEF crystal award for her work on mental health.

About:

- HQ: Coligny-Geneva, Switzerland.
- Founded in: 1971.
- Status: Not-for-profit organization. Under the Swiss Host-State Act, it is recognized as an International Institution for Public-Private Cooperation.
- Mission: Improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- Davos meet:
 - Annually, it organizes a meeting at the end of January in Davos, a mountain resort in Graubünden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland.
 - The meeting brings together some 2,500 top business leaders, international political leaders, economists for up to four days to discuss the pressing global issues.

Reports published: It also produces a series of annual reports such as –

- Global Competitiveness Report,
- Global Information Technology Report,
- Global Gender Gap Report,
- Global Risks Report,
- Global Travel and Tourism Report,
- Financial Development Report and
- Global Enabling Trade Report.

Global Social Mobility Report

The World Economic Forum has come out with its first-ever Global Social Mobility Report, which has ranked India a lowly 76 out of the 82 countries profiled.

About:

- The concept of social mobility encompasses several concerns such as: Intragenerational mobility, Intergenerational mobility, Absolute income mobility, Absolute educational mobility, Relative income mobility and Relative educational mobility.
- Methodology: The WEF's Global Social Mobility Index assesses the 82 economies on "10 pillars" spread across the following five key dimensions of social mobility:
 - Health;
 - Education (access, quality and equity, lifelong learning);
 - Technology;
 - Work (opportunities, wages, conditions);
 - Protection and Institutions (social protection and inclusive institutions).

Rankings:

- Denmark tops the social mobility rankings.
- India's overall ranking is a poor 76 out of the 82 countries considered. In India, it would take 7 generations for a member of a poor family to achieve average income.

- Russia is ranked 39, china at 45, Brazil at 60 and Pakistan at 79.

Economic Inequality

The report, titled Time to Care: Unpaid and Underpaid Care Work and the Global Inequality Crisis was published by Oxfam, the international nonprofit focussed on the alleviation of global poverty.

Some snapshots from the report:

- 2,153 individuals, the number of billionaires in the world in 2019, have more wealth among them than 4.6 billion people. The world's richest 1% have more than twice as much wealth as 6.9 billion people.
- India's richest 1% hold more than four times the wealth held by the 953 million who make up for the bottom 70% of the country's population.
- This great divide is based on a flawed and sexist economic system" which has "accumulated vast wealth and power into the hands of a rich few, in part by exploiting the labour of women and girls. Globally, 42% of working age women are outside the paid labour force, compared with 6% of men, due to unpaid care responsibilities.
- Globally, extreme poverty rates are 4% higher for women than men; this gap rises to 22% during women's peak productive and reproductive ages; that is, 122 women aged 25-34 for every 100 men of the same age group live in extremely poor households, largely due to childcare responsibilities.
- An additional 0.5% tax on the wealth of the richest 1% over the next 10 years can create 117 million jobs in education, health and elderly care, etc.

Reciprocating Territory

The Ministry of Law and Justice issued an Extraordinary Gazette Notification, declaring the United Arab Emirates to be a "reciprocating territory" under Section 44A of the CPC, 1908. The notification also declared a list of courts in the UAE to be "superior Courts" under the same section.

About:

- Section 44 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908: Section 44A, titled "Execution of decrees passed by Courts in reciprocating territory", provides the law on the subject of execution of decrees of Courts in India by foreign Courts and vice versa.
- Reciprocating territory: Essentially, orders passed by certain designated courts from a 'reciprocating territory' can be implemented in India, by filing a copy of the decree concerned in a District Court here. The courts so designated are called 'superior Courts'.
- Why is the move significant? The decision is believed to help bring down the time required for executing decrees between the two countries. Indian expatriates in the UAE would no longer be able to seek safe haven in their home country if they are convicted in a civil case in the UAE.
- Other countries declared to be "reciprocating territories" are: United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, New Zealand, the Cook Islands (including Niue) and the Trust Territories of Western Samoa, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Aden.

Berlin Summit, 2020

German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted a summit at Berlin bringing together backers of the main warring factions in Libya as the latest of many diplomatic attempts aimed at pushing Libya on a path to peace.

Key highlights of summit:

- World leaders committed to ending all foreign meddling in Libya's war and to uphold a weapons embargo as part of a broader plan to end the spiralling conflict.
- The presidents of Russia, Turkey and France were among global chiefs signing up to the plan to stop interfering in the war. This includes through weapons, troops or financing.
- But the talks failed to deliver serious dialogue between the warring parties -- strongman Khalifa Haftar and the head of Tripoli's UN-recognised government Fayeze al-Sarraj. It also failed to get both sides to sign up to a permanent truce.

Related Info: Libya has been torn by fighting between rival armed factions since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

Xenobot

Scientists in the United States have created the world's first "living machines" — tiny robots built from the cells of the African clawed frog, that can move around on their own.

About:

- They have named the millimetre-wide robots “xenobots” — after the species of aquatic frog found across sub-Saharan Africa from Nigeria and Sudan to South Africa, *Xenopus laevis*.
- The xenobots “can move toward a target, perhaps pick up a payload (like a medicine that needs to be carried to a specific place inside a patient) — and heal themselves after being cut.
- The “novel living machines” were “neither a traditional robot nor a known species of animal”, but “a new class of artifact: a living, programmable organism”.

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

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has inducted its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles at its Thanjavur base in Tamil Nadu.

About:

- The newly reinstated 222-squadron, also known as the Tigersharks, would serve as a lethal weapons platform capable of carrying both aerial and maritime roles in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Thanjavur is strategically located in the southern peninsula. From there, the Tigersharks can dominate the seas and provide very close and integrated support to the Indian Navy. It can also provide support to the land forces.
- The Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft integrated with the supersonic cruise missiles BrahMos is the strongest maritime combination that India has, in terms of weapon capability.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. What do you understand by scheduled tribes? Examine the dilemma related to the development of the tribes in India.

Ans:

Scheduled Tribes, as a term, was introduced as a part of Government of India Act, 1935 to give legal recognition to list of tribes marked for special treatment by the state, which is still practised as evident in affirmative actions provided under Indian Constitution. In general, the scheduled tribes are described by the following characteristics:

- Communities that are very old and did not practise a religion with a written text.
- They did not have a political form of the normal kind.
- They did not have sharp class divisions, were not part of the caste system and were neither Hindu nor peasants.

Tribes can be classified as:

- Having Permanent traits like region (middle India, North-East), language (Austic, Tibeto-Burman etc.), physical characteristics (Mongloid, Aryan etc.), ecological habitat.
- Acquired Characteristics like mode of living, the extent of incorporation into Hindu Society.

Dilemma related to their Development in India

- Tribe-Caste Distinction: Tribal community is less stratified while absorption into the mainstream is creating new class, caste-based division. There is also the erosion of community sense of ownership of resources.
- Traditional Culture Vs New Values: By way of Sanskritization, modernisation, a traditional cultural system of tribals is eroding like languages, dialect. This is challenging their identity leading to resistance and opposition among them example demand for a separate state by Nagas.
- Development Vs Rights: Economic Development of the nation many times leads to their exploitation, especially in forested and mineral belt regions. These challenges affect their means of livelihood and their ethnicity leading to displacement and challenges of rehabilitation, for example- Narmada Bachao Andolan.
- Human Development Vs Traditional Systems: Providing modern education, health facilities may at times challenge the orthodoxy resulting in resistance. This, in turn, stems from lack of harmony between newer means and their traditional systems, example low vaccine coverage due to superstitious among tribals.

Resolving dilemma

- Making them part of the democratic process and decision makings like PESA Act, Special Powers to Scheduled and Tribal Areas.
- Making them part of the developmental process, example Forest Rights Act for managing forest-based resources.
- Human Development congruous to their traditional systems like Eklavya Model Schools.

- Upholding their rights and preventing their exploitation like Land Rehabilitation Act, Mines and Minerals Act etc.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

- With reference to the Global Social Mobility Report, consider the following statements:
 - It was released by UNESCO.
 - Denmark tops the social mobility rankings
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only**
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- The Ministry of Law and Justice has recently issued an Extraordinary Gazette Notification, declaring which of the following country to be a “reciprocating territory” under Section 44A of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), 1908?
 - U.A.E**
 - Qatar
 - Maldives
 - China
- With reference to the report, titled “Time to Care: Unpaid and Underpaid Care Work and the Global Inequality Crisis”, consider the following statements:
 - It was published by Oxfam.
 - India’s richest 1% hold more than four times the wealth held by the 953 million who make up for the bottom 70% of the country’s population.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2**
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- What is “xenobots”, recently seen in news?
 - World’s first “living machines”**
 - Exoplanet
 - Crypto currency
 - Humanoid police robot by Kerala Police.
- With reference to the National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, consider the following statements:
 - The first programme was held in 2006.
 - It is organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2**
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- With reference to the World Economic Forum (WEF), consider the following statements:
 - Its headquarters is located at Davos in Switzerland.
 - It publishes Global Gender Gap Report.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only**
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- With reference to the recently held Berlin summit 2020, consider the following statements:
 - It aims to stop all forms foreign intervention in Syria.
 - It was held under the aegis of UN.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2**
- What is ‘Tigersharks’, recently seen in news?
 - Newly reinstated 222-squadron of Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets in Thanjavur.**
 - A series of experimental United States aircraft and rockets
 - Mars mission by European space agency.
 - None of the above