

GOVERNANCE**Bharat Parv 2021**

The annual event Bharat Parv was celebrated from **26th to 31st January, 2021** on a virtual platform created by the Ministry of Tourism.

On the occasion, the Ministry dedicated three virtual pavilions - Dekho Apna Desh, Statue of Unity & Incredible India.

Key Points**About the Bharat Parv:**

- It envisages generating patriotic fervor and showcases the rich and varied cultural diversity of the country. This event celebrates the “Essence of India”.
- The Ministry of Tourism organizes Bharat Parv every year since 2016 in front of the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations from 26th to 31st January.
- Bharat Parv 2021 showcased many pavilions of Central Ministries, State Theme Pavilions, Handicrafts, Folk performances from various states and UTs etc.

‘Dekho Apna Desh’ Campaign:

- It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2020.
- It is an initiative to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country and explore the wonders of India thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure in tourism spots in the country.
- The Ministry has also organised a series of webinars on various cities, states, cultures, heritage, wildlife, adventure, etc.

Statue of Unity:

- It is the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel monument in the Narmada district of Gujarat.
- The Statue of Unity, designed by the Indian sculptor Ram V. Sutar is the world’s tallest statue, with a height of 182 metres.
- Statue of Unity pavilion also exhibited the idea of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)’ which aims to:
 - Enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different States/UTs through the concept of State/UT pairing.
 - Promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

Incredible India Pavilion:

- It comprised information on UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- India has 38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site. The latest one included is Jaipur city, Rajasthan.

INDIAN ECONOMY**Economic Survey 2020-21: Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)**

The Economic Survey says that ABRY, a component of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package announced in November 2020 has a total estimated outlay of Rs 22,810 crore for the scheme period i.e., up to wage month 31st May 2023.

The scheme proposes to pay:

- Entire employees’ and employers’ contribution i.e. 24% of wages towards EPF in respect of new employees in establishments employing up to 1000 employees during the period from October 2020 to June 2021 and also to re-employ who lost their jobs due to COVID-19.
- Only employees’ share of EPF contribution (i.e. 12 percent) of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing more than 1000 employees during the period from October 2020 to June 2021, and also to re-employees who lost their jobs due to COVID-19.
- To provide relief to the organized sector employees, a notification issued on 28th March 2020 by the Government provisioning a non-refundable advance of 75 percent of the outstanding balance or 3 months’ wages whichever is lower, allowed to the members of EPFO.
- Under Prime Minister’s Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) financial assistance was given to building & other construction workers (BOCW) which largely included migrant workers from the funds collected under BOCW’s cess.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**Davos Dialogue: World Economic Forum**

Recently, the Prime Minister addressed the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Dialogue via video conferencing.

- The WEF annual meeting in Davos (Switzerland) engages the world's top leaders to shape global, regional and industry agendas.
- The Davos Dialogues agenda marks the launch of the WEF's Great Reset Initiative in the post Covid world.

The Great Reset Initiative of WEF

- It is based on the assessment that the world economy is in deep trouble.
- Situation has been made a lot worse by many factors, including the pandemic's devastating effects on global society, the unfolding technological revolution, and the consequences of climate change.

Agenda:

- The world must act jointly and swiftly to revamp all aspects of our societies and economies, from education to social contracts and working conditions. Every country must participate, and every industry, from oil and gas to tech, must be transformed.
- In short there should be a 'Great Reset' of capitalism.

Key Points

India's Fight Against Covid:

- India, took a proactive public participation approach and developed a Covid-specific health infrastructure and trained its resources to fight Covid.
- India, which is the home to the world's 18% population, has not only taken care of its citizens but also helped other countries by exporting PPE kits and masks.
- India guided the world how traditional medicine (Ayurveda) could help in improving immunity.
- India has developed two coronavirus vaccines so far which have been exported to other countries and the world would see many more Made in India vaccines in the coming days.

Indian Economy During the Pandemic:

- India has maintained economic activity by starting infrastructure projects worth billions of rupees and initiating special schemes for employment such as:
- Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan: The scheme empowered and provided livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens who have returned to their home states due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- India's ambition of self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) will strengthen globalism and will help in Industrial revolution 4.0.
- India is working on all the four factors of Industrial revolution 4.0 which are connectivity, automation, artificial intelligence or machine learning and real-time data.

Indian Policies Support Global Business:

- India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat movement is committed to global good and global supply chain as India has capacity, capability and reliability to strengthen global supply chain.
- Its massive consumer base will further grow and help the global economy.
- India invited the global players to take advantage of the 26 billion dollar Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.
- India offers ease of doing business as there is a predictable and friendly environment from tax regime to Foreign Direct Investment norms, one such example of an Indian initiative is Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal.
- Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP) is the online single point interface of the Government of India with investors to facilitate FDI. It is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

India and Climate Change:

- India is matching its growth with the goals of climate change.

Few Indian Initiatives to Fight Climate Change:

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP): It is a five-year action plan with a tentative target of 20-30% reduction in concentrations of PM10 and PM2.5 by 2024, with 2017 as the base year.
- India has also shifted from Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission norms from 1st April 2020 which was earlier to be adopted by 2024.

- It has distributed more than 360 million LED bulbs under the UJALA scheme, which has led to energy saving of about 47 billion units of electricity per year and reduction of 38 million tonnes of CO₂ per year.

India is focussing on sustainable urbanization with focus on ease of living, ease of doing business and climate sensitive development.

EMPLOYMENT

Economic Survey 2020-21: Employment

The Economic Survey 2020-21 states that the years 2019 and 2020 are landmark years in the history of labor reforms.

Key Points

- The country saw nearly 29 Central Labour laws being amalgamated, rationalized, and simplified into four labor codes viz.:
- the Code on Wages, 2019,
- the Industrial Relations Code, 2020,
- the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and
- the Code on Social Security, 2020
- COVID-19 has exposed the vulnerability of urban casual workers, who account for 11.2% of the urban workforce (All-India) as per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), January-March, 2020.
- Industry-wise estimates on workforce show that 'Agriculture' is still the largest employer with 42.5% of the workforce.
- The next important industry is 'other services' where 13.8% were engaged.

HEALTH

Economic Survey 2020-21: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

Key Finding of Economic Survey 2020-21 Reveals Strong Positive Impact of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) on Health Outcomes.

Observations by the Survey:

- The proportion of households with any usual member covered under health insurance or financing scheme increased by 54% from NFHS 4 to NFHS 5 in the states that adopted PMJAY.
- It decreased by 10% in the states that did not adopt PMJAY.
- The proportion reflects the success of PMJAY in enhancing health insurance coverage.
- The reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 20% compared to 12% in PMJAY and non-PMJAY states respectively.
- The proportion of people ensuring family planning rose across all the states between the two surveys.
- The increase is much more significant in the states that adopted PM-JAY indicating its effectiveness.
- The proportion of women with total unmet family planning needs decreased by 31% in the PMJAY states.
- The decline in the non-PMJAY states was merely 10%.

Pulse Polio Programme For 2021

President of India launched the Pulse Polio Programme for 2021 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Key Points

- The drops were on the eve of the Polio National Immunization Day, observed on the 31st January 2021, popularly known as Polio Ravivar.
- Around 17 crore children of less than 5 years of age will be given polio drops as part of the drive of the Government of India to sustain the polio-free status of the country.
- The strategy of the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme was conceived in December 1993 and it was rolled out from 2nd October 1994 when the first child was immunized against Polio as part of this program.
- The last case of Polio in India was reported in Howrah on 13th January 2011.
- India has been free of Polio for a decade now.
- Polio-free certification' of the entire South-East Asia Region of WHO including India on the 27th of March 2014 was a huge accomplishment in the history of India and Global Public Health.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT**NITI Aayog's Proposal for Little Andaman**

Recently, a plan named the Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island Vision Document by NITI Aayog for the sustainable and holistic development of the 680 sq km, fragile Little Andaman Island in the Andaman and Nicobar island group has raised alarm among conservationists.

- Earlier in 2020, the Prime Minister declared that the Andaman and Nicobar islands will be developed as a "maritime and startup hub".

Key Points**Purpose:**

To leverage the strategic location and natural features of the island.

The islands are critical for India's security because of their strategic location in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Better infrastructure and connectivity will help India enhance its military and naval strength in the islands.

Plan:

Building a new greenfield coastal city, that will be developed as a free trade zone and will compete with Singapore and Hong Kong.

Three Zones: It has divided the development in three zones:

Zone 1 :

- Spread over 102 sq km alongside the east coast of Little Andaman.
- It would be the monetary district and medi metropolis and can embody an aerocity, and a tourism and hospital district.

Zone 2:

- Spread over 85 sq km of pristine forest.
- It is the leisure zone, can have a movie metropolis, a residential district and a tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Zone 3 :

- Spread over 52 sq km of pristine forest.
- It shall be a nature zone, additional categorized into three districts: an unique forest resort, a nature therapeutic district and a nature retreat, all on the western coast.

Transport Development:

- A worldwide airport able to deal with all varieties of plane is central to the plan as a global airport is vital for growth.
- The solely jetty on the island might be expanded and a marina might be developed subsequent to the tourist entertainment district.
- A 100 km greenfield ring highway might be constructed parallel to the shoreline from east to west and might be supplemented with a mass fast transit community with stations at common intervals.

Bottlenecks:

- Lack of fine connectivity with Indian mainland and world cities.
- Fragile biodiversity and natural ecosystems and certain Supreme Court notifications that pose an obstacle to development.
- Another key issue is the presence of indigenous tribes and concerns for their welfare.
- 95% of Little Andaman is covered in forest, a big part of it the pristine evergreen sort. Some 640 sq km of the island is Reserve Forest under the Indian Forest Act 1927, and almost 450 sq km is protected because of the Onge Tribal Reserve, creating a singular and uncommon socio-ecological-historical complex of high importance.

Solution Proposed in the Plan:

- The proposal wants 240 sq km (35%) of this land and the options are:
- De-reserve 32% of the reserved forest and de-notify 138 sq km or 31% of the tribal reserve.
- If the tribals develop into an obstacle, the proposal says that they can be relocated to other parts of the island.

Habitats of various wild animals will be affected.

The proposal couldn't even be assessed as a result of there being no environment impact assessment report and neither had there been any detailed site layout plans for the proposed diversion.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Periyar Tiger Reserve

For the first time in the country, the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Kerala has taken up training of a tiger cub to equip it to naturally hunt in the forest environment.

Key Points

- It falls in the districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta in Kerala (saddled in the southern region of Western Ghats).

Formation:

- Declared a Sanctuary during 1950 and declared as Tiger Reserve during 1978. It gets its name from the River Periyar which has its origin deep inside the reserve.

Drainage:

- The major rivers through the reserve are Mullayar and Periyar.

Flora:

- The sanctuary comprises tropical evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests and grasslands.
- About 1966 species of flowering plants grow in the sanctuary.
- Of this about 516 are endemic to the Western Ghats.
- The sanctuary is a repository of medicinal plants numbering to about 300.
- Some are endemic to the region like *Syzygium periyarensis* (a tree), *Habenaria periyarensis* (an orchid) and *Mucuna pruriense thekkadiensis* (a climber) etc.

Fauna:

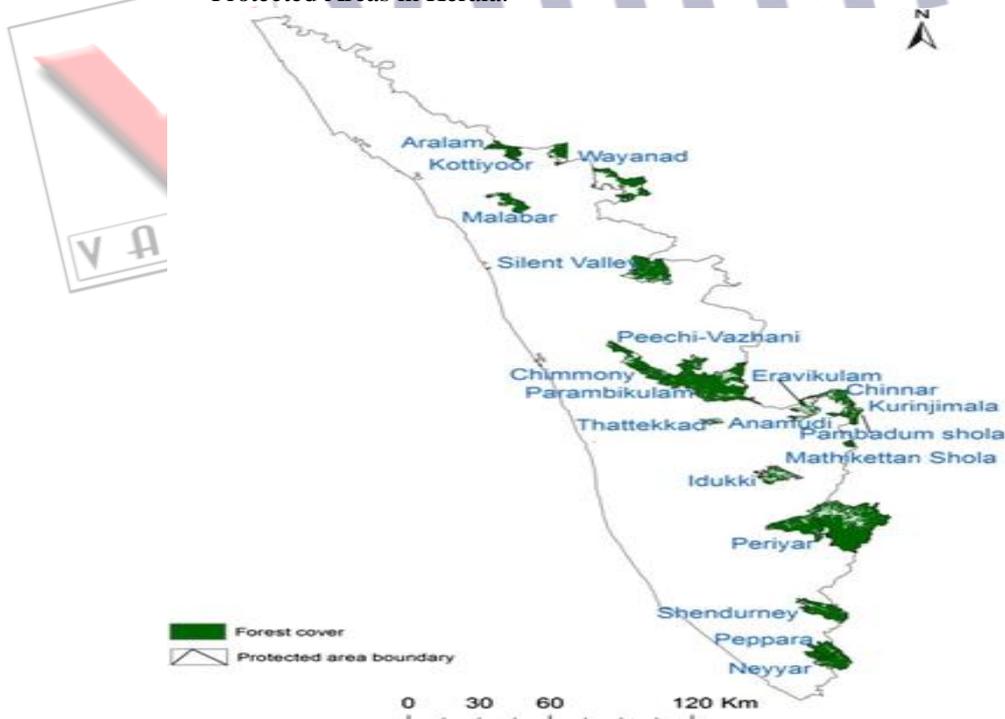
Mammals: Tiger, Elephant, Lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri Tahr etc.

Birds: Darters, Cormorants, Kingfishers, the great Malabar Hornbill and racket-tailed Drongos.

Reptiles: Monitor Lizards, Python, King Cobra etc.

Tribals:

- There are six tribal communities nestled inside the reserve such as Mannans, Paliyans, Malayarayans, Mala Pandarams, Uralis and Ulladans.
- Protected Areas in Kerala:



DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. “Corruption is an important manifestation of the failure of ethics.” In the light of the statement discuss the various reasons for the prevalence of corruption and measures needed to eradicate it. (250 words)

Ans:

Corruption is dishonest behavior by those in positions of power. It starts with the tendency of using public office for some personal benefit. Moreover, it is unfortunate that corruption has, for many, become a matter of habit. It is so deeply entrenched that corruption is now considered a social norm. Hence, corruption implies the failure of ethics.

There are many reasons for the prevalence of corruption:

- **Over Centralisation:** The more remotely power is exercised from the people, the greater is the distance between authority and accountability.
- The large number of functionaries between the citizen and final decision-makers makes accountability diffused and the temptation to abuse authority strong.
- **Weak Enforcement of Law:** Various laws have been made to curb the evil of corruption but their weak enforcement has acted as a hindrance in curbing corruption.
- **Greed for Illegitimate Money:** Various scams like the telgi stamp scam took place due to the inexhaustible appetite for illegal illegitimate funds.
- **Colonial Legacy of Unchallenged Authority:** In a society which worships power, it is easy for public officials to deviate from ethical conduct.

Measures that can be deployed to curb or eradicate corruption:

- **Regulation of Work Procedures:** Work procedures and processes need to be regularly reviewed and it needs to be ensured that such procedures are strictly followed in a systematic manner to make corruption difficult and thus act as preventive measures.
- **Regular Investigations:** The audit system can be an effective tool to suggest systemic improvements and changes in the working procedures of government so that chances of corruption diminish.
- **Free and Fair media:** A free media has a crucial role in prevention, monitoring and control of corruption.
- Such media can inform and educate the public on corruption, expose corruption in government, private sector and civil society organisations and help monitor codes of conduct while policing itself against corruption.
- **Identification of Causes:** Some of the causes of corruption also need to be identified so as to work out the solution.
- For example, it is suggested by many that the electoral system has become one where vast amounts of money are required to contest elections and that unless appropriate electoral reforms are thought of and implemented, corruption can not be eliminated.
- **Protection and incentivization of the honest people:** The honest need to be encouraged and incentivized in some way the other to promote a corruption-free work environment. They also need protection from the

Conclusion

In India, some recent anti-corruption initiatives have been taken. For example, various Supreme Court's ruling in pursuit of curbing criminalization of politics, many e-governance initiatives will improve transparency and accountability. These measures are indeed steps in the right direction, but bringing behavioural change in society will act as the most potent weapon against corruption.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements about Economic Survey of India:

1. It is an annual document released by the Department of Financial Services.
2. It is presented along with the Union Budget.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Which of the statements given is/are correct about Periyar Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located in the southern region of Western Ghats.
2. Lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri Tahr and the great Malabar Hornbill are found in the reserve.
3. The reserve is home to three tribal groups namely Gonds, Marati and Naikda.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) **1 and 2 only**
- b) 2 only

- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

3. Consider the following statements about the Little Andaman Island:

- 1. It is famous by the name of the largest settlement- Hut Bay in the region.
- 2. The island is considered home to the Onge tribe.

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. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act set the target to limit the fiscal deficit upto 3% of the GDP by 2021.
- 2. The NK Singh committee was formed to create a roadmap for fiscal consolidation for the Center and the States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

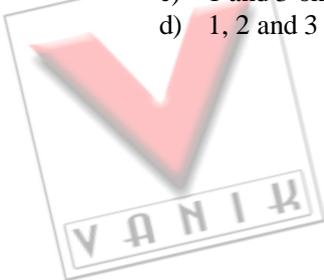
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. With reference to the Bare Necessities Index (BNI), consider the following statements:

- 1. The BNI index is prepared only for rural areas in India.
- 2. Bare necessities have improved across all States in the country in 2018 as compared to 2012.
- 3. The index is prepared by using data from National Statistical Office (NSO) survey on Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) **2 and 3 only**
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3



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