

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC****Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)**

As per the latest Special Bulletin on MMR released by the Registrar General of India, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has declined by 8 points in one year.

**About:**

- The MMR has declined from 130/ lakh live births in 2014-16 to 122/ lakh live births in 2015-17 (6.2% decline).
- The decline of MMR by 8 points in one year is important as it translates to nearly 2000 additional pregnant women saved annually.
- With this persistent decline, India is on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for reducing MMR by 2025, five years ahead of timeline of 2030.
- 11 States have achieved the ambitious target of MMR of 100/lakh Live Births by 2020 set under the National Health Policy 2017. These states are Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Karnataka and Haryana.
- MMR varies among the Indian states from a high of 229 per lakh in Assam to a low of 42 in Kerala.

**Ayodhya Land Dispute Verdict**

In a historic decision, the Supreme Court settled the long pending Ayodhya land dispute case.

**About:**

- In a unanimous decision, a five-judge Constitution bench ruled that the 2.77 acres of the disputed land will remain with the Central government and be handed over to a Trust for the construction of a temple. The trust should be formed within three months for the construction of the temple.
- The apex court bench said possession of the disputed 2.77-acre land rights will be handed over to the deity 'Ram Lalla', one of the three litigants in the case. It rejected the claim on the land by the Nirmohi Akhara, saying it is not a shebait or devotee of the deity of Lord Ram.
- The court said the faith of the Hindus that Lord Ram was born at the demolished structure is undisputed. It said a report by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) provided evidence of the remains of a building "that was not Islamic" beneath the demolished mosque.
- The bench also ruled that a suitable five-acre plot must be found for a mosque at a prominent place in the town.

**Background:**

- The verdict was pronounced on 14 appeals filed in the apex court against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment.
- The Court had delivered the verdict in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among the three parties -- the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and 'Ram Lalla'.

**Adverse Possession**

The five-judge Constitution Bench that delivered the judgment in the Ayodhya case said that while Muslims never lost possession of the disputed land, they could not assert the right of adverse possession.

**About:**

- Adverse possession is hostile possession of a property, which has to be continuous, uninterrupted and peaceful.
- Provisions on adverse possession are made under the Limitation Act, 1963. In case an owner does not stake his claim over his property for 12 years, a squatter can acquire legal rights over the property. The prescribed period in case of for government-owned properties is 30 years.

**Adverse possession in Ayodhya land dispute:**

- One of the questions before the Supreme Court was whether the Sunni Wakf Board had acquired the title of the disputed land by adverse possession.
- The Muslim side had claimed that the by virtue of their long exclusive and continuous possession – beginning from the time the mosque was built, and up to the time the mosque

was desecrated – they had perfected their title on Mosque by adverse possession.

- This argument has now been rejected by the Supreme Court. It said that Muslims cannot claim adverse possession against the said property because it was an open place and everybody was visiting including Muslims.

## **CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**

### **ARTICLE 142**

The Supreme Court, implicitly referring to the demolition of the Babri Masjid at the disputed site, said that it was invoking Article 142 "to ensure that a wrong committed must be remedied".

About:

- In granting five acres of land in Ayodhya, but outside the disputed area, to Muslim parties, the Supreme Court used extraordinary powers granted to it by Article 142 of the Constitution.
- This was the first time that the court invoked this power in a case involving a civil dispute over an immovable property, involving private parties.
- It said that "justice would not prevail if the court were to overlook the entitlement of the Muslims who have been deprived of the structure of the mosque through means which should not have been employed in a secular nation committed to the rule of law".

About Article 142 of Constitution:

- Title: Enforcement of decrees, orders of Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.
- Provisions: This article has 2 provisions –
- 142(1): The Supreme Court may pass an order for doing complete justice.
- 142(2): It confers three different powers on the Supreme Court. They are:
  - Securing the attendance of persons before it.
  - Discovery and production of documents and
  - Investigation and punishment of contempt of itself.
- The objective of Article 142(1) is that the Supreme Court must not be dependent on the executive for the enforcement of its decrees and orders.
- Such dependence would otherwise violate the principles of independence of the judiciary and separation of powers, both of which are part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- In Supreme Court Bar Association v. Union of India (1998), it was decided that this article Cannot be used to over-ride the existing law, but only to supplement the law and Can be invoked for procedure purposes only.

## **GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**

### **Online Apps By Indian Railways**

Indian Railways has launched three applications for all-India roll out to strengthen its IT-enabled services which will help ensure proper monitoring of projects being undertaken by Railways.

About:

- The applications, namely CRS Sanction Management System, Rail-road crossing GAD approval system and TMS for construction aim at beefing up IT-enabled services.
- CRS Sanction Management System: The CRS Sanction Management System is an important aspect in construction, maintenance and up-gradation of railway assets.
- Rail-road crossing GAD approval system: Rail-road crossing GAD approval system will expedite preparation, processing and approval of general agreement drawings related to the construction of Road Over Bridges and Road Under Bridges.
- TMS for construction: Application TMS for construction has been developed for new assets being constructed by the construction organization.

### **Steel Scrap Recycling Policy**

Ministry of Steel has issued the Steel Scrap Recycling Policy.

The policy aims to achieve the following objectives –

- To promote 6Rs principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Redesign and Remanufacture through scientific handling, processing and disposal of all types of recyclable scraps including non-ferrous scraps, through authorized centers / facility.

- To create a mechanism for treating waste streams and residues produced from dismantling and shredding facilities in compliance to Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 issued by MoEF & CC.
- To decongest the Indian cities from ELVs and reuse of ferrous scrap.

**Benefits:**

- Scrap based steel making technologies have been envisaged as one of the important options to reduce GHG emission intensity.
- There is a worldwide trend to increase steel production using scrap as the main raw material as recycling of scrap helps in conservation of vital natural resources besides other numerous benefits.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****MILAN 2020**

The Mid Planning Conference (MPC) for MILAN exercise concluded at HQENC Visakhapatnam. The three-day conference was attended by 29 delegates from 17 friendly Foreign Navies.

**About:**

- MILAN is a series of biennial multilateral naval exercise which commenced in 1995. it is aimed to enhance professional interaction between friendly foreign navies and learn from each other's strengths and best practices in the maritime domain.
- MILAN 2020 is scheduled to be conducted at Visakhapatnam in March 2020.
- It was conducted at Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) until last year and is being conducted for the first time

**ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES****Ozone Hole**

NASA recently reported that, an "ozone hole", which builds up over the Antarctic region this time of the year, has been found to be the smallest since it was first discovered in the 1980s.

**Ozone:**

- Ozone (chemically, a molecule of three oxygen atoms) is found mainly in the upper atmosphere, an area called stratosphere, between 10 and 50 km from the earth's surface.
- By absorbing the harmful ultraviolet radiations from the sun, the ozone molecules eliminate a big threat to life forms on earth. UV rays can cause skin cancer and other diseases and deformities, in plants and animals.

**Ozone Hole:**

- The 'ozone hole' is not really a hole. It is a region in the stratosphere, directly above Antarctica, where the concentration of ozone has been measured to become extremely low in certain months.
- Use of industrial chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in refrigeration, air-conditioning, foams, fire-extinguishers and solvents were the likely culprits.
- A 1989 global agreement, called Montreal Protocol, organised international consensus on phased elimination of these chemicals. Two years ago, an amendment to the Montreal Protocol cleared the way for a faster elimination of another set of similar compounds, called hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, which were being used as temporary replacements for CFCs.

**Recent finding by NASA:**

- NASA recently reported that this ozone hole, which usually grows to about 20 million sq km in September, was less than half that size this year, the smallest it has ever been during this time after being discovered.
- NASA said that this could have happened because of an extraordinarily high temperatures in the stratosphere this year, rather than the ongoing human efforts to contain the ozone depletion.
- This report comes just a month after the UN Environment Programme said that the ozone layer was on track to be completely restored within "our lifetime" itself, thanks to global efforts to ban the use of harmful chemicals that destroy ozone.

**PRELIMS SPECIFIC- AWARDS, EVENTS, DAYS ETC****National Capital Region (NCR)**

The inaugural conclave “National Capital Region (NCR)-2041” with the theme “Planning for Tomorrow’s Greatest Capital Region” will be held in Delhi on 11th November 2019. The Conclave will be chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India.

About:

- The National Capital Region (NCR) is a distinct federal setup having the National Capital Territory of Delhi as its core. It is a unique example of inter-state regional planning and development.
- The NCR covers around 55,083 sq.kms. of area with around 60 million population.
- The constituent areas of the National Capital Region are as under:
- Entire National Capital Territory of Delhi
  - Haryana sub-region comprises of districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Mewat, Palwal, Panipat, Mahendragarh, Jind, Karnal, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri.
  - Rajasthan sub-region comprises of districts of Alwar and Bharatpur.
  - Uttar Pradesh Sub-region comprises of districts of Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Bulandsahr, Baghpat, Hapur, Muzaffarnagar and Shamli.
- National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) was constituted by the Act of Parliament in 1985, as a statutory body under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India. It is tasked to evolve policies for the control of land-uses and development of infrastructure in the region so as to avoid any haphazard development.

Related Info : As per a report by United Nation, Delhi is slated to become the world’s largest metropolis overtaking Tokyo by 2028.

**ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

**Case Studies Of Odisha That Were Pivotal During Ayodhya Verdict**

While delivering the historic judgment on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in Ayodhya the Supreme Court considered three significant hearings of Odisha as case studies.

About:

- The first case study pertains to that of 1966 Emar Mutt case between Mutt Mahant Srinivasa Ramanuj Das and Surajnarayan Dass. During the hearing in the case, Orissa High court had held that the information provided in the Gazetteer (a geographical dictionary) can’t be treated as evidence but it can be consulted on matters of public history. Citing the significant judgement, the SC in its landmark hearing on Saturday said that evidence collected by Gazetteer in Ayodhya case can also be accepted as history. The apex court said that on the basis of historical facts, the case can be very carefully considered at the time of adjudication
- The second case study considered by the apex court was between Radhakrishna Das and Radharamana Swami at Orissa High Court pertaining to limitation of deity. The apex court in its hearing on Ayodhya matter said, “An idol is no doubt in the position of an infant as it can act only through a sevayat or a manager. But no authority has been cited to us for the proposition that he is to be regarded as perpetual infant, so that transactions by or against him will not be governed by the Limitation Act.”The Court explained that deity can’t walk on his own but has an agent who can represent him.
- The third case study considered by the SC bench was between one Promod Chandra Das and Odisha government. The case was about discontinuation of compensation or Khor Posh and facilities given to feudal kings after the territorial states were dissolved in the medieval period. In a unanimous verdict, the Supreme Court on Saturday paved the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya, while directing the Centre to allot a 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque.

The apex court said the mosque should be constructed at a “prominent site” and a trust should be formed within three months for the construction of the temple at the site where many Hindus believe Lord Ram was born.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**Whatever it takes, I m going to make it happen.**

## **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns: What do you understand by communalism? Discuss the reasons and impact of communalism on Indian society.**

**Ans:**

India is a land of multiple faiths and religions leading often to violence and hatred among the people. Those who fan this religious violence do not consider religion as a moral order but use it as a means and weapon to pursue their political ambitions. Communalism essentially leads to violence as it is based on mutual religious hatred.

Communalism is characterised by a strong allegiance to one's own ethnic group rather than to society as a whole. the basis of allegiance may be varied such as language, ethnicity, region, religion etc. In India, communalism as a social phenomenon is characterized by the religion of two communities, often leading to acrimony, tension and even rioting between them

Factors contributing to Communalism:

- Vested political interests: Certain politicians or political parties in order to further their own gains give indirect support or patronage to communal groups or activities.
- Rise of communal organisations: Communal organizations established on the pretext of propagating and promoting religion socially through cultural activities have instead worsened the problem of communal politics.
- Religious fundamentalism: Some religious leaders followed ardently by herds of devotees use their influence through inflammatory speeches to misguide the masses. Especially the ignorant masses get caught up in religious fervor and are willing to act violently.
- Politicization of local problems: Local issues or problems involving different communities, which can be resolved by the local authorities, are sometimes magnified and given political dimensions to use communalistic passions and often lead to riots. Ex. Malegaon and Bhiwandi.
- External threats: There exist many foreign forces which train extremists and supply them with modern weapons to undertake terrorist activities to fuel communal unrest in the nation.

Impact of communalism on Indian society:

Communalism has divided our society for long. It causes belief in orthodox tenets and principles, intolerance, hatred towards other religions and religious group, distortion of historical facts and communal violence.

**Social fabric:**

- It causes hatred among different religious sections in the society and disrupts the peaceful social fabric of our society.
- Communal Violence: Communal riots often break out in many parts of the country.

**Economy fallout :**

- Economic growth can take place only in environment of peace and tranquillity, communalism creates an atmosphere of intolerance and violence which would impede the flow of goods and capital.
- The flow of labour from productive activities is diverted to unproductive activities; there is massive destruction of public properties to spread the ideology.
- The investment attitude towards the country from foreign investor would be hampered as would tend to avoid the countries with highly communal tendency, for not take the risk of end up losing their investment.

**Political scenarios:**

- Voting on Communal Basis: Voters generally vote on communal lines. After getting elected, the representatives try to safeguard the interests of their community and ignore national interests. These conditions hinder the progress of democracy in the country

**Individual psychology:**

- Due to prevalent communalism in the society individuals are never at peace and a spiritual powerhouse India seems to lose its charm.

**Way forward:**

Public awareness needs to be raised about the harmful impact of communalism. Our constitution, which labels India as a secular nation makes provisions to protect the interests of all religions and goes beyond the code of any religion. Hence one must learn to put national interests above one's religious views.



**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs**

1. With reference to the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), consider the following statements:

1. According to Registrar General of India, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has declined by 8 points in one year.
2. MMR is highest in Tamil Nadu and lowest in Kerala.

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 National Capital Region (NCR), consider the following statements:

1. National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) was constituted by the Act of Parliament in 1985, as a statutory body under the Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
2. As per a report by United Nation, Delhi is slated to become the world's largest metropolis overtaking Tokyo by 2028.

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. With reference to the online apps by Indian Railways, consider the following statements:

1. The TMS for construction is an important aspect in construction, maintenance and up-gradation of railway assets.
2. CRS Sanction Management System has been developed for new assets being constructed by the construction organization.

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. Which of the following are the objectives of Steel Scrap Recycling Policy?

1. To promote 6Rs principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Redesign and Remanufacture through scientific handling, processing and disposal of all types of recyclable scraps including non-ferrous scraps, through authorized centers / facility.
2. To create a mechanism for treating waste streams and residues produced from dismantling and shredding facilities in compliance to Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary

Movement) Rules, 2016 issued by MoEF & CC.

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. MILAN is a series of biennial multilateral naval exercise which commenced in 1995. MILAN 2020 is scheduled to be conducted at:

- (a) **Visakhapatnam** (b) Kochi  
(c) Porbandar (d) Chennai

6. Ayodhya is situated on the banks of which of the following river?

- (a) Ganga (b) Yamuna  
(c) **Sarayu** (d) Son

7. With reference to the Article 142 of Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The objective of Article 142(1) is that the Supreme Court must not be dependent on the executive for the enforcement of its decrees and orders.
2. In Supreme Court Bar Association v. Union of India (1998), it was decided that this article can be used to over-ride the existing law.

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. What is 'adverse possession', recently seen in news?

- (a) **It is hostile possession of a property, which has to be continuous, uninterrupted and peaceful.**  
(b) It is the asset held by people who migrated to Pakistan in 1947 or later in the 1960s.  
(c) It is the encroachment only over government land.  
(d) None of the above

9. With reference to the 'ozone hole', consider the following statements:

1. It is a region in the stratosphere, directly above Antarctica.
2. NASA recently reported that, an "ozone hole", which builds up over the Antarctic region this time of the year, has been found to be the smallest since it was first discovered in the 1980s.

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