

GOVERNANCE**UDAN 4.1**

On the commencement of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75)', the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has proposed about 392 routes under UDAN 4.1 bidding process.

Key Points

- The UDAN 4.1 focuses on connecting smaller airports, along with special helicopter and seaplane routes.
- Some new routes have been proposed under the Sagarmala Seaplane services
- Sagarmala Seaplane Services is an ambitious project under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways with potential airline operators.
- One such seaplane service is already in operation between Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, which was started in October 2020.

About UDAN Scheme:

- Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- It is an innovative scheme to develop the regional Aviation market.
- The objective of the scheme is to create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
- The scheme envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through the revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years.
- Under-served airports are those which do not have more than one flight a day, while unserved airports are those where there are no operations.
- Financial incentives from the Centre, state governments and airport operators are extended to selected airlines to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports, and keep airfares affordable.
- Till date, 325 routes and 56 airports including 5 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been operationalised under the scheme.

UDAN 4.0:

- In 2020, 78 new routes were approved under the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UdeDeshKaAamNagrik (UDAN) to further enhance the connectivity to remote & regional areas of the country.
- Kavaratti, Agatti, and Minicoy islands of Lakshadweep will be connected by the new routes of UDAN 4.0.

INDIAN POLITY**The Appropriation Bill**

Recently, the Lok Sabha cleared the Appropriation Bill, allowing the Central government to draw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Key Points

- Appropriation Bill gives power to the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for meeting the expenditure during the financial year.
- As per article 114 of the Constitution, the government can withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund only after receiving approval from Parliament.
- The amount withdrawn is used to meet the current expenditure during the financial year.

Procedure Followed:

- The Appropriation Bill is introduced in the Lok Sabha after discussions on Budget proposals and Voting on Demand for Grants.
- The defeat of an Appropriation Bill in a parliamentary vote would lead to the resignation of a government or a general election.
- Once it is passed by the Lok Sabha it is sent to the Rajya Sabha.

Power of Rajya Sabha:

- It has the power to recommend any amendments in this Bill. However, it is the prerogative of the Lok Sabha to either accept or reject the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.
- After the bill receives assent from the president it becomes an Appropriation act.
- The unique feature of the Appropriation Bill is its automatic repeal clause, whereby the Act gets repealed by itself after it meets its statutory purpose.
- The government cannot withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India till the enactment of the appropriation bill. However, this takes time and the government needs money to carry on its

normal activities. To meet the immediate expenses the Constitution has authorised the Lok Sabha to make any grant in advance for a part of the financial year. This provision is known as the 'Vote on Account'.

Vote on Account

- A vote on account, as defined by Article 116 of the Indian Constitution, is a grant in advance for the central government to meet short-term expenditure needs from the Consolidated Fund of India, generally lasting for a few months till the new financial year kicks in.
- During an election year the Government either opts for 'interim Budget' or for 'Vote on Account' as after the election the Ruling Government may change and so the policies.

Amendment:

- No amendment can be proposed to an Appropriation Bill which will have the effect of varying the amount or altering the destination of any grant so made or of varying the amount of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India, and the decision of the Lok Sabha Speaker as to whether such an amendment is admissible is final.

Appropriation Bill vs Finance Bill:

- While the Finance Bill contains provisions on financing the expenditure of the government, an Appropriation Bill specifies the quantum and purpose for withdrawing money.
- Both appropriation and finance bills are classified as money bills which do not require the explicit consent of the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha only discusses them and returns the bills.

Money Bill:

- A Bill is said to be a Money Bill if it only contains provisions related to taxation, borrowing of money by the government, expenditure from or receipt to the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Bills that only contain provisions that are incidental to these matters would also be regarded as Money Bills.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**India and Comoros**

Indian Navy Ship Jalashwa arrived at port of Anjouan in Comoros with 1,000 metric tonnes of rice. This highlights the ties between India and Comoros within the framework of PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region).

Important value additions

- The Comoros is an island country in the Indian Ocean.
- 3 major islands in the Comoros Archipelago: Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Mwali (Mohéli) and Ndzuani (Anjouan)
- It is situated in the Mozambique Channel, between the African coast (nearest to Mozambique and Tanzania) and Madagascar, with no land borders.
- It is a member of the Arab League.
- It is the only country in the Arab world which is entirely in the Southern Hemisphere.
- It is also a member state of the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the Indian Ocean Commission.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**OTPRMS Certificates to be linked with DigiLocker**

The Ministry of Education has decided to link the Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System (OTPRMS) Certificates with DigiLocker.

Objective: To ensure hassle free access to verified OTPRMS Certificates

Key Points

- The issued certificates will automatically be transferred to DigiLocker.
- The same may be traced at National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) website.
- The registration fee for obtaining Certificates has been waived off.
- This will enable all stakeholders across India to be digitally empowered facilitating ease of doing business.

Important value additions**DigiLocker**

- DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).
- **Aim:** 'Digital Empowerment' of citizens by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet.
- The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology Rules, 2016

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021**

All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021 were released recently.

- Under it, any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an “All India Tourist Authorization/Permit” through online mode.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Key Points

- It will be issued, after relevant documents are submitted and fees deposited, within 30 days of submission.
- It will be applicable from 01 April 2021.
- The new rules shall promote tourism across the States and grow their revenues.

ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY**IQ Air’s Global air pollution Report**

A report on Global air pollution was released from IQ Air.

It is a Swiss air quality technology company specialising in protection against airborne pollutants, and developing air quality monitoring and air cleaning products.

Key Points

- Delhi remained the most polluted capital city in the world.
- India, on the whole, had improved its average annual PM2.5 (particulate matter) levels in 2020 than in 2019.
- India is the third most polluted country in 2020.
- Bangladesh and Pakistan have worse average PM2.5 levels than India.
- China ranked 11th in the latest report, a deterioration from the 14th in the previous edition of the report.
- Amongst cities, Hotan in China was the most polluted, followed by Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.
- Of the 15 most polluted cities, 13 were in India.
- The pollution levels are weighted averages, meaning that the population of a country influences the pollution values reported.
- 84% of all monitored countries observed air quality improvements.

However, of the 106 monitored countries, only 24 met the WHO’s annual guidelines for PM 2.5.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**Pilibhit Tiger Reserve: Uttar Pradesh**

A carcass of a five-year-old tigress was found in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (Uttar Pradesh).

Key Points

- It is located in Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It was notified as Tiger Reserve in 2014.
- In 2020, it bagged international award TX2 for doubling up the number of tigers in the past four years.
- It forms the part of Terai Arc Landscape in the upper Gangetic Plain.
- The northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border while the southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.

Flora and Fauna:

- It is home to a habitat for over 127 animals, 326 bird species and 2,100 flowering plants.
- Wild animals include tiger, swamp deer, bengal florican, leopard, etc.
- It has high sal forests, plantation and grasslands with several water bodies.

Other Protected Areas in Uttar Pradesh

- Dudhwa National Park
- National Chambal Sanctuary
- Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Discuss the similarities and differences between the basic tenets of Buddhism and Jainism. (250 Words).

Ans:

Mahavira and Buddha founded Jainism and Buddhism respectively. Like Buddhism, Jainism also rose partly in reaction to ritualism which marked the Vedic religion. Though both the religions were contemporaries and there was much in common they are marked by distinct characteristics.

Similarities

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- They were both inspired by the philosophy of the Upanishads and other Hindu religious sects. For example, the ultimate goal of life is salvation.
- Both the sections appealed to the socially downtrodden and admitted people from different ranks of society.
- Both believed that Nirvana or salvation liberates from the eternal chain of birth and death.
- Both emphasized strong moral principles rather than the practice of ritualism or devotion to and worship of God as a means to attain salvation.

Differences

- Unlike Buddhism, Jainism has survived in India throughout history despite the mutability it faced.
- This is due to the strict adherence of Jains to their religious discipline. However, Buddhism remained liberal in its interpretation in foreign countries.
- Jainism believes in a more holistic view of life. According to it everything in nature, every living and non-living thing has a soul of its own.
- However, Buddhism does not believe so.
- While Buddhism doesn't discriminate between males and females, according to Jainism, women and men householders cannot attain salvation.
- Elements of Jain teaching such as ahimsa, include opposition to animal sacrifices.
- The concept of Ahimsa (non-violence) is different in Buddhism as it permitted the eating of animal flesh where it was a necessity or traditional diet of the people.

Conclusion

Buddhism and Jainism are sometimes referred to as children of a common parent and have a lot in common. However, W.W. Hunter writes "Jainism is as much independent from other sects, especially from Buddhism as can be expected, from any other sect."

DAILY QUIZ

1. Department of Atomic Energy comes under the administrative control of:

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology b) Ministry of Defence
c) Ministry of Home Affairs d) **Prime Minister office**

2. Consider the following statements about Defence Production in India:

1. Foreign Direct Investment in Defence is 100% in India.
2. SRIJAN Portal is portal of patents for defence product, which will be provided freely to domestic industry.
3. Chetak Helicopter is fully indigenous helicopter made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding "Regulation of NGOs in India":

1. Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010.
2. Implementation agency for Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 is Reserve Bank of India.
3. Under this Act, to receive fund from foreign sources, NGO has to register them every year.

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?

- a) 2 only b) 3 only c) **2 and 3 only** d) All of the above

4. Consider the following statements regarding "Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)":

1. PM of India proposed it in 19th Conference of Parties of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015.
2. As for now, nearly half of the UN member countries are its member.
3. It considers Economic, Social, Physical and Natural infrastructure in category of Infrastructure.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) **3 only** c) 2 and 3 only d) All of the above

5. World Air Quality Report 2020 has been released by:

- a) World Health Organisation(WHO)
b) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
c) Climate and Clean Air Coalition
d) **IQAir**