

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC)**

India opened its first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre in Niger.

About:

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and President of Niger jointly inaugurated the first Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It is the first centre to be established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th Birth Anniversary was observed last year.
- The convention centre has been designed to witness high-level and wide-ranging participation from African Union member states and other high-level conventions.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Merger Of Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu**

Union cabinet has designated Daman as Headquarter of Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

About:

- Daman will be the capital of newly carved out Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- Cabinet also approved amendments, extension, repeal in Acts dealing with Goods and Services Tax, Value Added Tax and Excise Duty in view of the merger.
- These amendments will lead to "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" by way of having common taxation authorities, better delivery of services to the citizens by reducing duplication of work and improving administrative efficiency.

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**Sail Service Scheme**

Union Steel Minister launched a scheme of SAIL to promote Voluntary Philanthropist Activities (VPA) by its employees.

About:

- The scheme called "SAIL Employee Rendering Voluntarism and Initiatives for Community Engagement (SERVICE)" will promote and facilitate philanthropist activities by the employees of SAIL in a structured manner.
- Under it the employees of the PSU would contribute in the areas of education, health, women empowerment and nutrition, among others.
- The scheme will be operational from January 24 which is the foundation day of the PSU.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**World Employment And Social Outlook 2020**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) released a new report titled the World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020 (WESO).

Key highlights of the report:

- Due to slowing global economic growth, Global Unemployment is projected to increase by around 2.5 million in 2020.
- In addition to the global number of unemployed (188 million), 165 million people don't have enough paid work and 120 million have either given up actively searching for work or otherwise lack access to the labour market. In total, more than 470 million people worldwide are affected.
- At the global level, income inequality is higher than previously thought, especially in developing countries. Worldwide, the share of national income going to labour (rather than to other factors of production) declined substantially between 2004 and 2017, from 54 % to 51 %.
- Currently working poverty (defined as earning less than US\$3.20 per day in purchasing power parity terms) affects more than 630 million workers, or one in five of the global working population.
- Around 267 million young people (aged 15-24) are not in employment, education or training, and many more endure substandard working conditions.

Related Info: The annual World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Trends report released by International Labour Organization (ILO) analyses key labour market issues, including unemployment, labour underutilisation, working poverty, income inequality, labour income share and factors that exclude people from decent work.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**National Stock Exchange Of India Ltd (NSE)**

National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) is now world's largest derivatives exchange by volume.

About:

- National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2019 by number of contracts traded, surpassing the CME Group, according to Futures Industry Association (FIA), a derivatives trade body.
- NSE is also ranked third in the world in the cash equities segment by number of trades as per the statistics published by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

Important Info :

- The National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai. The NSE was established in 1994 as the first materialised electronic exchange in the country.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited (HFL)

Union Cabinet has approved closure of Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited (HFL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.

About:

- Administration: Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited (HFL) is a subsidiary company of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.
- Functions: HFL is engaged in the manufacture of Poly Tetra Fluoro Ethylene (PTFE) and Chloro Di Fluoro Methane (HCFC-22 or CFM-22). HFL also uses HCFC-22 for conversion to PTFE.

Reason for Closure:

- Due to uneconomic plant capacity, conversion of HCFC-22 to PTFE is not financially viable and the company is constrained to sell higher quantity of HCFC- 22 directly as refrigerant gas.
- Under the provisions of Montreal Protocol on phasing out of ozone depleting substances, HFL's HCFC-22 non-feedstock production quota is only about 392 MT per calendar year.
- The company has been making losses since 2013-14 and was also registered with the erstwhile Board for Industrial and Financial Construction (BIFR) as a sick company.

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

Vigyan Samagam

The Union Minister of Atomic Energy and Space, Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first global Mega Science Exhibition "Vigyan Samagam" in Delhi.

About:

- Vigyan Samagam is a multi-venue mega-science exhibition that brings several collaborative mega-science projects under one roof.
- It aims to showcase India's contribution to some of the biggest international collaborations on fundamental science and research, and provides a common interactive platform for mega-science activities, industry, academia and institutions.
- A first-of-its-kind exhibition, the exhibition being hosted in a caravan mode at four cities – Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Delhi – from May 2019 to March 2020.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Make In India (Defence)

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, approves several procurement proposals to boost 'Make in India.'

Following projects were approved by DAC:

- Procurement of equipment worth over Rs 5,100 crore from indigenous sources. These include sophisticated Electronic Warfare Systems for the Army designed by DRDO and manufactured locally by the Indian industry.
- Prototype testing of trawl assemblies designed by DRDO for T-72 and T-90 tanks providing an important indigenous de-mining capability to the Army.
- Shortlisting of Indian Strategic Partners (SP) and the potential Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) that would collaborate with SPs to construct six conventional submarines in India under the P-75 (India) Project.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) will be Indian strategic partners
- This programme is being progressed under the 'Strategic Partnership Model', promulgated in 2017 to give a major boost to 'Make in India' in Defence Sector.
- Inclusion of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) in Defence Procurement Procedure. This would provide avenues in capital procurement for the Armed Forces to startups and innovators working for iDEX and provide huge fillip to their budding efforts.

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

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2020

The President of India presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2020.

About:

- Under this scheme, awards are given every year in two categories i.e. (1) Bal Shakti Puruskar to individuals and (2) Bal Kalyan Puraskar for institutions/individuals working for children.
- Bal Shakti Puraskar is given to recognize exceptional achievements of our children in various fields i.e., innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture, sports and bravery.
- Bal Kalyan Puraskar is given to recognize the contribution of dedicated individuals and institutions for the welfare of children.
- The award scheme is administered by Ministry of Women & Child Development.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Sustainable development does not end sustainability of environment and resource system; it

Ans:

Sustainable Development is a model by which the present generation's needs are fulfilled alongside integrity for sustaining future generations needs is not compromised. This requires human development such that sustainability of natural ecosystem is maintained by its preservation and reforming economic and social systems that depend upon it.

Sustainability of Environment

- Reducing overexploitation of natural resources like forest and water, allowing for nature for their regeneration. E.g.: Ban on sand mining in mangroves in India.
- Reducing pollution that disturbs ecosystem and its components inhibiting its regenerative capacity like lowering greenhouse gas emissions through Paris Goals.
- Conservation and Preservation techniques on lines of biodiversity conservation so that ecosystem services are continuously provided, like National Parks, Biodiversity Hotspots.

Need for sustainability of Economic and Social Systems

- Social issues like poverty, inequality, inaccessibility to clean water etc. breeds ground for conflicts resulting in challenges to progress made in environmental conservation, for example taking away of forest rights from tribals lead them into illegal activities like poaching by threatening their traditional livelihoods.
- Rising population, individualistic and consumerist attitude requires more resource consumption per capita, more wastage leading again pressure on natural resources.
- Sustainable Development requires human development should balance with environmental concerns, reforms need to be made in the present socio-economic systems so as they remain harmonious in long term, example SDG goals.

Way Forward

- Some Steps for sustainable Economic and Social Systems
- Agenda in UN-Habitat for making sustainable cities
- Lower dependence on fossil-based fuels and increasing renewable energy usage like solar based.
- Lowering wastage, waste-to-energy generation, Circular Economy approach etc.
- Reducing inequalities- income, gender etc. Participatory models for decision making by involving locals.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

- With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2020, consider the following statements:
 - Bal Kalyan Puraskar is given to recognize the contribution of dedicated individuals and institutions for the welfare of children.
 - The award scheme is administered by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 (a) **1 only**
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 nor
- India opened its first Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in:
 (a) **Niger**
 (b) Kenya
 (c) South Africa
 (d) Mali
- Union cabinet has recently designated which of the following as Headquarter of Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu?
 (a) **Daman**
 (b) Diu
 (c) Silvassa

- (d) Dadra
4. With reference to the Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited (HFL), consider the following statements:
1. Union Cabinet has recently approved closure of Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited (HFL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.
 2. HFL is engaged in the manufacture of Poly Tetra Fluoro Ethylene (PTFE) and Chloro Di Fluoro Methane (HCFC-22 or CFM-22).
- 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 "SAIL Employee Rendering Voluntarism and Initiatives for Community Engagement (SERVICE)", consider the following statements:
1. It will promote and facilitate philanthropist activities by the employees of SAIL in a structured manner.
 2. The scheme will be operational from January 24 which is the foundation day of the PSU.
- 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 'Make in India' Defence, consider the following statements:
1. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has recently approved procurement of equipment worth over Rs 5,100 crore from indigenous sources.
 2. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) will be Indian strategic partners under the P-75 (India) Project.
- 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. With reference to the Vigyan Samagam, consider the following statements:
1. It is a multi-venue mega-science exhibition that brings several collaborative mega-science projects under one roof.
 2. It is being organised by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 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. Which of the following is now world's largest derivatives exchange by volume?
- (a) **National Stock Exchange of India Ltd**
(b) New York Stock Exchange
(c) London Stock Exchange
(d) Shanghai Stock Exchange
9. With reference to the World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020 (WESO), consider the following statements:
1. It was released by World Economic Forum (WEF).
 2. Due to slowing global economic growth, Global Unemployment is projected to increase by around 2.5 million in 2020.
- 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