

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

Union Minister for Minority Affairs informed Lok Sabha that the Parsi population in the country went up by 233 since 2013, when the government launched the JiyoParsi scheme.

**About:**

- JiyoParsi is a Government of India supported scheme to arrest the decline in population of the Parsi Zoroastrian Community in India.
- The scheme comprises of three components: Advocacy Component, Health of the Community Component and Medical Component.

**Parsis (Zoroastrians)**

- Status: Parsis (Zoroastrians) are a notified minority community under National Commission of Minorities Act 1992.
- Population: The population of Parsis (Zoroastrians) had declined from 1,14,000 in 1941 to 57,264 in 2011, as per census data.
- Reasons for low population of the community are: Total Fertility Rate, late weddings, voluntary and involuntary childlessness.

**Childline 1098**

CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) released data compiled for 2018-2019.

**Key findings:**

- Last year, the CHILDLINE helpline 1098 received a total of 62 lakh calls.
- The largest number of phone calls were made to seek intervention for abuse cases (17% of the total cases), followed by those pertaining to child labour (13%), education (12%), runaways (11%) and missing children (11%).
- Under child abuse category, 37% of the complaints were about child marriage, 27% about physical abuse and 13% regarding sexual abuse. The remaining 23% constituted emotional, corporal, domestic and cyber abuse.
- 35% of the sexual abuse cases were committed by neighbours, 25% by strangers and 11% by family members.

**CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF):**

- CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF), an NGO, is the nodal agency appointed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to manage CHILDLINE helpline 1098 — a free, emergency phone service for children in need of help.
- CHILDLINE India Foundation was formed in 1999. In 2006-07, the Ministry for Women and Child Development (MWCD) granted the exclusive 'Nodal Mother NGO' status to CHILDLINE India Foundation in order to set up CHILDLINE services across the country.
- The CHILDLINE 1098 service has received a special mention in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

**GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC****BuddahNullah**

The Punjab Cabinet approved Rs. 650 crore in the first phase for rejuvenation of the highly polluting BuddahNullah.

**About:**

- BuddahNullah is a seasonal tributary of Sutlej River in Ludhiana.
- It runs through the Malwa region of Punjab and joins the Satluj at WajipurKalan in the Ludhiana district.
- The pollution in the BuddahNullah is a major threat to public health and environment and the main sources of pollution in the nullah are direct flow of pollutants by industries and dairies.
- Under this plan, an additional sewage treatment plant having a capacity of 275 MLD would be developed to solve the problems of BuddahNullah and subsequent pollution of the river Satluj.

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****Ero-Net**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has been awarded ‘Silver’ Award for Excellence in Government Process re-engineering for digital transformation for the year 2019-20 from Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.

About:

- The award was given to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the ERO-NET Project.
- ERO-NET is a common database for all States and UTs with data of 91 crore electors. It provides bedrock of electoral roll in providing various web services to Conduct of Elections applications of Election Commission of India.
- ERO-NET standardised forms processing, standard database schema, and a standard template for e-roll printing. It automates the process of electoral roll management starting from elector registration, field verification of electors, decision support system for Electoral registration officers and for providing extensive integrated value-added services.

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

#### **3rd Global Conference On Road Safety**

The “3rd High Level Global Conference on Road Safety for Achieving Global Goals 2030” was held on February 19-20, 2020 in Stockholm, Sweden.

About:

- Objective of the conference: To bring road safety on the global agenda by drawing up a road-map for reaching the United Nation’s goal set under the UN Decade of Action of reducing road crashes by 2030.
- Background: The conference was a follow up of the 2nd High Level Global Conference on “Traffic Safety-Time of Results” in 2015 in Brazil.
- Organizers: The conference was organised in active collaboration with World Bank, World Health Organisation (WHO) and other agencies.

Outcomes:

- The Conference saw the UN Road Safety Fund unveil 10 new projects that will target key gaps in the road safety systems of 12 countries.
- The Stockholm Declaration, created on the basis of the Moscow Declaration of 2009 and the Brasilia Declaration of 2015, calls for a 50% reduction in Road deaths and injuries from 2020 to 2030 on way to Vision Zero by 2050.
- It recognised that SDG target 3.6 will not be met by 2020 (Target 3.6 is: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents).

Related Info:

- India is a signatory to the Brasilia Declaration – signed during the 2nd High Level Global Conference on “Traffic Safety-Time of Results” in 2015 in Brazil – which committed the world community to reducing the number of deaths in road accidents.
- The United Nations has included Road Safety as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- According to the UN World Health Organization (WHO)
- road traffic crashes kill more than 1.35 million people every year, with over 90% of these casualties occurring in low- and middle-income countries,
- road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5-29 years.

#### **Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED)**

Scientists have proposed the construction of a Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED) enclosing all of the North Sea as an extraordinary measure to protect Northern European countries from rising seas as a result of climate change.

About:

- The Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED) is a proposed solution to the problem of rising ocean levels in Northern Europe.
- It would be a megaproject, involving the construction of two massive dams of a combined length of 637 km enclosing all of the North Sea:
  - one between France and England, and
  - another between Scotland and Norway.
- The concept was conceived by the oceanographers SjoerdGroeskamp and JoakimKjellsson.

- According to them, separating the North and Baltic Seas from the Atlantic Ocean may be the “most viable option” to protect Northern Europe against unstoppable sea level rise (SLR).
- The scheme's authors describe it as "more of a warning than a solution". As of 2020, the scheme is largely a thought experiment intended to demonstrate the extreme cost of engineered solutions to the effects of climate change.

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **SanjivPuri Expert Group**

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted a High Level Expert Group on Agriculture Exports.

#### **About:**

- **Composition:** The expert group will be chaired by SanjivPuri, Chairman and Managing Director, ITC.
- **Mandate:** To recommend measurable performance incentives for States to encourage agriculture exports as well as to promote crops to enable high import substitution.
- The Committee will submit its recommendations within three months for further consideration of the Commission.

#### **SEBI redefines ‘pledge’**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has redefined ‘pledge’ in the regulatory laws to protect client securities.

#### **About:**

- SEBI has amended the SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations by including an additional explanation that states that ‘pledge’ would also refer to ‘re-pledge of securities for margin or settlement obligations.’
- Onus of bonafide pledge created from margin account of a stock broker will now lie with the depository following the SEBI amendment.
- This is expected to go a long way in minimising instances where stock brokers misuse client securities by pledging such shares for their own benefit in terms of meeting their margin requirements.
- The most high-profile matter in the recent past was of Karvy Stock Broking in which the Hyderabad-based firm raised funds from entities such as Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank by pledging client securities.

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

#### **Force Majeure**

The Finance Ministry (Government of India) said that the COVID-19 outbreak in China will be considered a ‘force majeure’ situation.

#### **About:**

- Force majeure is a French term that literally means "greater force." A ‘force majeure’ situation refers to extraordinary events and circumstances beyond human control.
- It is related to the concept of an act of God, an event for which no party can be held accountable, such as a hurricane or a tornado. Force majeure also encompasses human actions, however, such as armed conflict.
- Force majeure refers to a clause that is included in contracts to remove liability for natural and unavoidable catastrophes that interrupt the expected course of events and restrict participants from fulfilling obligations.

#### **Recent development:**

- The declaration of a ‘force majeure’ situation was one of the major demands of industry representatives. The Expenditure Department has now issued an office memorandum to the Secretaries of all Central government Ministries and departments in this regard. This would avoid imposition of penalties and other negative consequences on the companies executing government contracts who may be dependent on supplies from affected areas.
- The move provides some relief to companies with central government contracts forced to default on contract obligations due to delays in input shipments from China.

### Js-Sniffers

According to a recent report by a Singapore-based cybersecurity company, around 98% of sensitive credit card details, that have been put up for sale on the dark net, are those of Indian customers. JavaScript sniffers could have been used to amass the bank card data.

#### About:

- JavaScript or JS-Sniffers are programmes used for stealing credit and debit card information from e-commerce websites. These are among the latest concerns when it comes to cybersecurity and theft of sensitive card details.
- JS sniffers are a growing concern because they're so difficult to detect and, even if the code is removed, the attackers can return.
- Most JS sniffer tools work in much the same way as a credit card skimmer. But instead of physically attaching a device to an ATM, a JS sniffer uses a few lines of code injected onto an e-commerce site to skim data that consumers use to buy goods.

### **ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

#### Odisha All Set To Host First Edition Of Khelo India Games

Odisha is all set to host the first edition of Khelo India University Games (KIUG) beginning from February 22.

#### About:

- The games will be played at three venues in Bhubaneswar and Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium Cuttack.
- The aim of the event is to create international-level sporting structure in India so that any India player who goes abroad to play won't face difficulty to cope up with the new structure. Universities produce world-class player, besides, a cordial relationship between sports and education is very necessary.;
- This is the first edition of Khelo India and Odisha has got the chance to create history. Besides, this is the first such mega event for the State. .
- The KIGU will conclude on March 1. Around 4,000 athletes from around 176 universities, apart from technical and supporting staff will participate in the University Games.
- The event will have 17 sports disciplines which include individual events like- archery, athletics, boxing, fencing, judo, swimming, weightlifting, wrestling and team events such as badminton, basketball, football, hockey, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, rugby and kabaddi.
- The University Games is funded by the Sports Ministry in association with Odisha government. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and National Sports Federations (NSF) are also supporting the event.

### **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. What do you understand by precision irrigation? Discuss the advantages of precision irrigation in India.**

#### **Answer ;**

Precision Irrigation is one innovative agricultural technique that uses water wisely and helps farmers achieve higher levels of crop yield in a minimal amount of water. It involves the accurate assessment of plant water requirements and precise application of the required volume at the required time. It requires the use of new technologies, such as global positioning (GPS), sensors, satellites or aerial images, and information management tools (GIS) to assess and understand variations. Precision Irrigation is one of the components of Precision Agriculture.

Precision agriculture (PA) is an approach to farm management that uses information technology (IT) to ensure that the crops and soil receive exactly what they need for optimum health and productivity. The goal of PA is to ensure profitability, sustainability and protection of the environment.

#### Advantages of precision agriculture in environmentally sensitive areas in India

- Majority of net sown areas are rain-fed (It depends on rainfall for irrigation). Also, the nature of Indian monsoon is seasonal and is subject to climate change.
  - This calls for the application of precision agriculture.
- In India, the agriculture sector is the largest consumer of water. Thus, the application of precision agriculture can address the water scarcity in India.

- Poor irrigation management (over-extraction of groundwater) has an immense impact on water resource availability.
- Green Revolution involves the use of fertilizers and pesticides on a large scale. However, these chemicals have leached into the soils and led to aquifers contamination.
  - Therefore, techniques like Fertigation (fertilizer is incorporated within the irrigation water by the drip system) can help in increasing productivity and at the same time ensuring sustainability.
  - Also, the Soil health card launched by Indian government is a step in the right direction in this regard.
- Indian agriculture is prone to a lot of natural disasters like floods and droughts.
  - Use of weather forecasting, can help farmers to prepare for these disasters and take measures like taking crop insurance to minimize losses to farmers.

**Conclusion:** Water is one of the scarcest resources in India, given the ever-increasing scarcity of water, it is high time that India must adopt innovative agriculture practices like precision agriculture, climate smart agriculture etc.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs**

1. With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:
  1. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently redefined 'pledge' in the regulatory laws to protect client securities.
  2. Onus of bonafide pledge created from margin account of a stock broker will now lie with the depository following the SEBI amendment.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. With reference to the Force majeure, consider the following statements:
  1. It refers to an extraordinary events and circumstances beyond human control.
  2. It encompasses only natural reasons or an act of God.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. BuddahNullah is a seasonal tributary of which of the following River?
  - (a) **Sutlej**
  - (b) Ravi
  - (c) Beas
  - (d) Ganga
4. With reference to the Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED), consider the following statements:
  1. It is a proposed solution to the problem of rising ocean levels in Northern Europe.
  2. It would be a megaproject, involving the construction of two massive dams of a combined length of 637 km enclosing all of the North Sea.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. SanjivPuri expert group, recently seen in news, is related to:
  - (a) **To recommend measurable performance incentives for States to encourage agriculture exports.**
  - (b) To decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold.
  - (c) To Financing Infrastructure through PPP model.

- (d) To analyse the financial condition of the Regional Rural Banks in India.
6. With reference to the ERO-NET Project, consider the following statements:
1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has been awarded ‘Silver’ Award for Excellence in Government Process re-engineering for digital transformation for the year 2019-20 from Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.
  2. ERO-NET is a common database for all States and UTs with data of 91 crore electors.
- 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 “3rd High Level Global Conference on Road Safety for Achieving Global Goals 2030”, consider the following statements:
1. It was held in New Delhi.
  2. The conference was organised in active collaboration with World Bank, World Health Organisation (WHO) and other agencies.
- 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 CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF), consider the following statements:
1. It is the nodal agency appointed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to manage CHILDLINE helpline 1098 — a free, emergency phone service for children in need of help.
  2. The CHILDLINE 1098 service has received a special mention in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- 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. JiyoParsi scheme is an initiative of:
- (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(b) **Ministry of Minority Affairs**  
(c) Ministry of Labour and Employment  
(d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10. With reference to the JS-Sniffers, consider the following statements:
1. JS-Sniffers are programmes used for stealing credit and debit card information from e-commerce websites.
  2. They're so difficult to detect and, even if the code is removed, the attackers can return.
- 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