

GOVERNANCE**Bru Refugees of Mizoram**

The process of settlement of Mizoram Bru refugees in Tripura has started. It is in accordance with a quadripartite accord signed in New Delhi in January 2020.

Key Points

- Bru is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam.
- In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state.
- In 1997, following ethnic clashes, nearly 37,000 Brus fled Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei districts of Mizoram and were accommodated in relief camps in Tripura.
- Since then, 5,000 have returned to Mizoram in eight phases of repatriation, while 32,000 still live in six relief camps in North Tripura.
- In June 2018, community leaders from the Bru camps signed an agreement with the Centre and the two state governments, providing for repatriation in Mizoram. But most camp residents rejected the terms of the agreement.

Quadripartite Accord:

- The Centre, the governments of Mizoram and Tripura and leaders of Bru organisations signed a quadripartite agreement in January (2020).
- Under the pact, the Home Ministry has committed to incur the whole expenditure of settlement in Tripura.
- A package was assured in the accord that each refugee family would get:
A plot, fixed deposit of Rs. 4 lakh, free ration and a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 for two years.
In addition, each family will also be provided Rs. 1.5 lakh to construct a house.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**EU Strategy For Indo-Pacific**

European Union (EU) approved conclusions on a European Union strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The renewed EU commitment to the Indo-Pacific will have a long-term focus and will be based on upholding democracy, human rights, the rule of law and respect for international law.

Indo-Pacific is a region spanning from the east coast of Africa to the Pacific island states.

Key Points

Need: Intense geopolitical competition adding to increasing tensions on trade and supply chains as well as in technological, political and security areas. Human rights are also being challenged. These developments increasingly threaten the stability and security of the region and beyond, directly impacting on the EU's interests.

Main Features of the Strategy:

Covid-19: The EU will work together in order to mitigate the economic and human effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and work towards ensuring an inclusive and sustainable socio-economic recovery.

Free and Fair Trade: The EU's approach and engagement will look to foster a "rules-based international order, a level playing field, as well as an open and fair environment for trade and investment, reciprocity, the strengthening of resilience, tackling climate change and supporting connectivity with the EU. On trade partnerships, the EU will aim to conclude free trade agreements with Australia, Indonesia and New Zealand and take further steps towards the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment with China. It will also continue to explore deepening economic relations with India.

Security and Defence: It will continue to develop partnerships in the areas of security and defence, including to address maritime security, malicious cyber activities, disinformation, emerging technologies, terrorism, and organised crime.

It has taken the decision to extend the geographic scope of its CRIMARIO (Critical Maritime Routes) II activities from the Indian Ocean into South and Southeast Asia with a view to contribute to safer sea lanes of communication with the EU.

CRIMARIO: The EU Critical Maritime Route Wider Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO) project was launched in 2015 to improve maritime security and safety in the Wider Indian Ocean, with a particular focus on selected countries and archipelagos in East Africa, it aims to support countries in the region to enhance their Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA).



Role for India:

- Increasing competition, power rivalry, unilateral actions challenging the multilateral order and international laws are some of the common concerns shared by India and Europe.
- With an enhanced focus on their strategic relations and engagement with other like-minded regional players, India and EU can play a significant role in preserving an open, free, inclusive and rules based order in the Indo-pacific.

India’s recent engagement with European powers in Indo-Pacific:

- India’s support for France’s membership of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- India’s backing for a larger European role in the Indo-Pacific. India has welcomed the interest of Germany and Netherlands in building a new geopolitical architecture in the Indo-Pacific.
- Some of the crucial areas that India and EU can work together include joint efforts in capacity building against challenges like piracy, counter-terrorism etc and cooperation in enhancing interoperability and domain awareness, maritime technologies, blue economy etc.

ECONOMY

Britain Central Bank Digital Currency “BRITCOIN”

British authorities are creating a Central Bank Digital Currency, being touted as "Britcoin." It is a step towards future proofing Pound Sterling (currency of the United Kingdom) against cryptocurrencies and improving the payments system.

Key Points

Britcoin:

- In the wake of declining cash payments in the country partly due to the Corona pandemic, the Bank of England and the Treasury are considering creating Digital Currency.
- The Digital currency, if passed, would exist alongside cash and bank deposits and act as a new form of money to be used by households and businesses in England.
- It would sit at the interface between cash and private payments systems and would not necessarily be based on distributed ledger technology.
- This ‘britcoin’ would be tied to the value of the pound to eliminate holding it as an asset to derive profit.
- The move could have an economic impact in the form of wider investment into the UK tech sector and lower transaction costs for international businesses.
- Britain’s digital currency would be different in a key sense as if passed, it would be issued by state authorities.
- Currently, only the Bahamas has such a currency, though China is trialing it in several cities.

Digital Currency:

- Digital currency is a payment method which is in electronic form and is not tangible.
- It can be transferred between entities or users with the help of technology like computers, smartphones and the internet.

Central Bank Digital Currency:

- A central bank digital currency (CBDC) uses an electronic record or digital token to represent the virtual form of a fiat currency of a particular nation (or region).
- Fiat Currency: It is government-issued currency that is not backed by a physical commodity, such as gold or silver, but rather by the government that issued it.

- A CBDC is centralized; it is issued and regulated by the competent monetary authority of the country.
- Each unit acts as a secure digital instrument equivalent to a paper bill and can be used as a mode of payment, a store of value, and an official unit of account.

Benefits:

- CBDC aims to bring in the best of both worlds—the convenience and security of digital form like cryptocurrencies, and the regulated, reserved-backed money circulation of the traditional banking system.
- New forms of digital money could provide a parallel boost to the vital lifelines that remittances provide to the poor and to developing economies.
- It will ensure that people are protected from financial instability caused due to the failure of private payments systems.
- Ensures that central banks retain control over monetary policy against the remote possibility that payments might migrate into cryptocurrencies over which they have no leverage.

Risk Associated:

- There is a need to enforce strict compliance of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms to prevent the currency's use for terror financing or money laundering.
- Existence of digital money could undermine the health of commercial banks as it removes deposits on which they primarily rely for income.

India's Stand on Digital Currency:

- Reserve Bank India (RBI) had considered cryptocurrencies as a poor unit of account and also demonstrated by their frequent and high fluctuation in value.
- According to RBI, it pose several risks, including anti-money laundering and terrorism financing concerns (AML/CFT) for the state and liquidity, credit, and operational risks for users.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**Ingenuity Mars Helicopter Of NASA**

NASA's miniature robot helicopter Ingenuity performed a successful takeoff and landing on Mars. It was the first powered, controlled flight on another planet. The first powered flight on Earth was achieved by the Wright brothers in 1903 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Key Points**About Ingenuity:**

- Ingenuity is the first helicopter to fly on Mars.
- It was carried by NASA's rover called Perseverance that was launched in July 2020.
- Ingenuity is able to fly using counter-rotating blades that spin at about 2,400 rpm (Rotations Per Minute).
- It has a wireless communication system, and is equipped with computers, navigation sensors, and two cameras.
- It is solar-powered, able to charge on its own.

Mission of the Helicopter:

- The helicopter's mission is experimental in nature and completely independent of the rover's science mission.
- It will help collect samples from the surface from locations where the rover cannot reach.

Importance of this Flight: Its performance during these experimental test flights will help inform decisions about small helicopters for future Mars missions — where they can perform a support role as robotic scouts, surveying terrain from above, or as full standalone science craft carrying instrument payloads.

NASA's Perseverance Rover:

- Perseverance landed at the Jezero Crater (an ancient river delta that has rocks and minerals that could only form in water) of Mars in February 2021.
- It will remain on the Red Planet for about two years and look for finding past signs of life.
- The rover is designed to study signs of ancient life, collect samples that might be sent back to Earth during future missions and test new technology that might benefit future robotic and human missions to the planet.

Mars

- Second-smallest planet in the Solar System. It is also called 'Red Planet'.

- Mars is about half the size of Earth.
- Like Earth, Mars has distinct seasons, but they last longer than seasons on Earth since Mars takes longer to orbit the Sun (because it's farther away).
- Martian days are called sols—short for 'solar day'.
- Mars has two small moons, Phobos and Deimos'.
- **India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or Mangalyaan:**It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh by Indian Space Research Organisation in November 2013.It was launched on board a PSLV C-25 rocket with aim of studying Martian surface and mineral composition as well as scan its atmosphere for methane (an indicator of life on Mars).

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report of India

The Department of Science and Technology has released a report titled 'The Report Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework'.

Key Points

About the Report:

- It identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk and key drivers of vulnerability.
- It aids in prioritizing adaptation investment, developing and implementing adaptation programs.
- The assessment is unique as it uses a common framework across the states & union territory to make them comparable thereby empowering the decision-making capabilities at the policy and administrative levels.
- Some key indicators for the assessment include percentage of population living below the poverty line; income share from natural resources; the proportion of marginal and small landholdings, women's participation in the workforce; density of healthcare workers etc.
- It is part of the capacity building programme under the two missions of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (total 8 missions).
- National Mission on Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC).

Key issues on Report:

- **Highly Vulnerable States:** It identified Jharkhand, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal as states highly vulnerable to climate change.
- **Lower-middle Vulnerable States:** Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim and Punjab.
- **Low Vulnerable States:** Uttarakhand, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Nagaland, Goa and Maharashtra.
- **Highly Vulnerable Districts:** Among all states, Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand have over 60% districts in the category of highly vulnerable districts.

Significance of the Findings:

- The assessments can be used for India's reporting on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
- NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- These assessments will help support India's National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- It will contribute to the development of more targeted climate change projects and will support the implementation of the State Action Plans on Climate Change.

Climate Risk

- Climate-related extremes, such as heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones, and wildfires, reveal significant vulnerability and exposure of some ecosystems and many human systems to current climate variability.
- Differences in vulnerability and exposure arise from non-climatic factors and from multidimensional inequalities often produced by uneven development processes. These differences shape differential risks from climate change.

According to The Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index-2019, India was ranked 5th out of 181 countries, implying an extremely high exposure and vulnerability.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**International Day for Monuments and Sites**

Recently, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of the indigenously built ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Dhruv Mk III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.

Key Points**About:**

- The indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-DHRUV) is a twin engine, multi-role, multi-mission new generation helicopter in the 5.5 ton weight class.
- It is a multi-role chopper with the Shakti engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- HAL is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bangalore, India. It is governed under the management of the Ministry of Defence.
- HAL conceptualised the Advanced Light Helicopter programme in 1984. The major variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.

Features:

- The aircraft, a step up from Mk 1, will be able to mitigate low visibility during search and rescue operations even at night.
- It has a 0.7 mm gun, which will give a huge capability from a LIMO (low intensity maritime operations) standpoint.
- The automatic flight control system is hugely superior to the previous one.

Role: The Mk III version of the ALH has an all glass cockpit and will be used for search and rescue, special operations and coastal surveillance.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns Discuss what led to the evolution of the Capitalist and the Socialist pattern of industrialization? (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction:

- Capitalism is defined as an economic system in which the means of production, trade, and industry are owned and controlled by private individuals or corporations for profit. Also known as the free market economy or laissez-faire economy.
- Socialist Economy is defined as an economy in which the resources are owned, managed, and regulated by the State. The central idea of this kind of economy is that all the people have similar rights and in this way, each and every person can reap the fruits of planned production.\

Body**Capitalist Pattern of Industrialization**

- Capitalism is the first stage in the history of the world to coincide with the phenomenon of industrialization in its full brown form together, the new economic institutions (like banking insurance) and the new technology that transformed the world.
- As a result of the renaissance in Europe in the seventeenth century, the methods of science, philosophy, and trade were being applied for utilitarian purposes.
- This led to the new discoveries of markets, and subsequently the industrial revolution (dominated by heavy machinery which repealed manpower) in European countries.
- The industrial revolution turned production by the masses to mass production.
- However, this capitalist mode of production resulted in inequalities between the classes and imperialism across the globe.
- This led to the development of the antithesis of capitalism by Karl Marx and Frederich Engels. However, socialism gets manifested after the Russian revolution in 1919 and the subsequent establishment of the USSR (now Russia).

Socialist Pattern of Industrialization.

- The Socialist pattern of industrialization emphasizes co-operative enterprise and various forms of community enterprise that would benefit the public as a whole.
- It implied activity to strengthen trade unions, friendly societies, and labor syndicates with or without the assistance of political parties.
- Nationalization was looked upon as a way of constituting an area of activity where the workers had no say.

- Governments evolved with state control of the economy. These governments used public welfare as their reference point.
- Hence the economy as it matured was called a planned economy.
- However, most socialists had an abiding fear of the state and state control as a possible source of intensification of exploitation rather than a solution to it.

Conclusion

- Capitalism leads to the creation of wealth but it advocates distinction between the haves and have-nots. Socialism fills the gap between rich and poor, but at the same time it wipes out the encouragement to work hard, due to which the country's Gross Domestic Product falls down and everyone turns out to be poor. Thus, as every coin has two aspects, it is very difficult to say which system is better than the other.

DAILY QUIZ

Q.1 Consider the following statements.

1.Parliamentary democracy, with a cabinet form of government, is part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution.

2.A balanced federal structure mandates that the States enjoy freedom without any unsolicited interference from the Central Government with respect to matters which exclusively fall within State's domain.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.2 Which of the following countries borders Myanmar?

- a) Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh and China**
- b) Bangladesh, Thailand, India and Vietnam
- c) Cambodia, Laos and Malaysia and Bangladesh
- d) None of the above

Q.3 Consider the following statements.

1.Among all human pathogens, bacteria tend to become most resistant to antibiotics because of their physiology.

2.Bacteria does not exchange resistant genes during sexual reproduction.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

4. Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is a report by **1,3**

- a) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- b) Conservation International
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

5. Countries that are included in the FATF Grey list may face which of the following

1.Economic sanctions from IMF and World Bank.

2.Problem in getting loans from other countries.

3.International boycott.

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1,2,3**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2