

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**

**Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has begun a nationwide capacity building programme for social workers who help assess the suitability of the adoptive family and prepare a child for a new home.

**About:**

- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is the nodal body for adoption of Indian children.
- It regulates in-country and inter-country adoptions (in accordance with the provisions of The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003).
- Status: It is an autonomous body of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The mandatory registration of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and linking to CARA has been provided in Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

**Child Sexual Abuse**

The Adhoc Committee of the Rajya instituted by Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has made 40 recommendations to prevent sexual abuse of children and to contain access to and transmission of child pornography content on the social media.

**About:**

- A clause to be inserted in the POCSO Act, 2012 under which advocating or counseling sexual activities with a person under the age of 18 years is made an offence under the Act.
- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal shall be designated as the national portal under reporting requirements in POCSO Act in case of electronic material;
- A new section be included in the IT Act 2000, providing for punitive measures for those providing pornographic access to children and also those who access, produce or transmit Child Sexual Abuse Material(CSAM);
- Apps that help in monitoring children's access to pornographic content shall be made mandatory on all devices sold in India.
- On-streaming platforms like Netflix and social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook etc. should have separate adult section where under- aged children could be disallowed;
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights(NCPCR) should be designated as the nodal agency to deal with the issue of child pornography.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shall mandatorily record and report annually cases of child pornography of all kinds.

**INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**

**Anthropological Survey Of India (Ansi)**

As part of the commemoration of Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has dedicated an entire issue of its journal on what it calls "Gandhian insights into applied anthropology".

**About:**

- Mandate: Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) is the apex Indian government organisation involved in anthropological studies and field data research for human and cultural aspects.
- Formed in: 1945.
- Headquarters: Kolkata.
- Parent organisation: Ministry of Culture.

**Important Info :** According to the recent journal, equality and human community of the Gajan (a rural festival of Bengal), had so much in common with the Gandhian yatra.

**Nagardhan Excavations**

Recent archaeological excavations at Nagardhan, near Nagpur have provided concrete evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the Vakataka dynasty that ruled parts of Central and South India between the third and fifth centuries.

**About:**

- Nagardhan is a large village in Nagpur district, about 6 km south of Ramtek taluka headquarters.
- Nagardhan served as the capital of the Vakataka kingdom.
- It is the first time clay sealings have been excavated from Nagardhan. The oval-shaped sealing belongs to the period when Prabhavatigupta was the queen of the Vakataka dynasty. It bears her name in the Brahmi script, along with the depiction of a conch. The presence of the conch, scholars say, is a sign of the Vaishnava affiliation that the Guptas held.
- An intact idol of Lord Ganesha, which had no ornaments adorned, too was found from the site. This confirmed that the elephant god was a commonly worshipped deity in those times.

- Researchers found animal rearing to be one of the main occupations. Remains of seven species of domestic animals — cattle, goat, sheep, pig, cat, horse and fowl — were traced in an earlier study by the team.

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

#### **Operation Alberich**

The Oscar-nominated World War I drama '1917' was recently released in India which is based on Operation Alberich.

#### **About:**

- Operation Alberich was the code name of a German military operation in France during the First World War.
- Alberich was a planned strategic withdrawal to new positions on the shorter and more easily defended Hindenburg Line, which took place between 9 February and 20 March 1917.
- The retirement eliminated the two salients which had been formed during the Battle of the Somme in 1916, between Arras and Saint-Quentin and from Saint-Quentin to Noyon.
- The operation is regarded as a tactical success for the Germans, but is criticised for the disproportionate destruction it caused.

#### **India – Brazil Relations**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations. The Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade is accorded India's highest honour in protocol terms.

#### **Action plan to deepen their strategic partnership:**

- The two sides also concluded 15 agreements/MoU on a variety of issues including an action plan to deepen their strategic partnership.
- Under the action plan, existing mechanisms, as well as goals, have been grouped in six major thematic areas.
- The India-Brazil Joint Commission for political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation will be the main forum for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan and will convene every two years, the action plan states.
- Key MoUs/Agreements exchanged during the Visit:
  - MoU for establishing a nodal institution in India to carry out research on Bioenergy.
  - Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty.
  - Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
  - MoU on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
  - Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2020-2024.
  - MoU between Invest India and the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency.

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Merchanting Trade Transactions (MTT) – Revised Guidelines**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the revised guidelines for Merchanting Trade Transactions (MTT) under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

#### **About:**

- In Indian Context, the trade is called Merchanting Trade when,
- The supplier of goods will be resident in one foreign country
- The buyer of goods will be resident in another foreign country
- The merchant or the intermediary will be resident in India
- Merchanting transaction is one which involves shipment of goods from one foreign country to another foreign country involving an Indian Intermediary. Hence, It is also called Intermediary Trade.
- According to revised guidelines, for a trade to be classified as merchanting trade, goods acquired shall not enter the Domestic Tariff Area. Also, the entire MTT shall be completed within an overall period of nine months.

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

#### **Global Talent Competitiveness Index**

The 2020 Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) report compiled by INSEAD in collaboration with human resource firm Addeco and Google was released in Davos, Switzerland.

#### **About:**

- Launched for the first time in 2014, the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) is an annual benchmarking report that measures the ability of countries to compete for talent.

- India has climbed eight places to 72nd rank in the 2020 Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI), which was topped by Switzerland, the US and Singapore.
- In the BRICS grouping, China was ranked 42nd, Russia (48th), South Africa (70th) and Brazil at 80th position.
- India's highest-ranked sub-pillar is employability, but the ability to match labour market demand and supply stands in contrast to the country's poor "mid-level skills", which result in a mediocre score in vocational and technical skills.

### ODISHA DEVELOPMENT

#### Paradip Port

An inter-ministerial panel has approved a Ministry of Shipping proposal for Paradip Port expansion project.

About:

- Paradip Port is a natural, deep-water port on the East coast of India in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha.
- It is situated at confluence of the Mahanadi river and the Bay of Bengal.
- The port is administered by the Paradip Port Trust (PPT), an autonomous corporation under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 functioning under Ministry of Shipping.

### DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

**Qns: What do you understand by 'welfare state'? Do you think that India is a welfare state in true sense?**

Welfare State is a politico-economic setup with the following characteristics:

- It provides for basic minimum services to its citizens like law and order.
- It is interventionist in nature. It does so as to further common social good.
- It has a multi-party democratic system.
- It has a mixed economy. Both the private and public sectors co-exist at the same time.

India exhibits features of such a state:

- Through Directive Principles, State strives to achieve various common social goals like conservation of the environment, gender equality, representation to depressed communities etc.
- India has achieved food security for its citizens by the Green Revolution, White Revolution and currently working on Nutritional Security by implementing the National Nutrition Mission.
- Redistribution of wealth so as to reduce inequalities have been affected in the form of Land Reforms, Progressive Taxation Policy, Subsidies etc.
- Cronyism, Profiteering is made subservient to common good by strict laws like Companies Act, Prevention of Corruption Act etc.
- Means of livelihood is provided through various programmes like MGNREGA.

Challenges to Indian Welfare State:

- Income inequality in India has been rising especially after LPG reforms, as per Oxfam report.
- Failure of policy implementation like the Land Ceiling Act.
- Prevalence of discrimination – gender (Nirbhaya Case), caste (Dalit atrocities), minorities (communal violence) etc.
- Unemployment levels have steadily risen in the last five years.

Conclusion: Thus, India does not present a Welfare State model in true sense. However, it continually strives to move in that direction in future too, evident in programmes like Ayushman Bharat, Bharatmala and Sagarmala project, strengthening of armed forces etc.

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

- Which of the following port is situated at confluence of the Mahanadi river and the Bay of Bengal?
  - Paradip Port**
  - Cochin port
  - Chennai Port
  - Kandla Port
- In Indian Context, the trade is called Merchanting Trade when:
  - The supplier of goods will be resident in one foreign country
  - The buyer of goods will be resident in another foreign country
  - The merchant or the intermediary will be resident in India
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:
  - 1 only
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3**

3. With reference to the Operation Alberich, consider the following statements:
  1. It was the code name of a German military operation in France during the First World War.
  2. The operation is regarded as a tactical success for the Germans.
 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 key MoUs/Agreements exchanged during the Visit Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to India, consider the following statements:
  1. MoU for establishing a nodal institution in India to carry out research on Bioenergy
  2. MoU on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
  3. MoU between Invest India and the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency
 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**
5. With reference to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), consider the following statements:
  1. It is the apex Indian government organisation involved in anthropological studies and field data research for human and cultural aspects.
  2. Its headquarters is located at New Delhi.
 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. 2020 Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) report is released by:
  - (a) **INSEAD**
  - (b) UNESCO
  - (c) World Bank
  - (d) World Economic Forum
7. With reference to the report on sexual abuse of children by Adhoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:
  1. National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal shall be designated as the national portal under reporting requirements in POCSO Act in case of electronic material.
  2. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) should be designated as the nodal agency to deal with the issue of child pornography.
 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 Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), consider the following statements:
  1. It is the nodal body for adoption of Indian children.
  2. It is an autonomous body of the Union Ministry of Health.
 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. Prabhavatigupta was the queen of which of the following dynasty?
  - (a) **Vakataka**
  - (b) Vijayanagara
  - (c) Maurya
  - (d) Kushan