

GOVERNANCE**World Tribal Day, 2021**

Recently, the Prime Minister launched the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) or Ujjwala 2.0 Scheme. He mentioned plans to promote “gobar dhan” – tapping cow dung for energy on the occasion of World Bio Fuel Day (10th August). Ujjwala is part of the ambitious agenda for behavioural change that will help India transit to a \$5 trillion economy by 2024.

Key Points**About:**

- **PMUY-I:** Launched in May 2016 to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households.
- **PMUY-II:** It is aimed to provide maximum benefit to the migrants who live in other states and find it difficult to submit address proof. Now they will only have to give “Self Declaration” to avail the benefit.

Objectives:

- Empowering women and protecting their health.
- Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.
- Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.

Features:

- The scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.
- Along with a deposit-free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide the first refill and a hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.

Target:

- Under Ujjwala 1.0, the target was to provide LPG connections to 50 million women from the below poverty line (BPL) households, by March 2020. However, in August 2018, women from seven other categories were brought under the purview of the scheme: SC/ST, those under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest Dwellers, most backward classes, tea gardens and Islands.
- Under Ujjwala 2.0, an additional 10 million LPG connections will be provided to the beneficiaries. Government has also fixed a target of providing piped gas to 21 lakh homes in 50 districts.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Achievements:

- In the first phase of the PMUY, 8 crore poor families, including from the Dalit and tribal communities, were given free cooking gas connections.
- The LPG infrastructure has expanded manifold in the country. In the last six years, more than 11,000 new LPG distribution centres have opened across the country.

Challenges:

- **Low Consumption of Refills:**
 1. Encouraging the sustained usage of LPG remains a big challenge, and low consumption of refills hindered recovery of outstanding loans disbursed under the scheme.
 2. The annual average refill consumption on 31st December 2018 was only 3.21.
- **System Anomalies:**
 1. There are deficiencies such as the issuance of connections to unintended beneficiaries, and problems with the software of the state-run oil marketing companies for identifying intended beneficiaries and inadequacies in the deduplication process.

Way Forward

- The scheme should be extended to poor households in urban and semi-urban slum areas.
- There is a need for achieving a higher LPG coverage of the population by providing connections to households that do not have LPG.
- Entering Aadhaar numbers of all adult family members of existing as well as new beneficiaries to make deduplication effective and appropriate measures in distributors' software to restrict issuance to ineligible beneficiaries.

2. Global Youth Tobacco Survey-4

Recently, the fourth round of Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4) was released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

Key Points

About:

- GYTS-4 was conducted in 2019 by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) under the MoHFW.IIPS, Mumbai, formerly known as the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) till 1970, was established in July 1956 under the joint sponsorship of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the Government of India and the United Nations. It serves as a regional centre for Training and Research in Population Studies for the the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region.
- The survey was designed to produce national estimates of tobacco use among school going children aged 13-15 years at the state level and Union Territory (UT) by sex, location of school (rural-urban), and management of school (public-private).
- The first three rounds of GYTS were conducted in 2003, 2006 and 2009.
- A total of 97,302 students from 987 schools participated in the survey.

Objective of the Survey: To provide information on tobacco use, cessation, second-hand smoke, access and availability, exposure to anti-tobacco information, awareness and receptivity to tobacco marketing, knowledge, and attitudes.

Major Findings:

- **Decline in Tobacco Use:**
 2. There has been a 42% decline in tobacco use among 13-15 year-old school going children in the last decade.
 3. Nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 used any form of the tobacco product (smoking, smokeless, and any other form) in their life.
- **Gender Based Usage:** Use of any form of tobacco was higher among boys. Prevalence of tobacco use among boys was 9.6% and among girls was 7.4%.
- **State Wise Data:** Tobacco use among school going children was highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram and lowest in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.
- **Initiation Age:**
 1. 38% of cigarettes, 47% of bidi smokers and 52% of smokeless tobacco users initiated the use before their tenth birthday.
 2. The median age of initiation to cigarette and bidi-smoking, and smokeless tobacco use were 11.5 years, 10.5 years and 9.9 years respectively.
- **Awareness:**
 1. 52% of students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the mass media and 18% of students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale.
 2. 85% of school heads were aware of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 and 83% of schools were aware of the policy to display 'tobacco-free school' boards.

Measures towards Tobacco Control in India:

- **Adoption of WHO FCTC:** India adopted the tobacco control provisions under World Health Organisation (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).
- **COTPA, 2003:**
 1. It replaced the Cigarettes Act of 1975 (largely limited to statutory warnings- 'Cigarette Smoking is Injurious to Health' to be displayed on cigarette packs and advertisements. It did not include non-cigarettes).
 2. The 2003 Act also included cigars, bidis, cheroots, pipe tobacco, hookah, chewing tobacco, pan masala, and gutka.
- **Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019:** Which prohibits Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement of e-Cigarettes.
- **National Tobacco Quitline Services (NTQLS):** Tobacco Quitline Services have the potential to reach a large number of tobacco users with the sole objective to provide telephone-based information, advice, support, and referrals for tobacco cessation.
- **mCessation Programme:** It is an initiative using mobile technology for tobacco cessation. India launched mCessation using text messages in 2016 as part of the government's Digital India initiative.

Global Initiatives:

- World No Tobacco Day- 31st May.

- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: Governments adopt and implement the tobacco control provisions of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

Way Forward

- The role of teachers is most crucial in creating awareness among children and their parents about harm due to tobacco use and for shaping the attitude of children in this regard.
- The more and the sooner awareness is created among children about harms due to tobacco use, the better will be the outcomes in terms of reduction in prevalence of tobacco use among children and consequently among adults.
- Harmful effects of tobacco use should be incorporated in school curricula at various levels starting right from the primary school level.

SOCIAL ISSUE

Women in Combat Role in ITBP

For the first time, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) inducted women officers in the combat role. Two women officers joined it as Assistant Commandants (AC).

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force

- ITBP is a Central Armed Police Force functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Other Central Armed Police Forces are: Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- The ITBP was raised on 24th October, 1962 during the India-China War and is a border guarding police force specializing in high altitude operations.
- Presently, ITBP is deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh covering 3488 km of Indo-China Border.
- The Force is also deployed for Anti Naxal operations and other internal security duties.
- ITBP was initially raised under the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Act, 1949. However, in 1992, parliament enacted the ITBPF Act and the rules were framed in 1994.

Key Points

About:

- Women officers joining the ITBP as officers have served in combat roles earlier as well.
- However, it was only in 2016 when the appointment of women as combat officers through the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) entrance exam conducted by the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) was approved.

Status of Women in the Indian Armed Forces (under the Ministry of Defence):

- The Army, Air Force and Navy began inducting women as short-service commission (SSC) officers in 1992. This was the first time when women were allowed to join the military outside the medical stream.
- One of the turning points for women in the military came in 2015 when Indian Air Force (IAF) decided to induct them into the fighter stream.
- In 2020, the Supreme Court (SC) ordered the central government to grant Permanent Commission (PC) to women officers in the Army's non-combat support units on par with their male counterparts.
- 1. The SC had rejected the government's stand of women officers' physiological limitations as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women".
- 2. Women officers have been granted PC in the Indian Army in all the ten branches where women are inducted for SSC.
- 3. Women are now eligible to occupy all the command appointments, at par with male officers, which would open avenues for further promotions to higher ranks for them.
- In early 2021, the Indian Navy deployed four women officers on warships after a gap of almost 25 years. India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and fleet tanker INS Shakti are the warships that have been assigned their first women crews since the late 1990s.
- In May 2021, the Army inducted the first batch of women into the Corps of Military Police, the first time that women joined the military in the non-officer cadre. However, Women are still not allowed in combat arms like Infantry and Armored Corps.

Issues with Women in Combat Role:

- **Physical Issues:** The natural physical differences in stature, strength, and body composition between the sexes make women more vulnerable to certain types of injuries and medical problems.
 1. Pre-entry physical fitness levels tend to be lower in most women recruits compared with men.
 2. Hence, when standards of training remain same for the two genders, there is a higher probability of injuries among the women.
- **Physiological Issues:** The natural processes of menstruation and pregnancy make women particularly vulnerable in combat situations.
 1. Lack of privacy and sanitation can result in an increased incidence of genitourinary infections.
 2. The effect of prolonged deployment in difficult terrains and grueling physical activity on the reproductive health of women is still unknown.
- **Social and Psychological Issues:** Women tend to be more attached to their families, particularly their children.
 1. This translates into greater mental stress and requirement of social support to sustain themselves during prolonged separations from family.
 2. The issue of military sexual trauma (MST) and its effect on the physical and mental well-being of women combatants is grave.
- **Conventional Barriers:** Cultural barriers in society may be the biggest impediment to induction of women in combat. Another major question that needs to be studied is the acceptance of orders of the women officers by the jawans.

Counter-Arguments:

- **Gender is not a Hindrance:** As long as an applicant is qualified for a position, one's gender is arbitrary. In the modern high technology battlefield, technical expertise and decision-making skills are increasingly more valuable than simple brute strength.
Military Readiness: Allowing a mixed gender force keeps the military strong. The armed forces are severely troubled by falling retention and recruitment rates. This can be addressed by allowing women in the combat role.
- **Effectiveness:** The blanket restriction for women limits the ability of commanders in theater to pick the most capable person for the job.
- **Tradition:** Training will be required to facilitate the integration of women into combat units. Cultures change over time and the masculine subculture can evolve too.
- **Global Scenario:** When women officially became eligible for combat positions in the American military in 2013, it was widely hailed as another step towards the equality of sexes. In 2018, the UK military lifted a ban on women serving in close combat ground roles, clearing the way for them to serve in elite special forces.

Way Forward

- Women were being kept out of command posts on the reasoning that the largely rank and file will have problems with women as commanding officers. Thus, changes have to take place in the culture, norms, and values of not only the rank and file of the Army but also that of society at large. The responsibility to usher these changes lies with the senior military and political leadership.
- The United States, Israel, North Korea, France, Germany, Netherlands, Australia and Canada are among the global militaries that employ women in front-line combat positions.
- It is the right of every woman to pursue a career of her choice and reach the top since Equality is a constitutional guarantee.

2.Minority Institutions and RTE: NCPCR Survey

Recently, the National Commission for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (NCPCR) conducted a Nationwide Assessment of Minority Schools. The report was titled "Impact of Exemption under Article 15 (5) with regards to Article 21A of the Constitution of India on Education of Minority Communities". The aim was to assess how the 93rd Amendment to Indian Constitution, which exempts minority institutions from otherwise mandatory provisions of the Right to Education, affected children belonging to minority communities..

Key Points

Highlights of the Report:

- **Minority Schools Catering to the Non-Minorities:** Overall, 62.5% of the students in these schools belonged to non-minority communities. Only 8.76% of the students in minority schools belong to socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

- **Disproportionate Numbers:** In West Bengal, 92.47% of the minority population is of Muslims and 2.47% are Christians. On the contrary, there are 114 Christian minority schools and only two schools with Muslim minority status.
- 1. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, though the Christian population is less than 1% there are 197 Christian minority schools in the state.
- 2. This disproportion takes away the core objective of establishing minority educational institutions.
- **Non-Uniformity in Madarasas:** It found that the largest number of out-of-school children – at 1.1 crore – belonged to the Muslim community.
- 1. **According to the report, there are three kinds of madrasas in the country:**
 - ✓ **Recognised Madrasas:** These are registered and impart both religious as well as secular education;
 - ✓ **Unrecognised Madrasas:** These have been found deficient for registration by state governments as secular education is not imparted.
 - ✓ **Unmapped Madrasas:** These have never applied for registration.
- According to the NCPCR, the Sachar Committee report 2005, which says 4% of Muslim children (15.3 lakh) attend madrasas, has only taken into account the registered madrasas.
- Further, the syllabi of madrasas, that have evolved over centuries, are not uniform, and that “being left ignorant of the world around them”.
- 2. Many students develop an inferiority complex, being alienated from the rest of society and unable to adjust with the environment.
- 3. It also says that madrasas do not have any teachers training programmes.

Suggestions:

- The government should bring all such schools, including madrasas, under the purview of the Right to Education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan campaign.
- The NCPCR also backed reservation for students from minority communities in such schools after its survey found a large proportion of non-minority students studying there. There is a need to lay down specific guidelines regarding the minimum percentage of students from the minority community to be admitted to the institution.
- There is a need to review the exemption made under RTE with respect to minority institutions.
- 1. Article 30 of Indian constitution ensures the right of minorities to open their own institutions for cultural, linguistic and religious protection.
- 2. However, it should not contravene with Article 21(A) which protects a child’s fundamental right to education.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm

Recently, the Prime Minister has announced a new national initiative on palm oil production to help increase farm incomes. The scheme, called National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), for self-reliance in edible oil involves investment of over Rs. 11,000 crore (over a five year period).

Key Points

Aims:

- To harness domestic edible oil prices that are dictated by expensive palm oil imports.
- To raise the domestic production of palm oil by three times to 11 lakh MT by 2025-26. This will involve raising the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30.

Features:

- The special emphasis of the scheme will be in India’s north-eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to the conducive weather conditions in the regions.
- Under the scheme, oil palm farmers will be provided financial assistance and will get remuneration under a price and viability formula.

Significance of the Scheme:

- **Reduction in Import dependence:**
 1. It is expected to incentivise production of palm oil to reduce dependence on imports and help farmers cash in on the huge market.
 2. India is the largest consumer of vegetable oil in the world. Of this, palm oil imports are almost 55% of its total vegetable oil imports.

• **Rise in Yields:**

1. India produces less than half of the roughly 2.4 crore tonnes of edible oil that it consumes annually. It imports the rest, buying palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, soyoil from Brazil and Argentina, and sunflower oil, mainly from Russia and Ukraine.
2. In India, 94.1% of its palm oil is used in food products, especially for cooking purposes. This makes palm oil extremely critical to India's edible oils economy.

Palm Oil

- Palm oil is currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil.
- It is used extensively in the production of detergents, plastics, cosmetics, and biofuels.
- Top consumers of the commodity are India, China, and the European Union (EU).

Edible Oil Economy

- There are two major features, which have significantly contributed to the development of this sector. One was the setting up of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds in 1986 which was converted into a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) in 2014. Further it was merged with NFSM (National Food Security Mission).
- This gave a thrust to Government's efforts for augmenting the production of oilseeds. This is evident by the very impressive increase in the production of oilseeds from about 11.3 million tons in 1986-87 to 33.22 million tons in 2019-20.
- The other dominant feature which has had significant impact on the present status of edible oilseeds/oil industry has been the program of liberalization under which the Government's economic policy allows greater freedom to the open market and encourages healthy competition and self regulation rather than protection and control.
- The Yellow Revolution is one of the colour revolutions that was launched to increase the production of Edible oilseeds in the country to meet domestic demand.
- The government has also launched the Kharif Strategy 2021 for oilseeds. It will bring an additional 6.37 lakh hectare area under oilseeds and is likely to produce 120.26 lakh quintals of oilseeds and edible oil amounting to 24.36 lakh quintals.
- **Oils Commonly Used in India:** Groundnut, mustard, rapeseed, sesame, safflower, linseed, niger seed, castor are the major traditionally cultivated oilseeds.
- 1. Soybean and sunflower have also assumed importance in recent years.
- 2. Coconut is most important amongst the plantation crops.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

World Lion Day, 2021

Every year, World Lion day is observed on 10th August to raise awareness about the conservation of lions.

Key Points

About:

- The initiative to protect the big cats started in 2013 and the first World Lion Day was celebrated that year.
- There has been a decline in 80% of the population of lions in the past 100 years. This is the major reason for the observance of the day to protect these wild cats in their natural habitat.
- This also works on the safety measures of the lion communities.

Lion:

- **Scientific Name: Panthera leo** - The lion is divided into two subspecies: the African lion (Panthera leo leo) and the Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica).
- **Role in the Animal Kingdom:**
- 1. Lions hold an indispensable place in the ecosystem, they are an apex predator of their habitat, responsible for checking the population of grazers, thus helping in maintaining the ecological balance.
- 2. Lions also contribute to keeping the population of their prey healthy and resilient as they target the weakest members of the herd. Thus, indirectly helping in disease control in the prey population.
- **Threats:** Poaching, genetic inbreeding arising from a single population inhabiting one place, diseases such as plague, canine distemper or a natural disaster.
- **Protection Status:**
- 1. IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

2. Asiatic Lion - Endangered.
3. CITES: Appendix I for populations of India, all other populations are included in Appendix II.
4. Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule I

Status in India:

- India is home to the majestic Asiatic Lion, who inhabit the protected territory of Sasan-Gir National Park (Gujarat).
- According to the data from 2020, there are 674 lions in India, which were 523 in 2015.

Conservation Efforts:

- Project Lion: Six new sites apart from the Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) have been identified under Project Lion that was announced in August 2020, on the lines of Project Tiger and Project Elephant. The programme has been launched for the conservation of the Asiatic Lion, whose last remaining wild population is in Gujarat's Asiatic Lion Landscape (ALL).
- Earlier, the "Asiatic Lion Conservation Project" was launched by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It was approved for three financial years from 2018 to 2021. It envisaged scientific management with the involvement of communities in coordination with multi-sectoral agencies for disease control and veterinary care for overall conservation of Asiatic lions.
- The Lion census is conducted once every five years.

The other biggest cats found mostly in India, including the Royal Bengal Tiger, Indian leopard, Clouded Leopard, and Snow leopard.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Deliberate upon the causes responsible for racism in India. How does racism reveal various aspects of society? (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

- The marginalization and/or oppression of people of color based on a socially constructed racial hierarchy that privileges white people is called as Racism. Modern Racism has manifested due to migration and globalization.
- The UN General Assembly approved a resolution recently establishing a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to provide expert advice on addressing the challenges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

Body

Racism is a reality and it is being perennially practiced and blatantly bloated in all societies across the geo-political spectrum in World Wide Web of equality, liberty and fraternity. Racism attacks all-encompassing normative system and erodes all aspects of human values in life. Primarily, racism is the most callous and conspicuous negation of human equality ordained by the collective wisdom in divinities, spiritualities and mundanities. However, the citadels of racism are still alive and kicking in every nook and corner of the world and India is not an exception.

Causes responsible for racism:

- **Regional diversity:**
 1. Racism in India is also visible amongst Indian communities. Due to a large regional diversity, we find communities pitted up against each other ideologically, or for resources.
 2. There have been many cases of North Indian discriminating against those from the South, the mainland population isolating the North Easterns and a multitude of regional clashes.
 3. In a scenario where the country is so fragmented within itself, a foreigner seems even more alien, and a common enemy of all.
- **Perception of an 'out-group'**
 1. In India, however, post colonial rule hasn't been much of an influx of different nationalities settling down for work and living here.
 2. Therefore, when one encounters foreigners, they are immediately viewed as an outsider and beyond the Indian social fabric.
 3. This xenophobia leads to hostility and alienation as they don't fit in Indian standard norms and societal framework.
- **Act of retaliation**
 1. There have been many noted cases of visible racism against Indians around the world.

2. These are evident in reports of crimes against Indian students in Australia, UK, politicians and business corporations discriminating against Indian brown skin, and in America, where Indian-Americans are constantly shunned.
3. Also, Indian stereotypes are used to taint the image of the country time and again, and questions such as “Do people in India go to school on cows?” and “How can you speak in English?” are asked very often, demeaning and infuriating the Indian masses.

• **Competition**

1. With the coming in of so many foreign firms, Indians are often reminded of their managerial positions in the workplace. In most scenarios, Indians form the labour workforce for international business ventures, but even if they reach corporate set-ups, they often hit a glass ceiling and find individuals of western nationalities superseding them, or above them, in the corporate ladder.
2. This constant competition for jobs and financial comparison leads to an unhealthy relationship or mental perception towards foreigners.
3. This makes them an out-group and subjects of Indian indignation.

• **Lack of imbibing virtues of tolerance**

1. Children, and even adults, aren't being taught tolerance or the beauty of harmonious living. Since this is left as a grey area, people live on with persisting mindsets.
2. They are given no stimulus to change the way they think and the importance of international help and support doesn't trickle down to the masses.

- **Poor legislation and implementation of laws:** The government hasn't put in place strong deterrence in instances of violence towards a particular community or racial abuse against foreigners who come to the country.

Causes of modern racism

- Current forms of racism and discrimination are complex and often covert.
- The anonymity of the Internet has allowed racist stereotypes and inaccurate information to spread online.
- At the onset of the pandemic, traffic to hate sites and specific posts against Asians grew by 200% in the U.S.
- In India and in Sri Lanka, social media groups and messaging platforms were used to call for social and economic boycotts of religious minorities, amid false information accusing them of spreading the virus.
- Structural forms of discrimination, including micro-aggressions and everyday indignities, remain widespread.
- The use of new technologies and artificial intelligence in security raise the spectre of 'techno-racism', as facial recognition programmes can misidentify and target racialised communities.

Consequences of Racism

- Racial discrimination deepens and fuels inequality in our societies..
- Prejudiced attitudes and discriminatory acts, whether subtle or overt, aggravate existing inequalities in societies.
- A study published by The Lancet drew attention to the social dimension of the COVID-19 pandemic and the greater vulnerability of ethnic minorities, who have been disproportionately affected.
- The World Health Organization has cautioned on the dangers of profiling and stigmatising communities that can lead to fear and the subsequent concealment of cases and delays in detection.
- Women and girls also carry a double burden of being exposed to racial and gender-based prejudices.
- Racial discrimination, beyond being a breach of human rights, has harmful effects on human health and well-being, and risks wider disruptions to social cohesion.

Combatting discrimination and racist tendencies

- UNESCO's headquarters in Paris hosted a Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination on March 22, 2021, in partnership with the Republic of Korea. The Forum gathered policymakers, academics, and partners to initiate a new multi-stakeholder partnership on anti-racism.
- The new proposed road map to tolerance calls for a multisectoral effort to tackle the root causes of racism through anti-racist laws, policies and programmes.
- The role of education is crucial in providing the space for young people to understand processes that sustain racism, to learn from the past, and to stand up for human rights.

- Through new approaches to inter-cultural dialogue and learning, youth and communities can be equipped with skills to eradicate harmful stereotypes and foster tolerance.
- The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities provides an additional platform for city-level planning and a laboratory for good practices in the fight against racism.

Way forward:

- UNESCO's actions against racism through education, the sciences, culture, and communication offer an example of a way forward.
- UNESCO promotes the role of education in providing the space for young people to understand processes that sustain racism, to learn from the past, and to stand up for human rights.
- Through new approaches to inter-cultural dialogue and learning, youth and communities can be equipped with skills to eradicate harmful stereotypes and foster tolerance.
- UNESCO also offers master classes to empower students to become champions of anti-racism in their schools and communities.
- The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities provides an additional platform for city-level planning and a laboratory for good practices in the fight against racism.
- Recent and new manifestations of racism and discrimination call for renewed commitments to mobilise for equality.

Conclusion

Racism will not be overcome with mere professions of good faith but must be combatted with anti-racist action. A global culture of tolerance, equality and anti-discrimination is built first and foremost in the minds of women and men. The constitutional construction of constitutionalism on human rights instil a sense of pride among We, the People of India. The words of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan remain pertinent: "Our mission is to confront ignorance with knowledge, bigotry with tolerance, and isolation with the outstretched hand of generosity. Racism can, will, and must be defeated."

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. With reference to contributions of Abanindranath Tagore towards Indian art and culture, consider the following statements:

1. He was the principal artist and creator of the "Indian Society of Oriental Art".
2. He modernized the Mughal and Rajput styles to counter the influence of Western models of art.
3. In his later works, Tagore started integrating Chinese and Japanese calligraphic traditions into his style.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q2. Recently, Twitter India has appointed a permanent Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), a Resident Grievance Officer (RGO) and a Nodal Contact Person in compliance with which of the following?

- a. Constitution of India
- b. Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)
- c. New Information Technology (IT) Rules**
- d. All of the above

Q3. Consider the following statements about Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC):

1. It is an intergovernmental organization based in Singapore.
2. It administers arbitrations under its own rules of arbitration and the WTO Arbitration Rules.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q4. Which one of the following countries is not a part of G4 nations?

- a. India b. Brazil c. Germany **d. South Africa**

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. At present, the UNSC comprises five permanent members and 15 non-permanent member countries.
2. The five permanent members are Russia, the UK, China, France and the United States.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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