

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

Recently, the Prime Minister addressed the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda via video conferencing. The WEF annual meeting in Davos (Switzerland) engages the world's top leaders to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Key Points**One Earth, One Health:**

- During the course of Covid-19, India saved many lives by exporting essential medicines and vaccines by following its vision of "One Earth, One Health". India has delivered 1154.173 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccines to 97 countries till 31st December 2021.
- India is the world's third-largest pharmaceutical producer and is considered 'pharmacy to the world'.

Pro-Planet People (P3) Approach:

- Proposed the idea of the "P3 (Pro-Planet-People) movement" that underscores India's commitments to climate change at the global forum (UNFCCC COP 26). Reiterated India's "clean, green, sustainable, and reliable" energy goals which dwell on achieving a net-zero carbon emission target by 2070.
- Making LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment - given by the Indian PM at UNFCCC COP 26 Conference) into a mass movement can be a strong foundation for P3.
 1. LIFE is a vision of a resilient and sustainable lifestyle that will come handy in dealing with the climate crisis and other unpredictable challenges of the future.
 2. Throwaway culture and consumerism has enhanced the climate challenge.

Reforms recently Undertaken by India:

- In physical and digital infrastructure like optical fibre in 6 lakh villages, 1.3 trillion dollars invested in connectivity-related infrastructure, the goal of generation of 80 billion dollars through asset monetization.
- Gatishakti National Master Plan to bring all the stakeholders on the single platform to infuse new dynamism to the seamless connectivity of goods, people and services.
- Today India has the world's largest, secure and successful digital payments platform. In December 2021, 4.4 billion transactions were done through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India.
- Technological solutions like Arogya-SetuApp for tracking of Corona Infections and CoWinPortal for Vaccination.

India as an Investment Destination:

- Recently, various reform measures have been taken by the Government, such as the removal of Retrospective taxation, reduction in compliance requirements and simplification of the Corporate Tax rate structure making it the best Investment Destination today. In the last year alone, India has reduced more than 25,000 compliances.
- Today, India has the third largest number of unicorns in the world. More than 10,000 start-ups have been registered in the last six months.
- India is promoting Ease of Doing Business, minimizing government intervention.
- Policy-making is focussed on needs for the next 25 years for a "clean and green" as well as "sustainable and reliable" growth.

Challenges before Multilateral Organizations:

- When these institutions were formed, the situation was different. Today, the circumstances are different.
- Therefore, it is the responsibility of every democratic country to emphasize reforms in these institutions so that they can be enabled to meet the challenges of the present and future.

Collective Efforts for Challenges Ahead:

- There is a need for collective and synchronized action by every country, every global agency.
- Supply chain disruptions, inflation and climate change are examples of these.
- Another example is cryptocurrency. The kind of technology that is associated with it, the decisions taken by a single country will be insufficient to deal with its challenges.

World Economic Forum**About:**

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a Swiss nonprofit foundation established in 1971, based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Recognized by the Swiss authorities as the international institution for public-private cooperation.

Mission:

- Committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.

Founder and Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab.

Some major reports published by WEF are:

- Energy Transition Index.
- Global Competitiveness Report.
- Global IT Report WEF along with INSEAD, and Cornell University publishes this report.
- Global Gender Gap Report.
- Global Risk Report.
- Global Travel and Tourism Report.

GEOGRAPHY

Indonesia Relocating its Capital

Recently, Indonesia's parliament has passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on jungle-clad Borneo island that will be named "Nusantara". The move was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java island.

Jakarta lies on the northwest coast of Java. The largest islands in Indonesia are Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Sulawesi, and the Indonesian part of New Guinea (known as Papua or Irian Jaya).

Key Points

Reasons for Relocation:

- Jakarta has long been plagued by serious infrastructure problems and flooding exacerbated by climate change, with experts predicting up to a third of the city could be underwater by 2050. Jakarta is home to more than 30 million people in its greater metro area.
- Moreover, Jakarta is the centre for administration, governance, finance and trade, it has inevitably led to relentless construction in the city, due to which the water is not able to seep into the ground in many areas, leading to increased run-off.
- Jakarta has been Indonesia's capital since the country became independent in 1949. The city has become overcrowded and extremely polluted for the last few decades.
- Another important reason to shift the capital from Java island to Borneo island has been the growing inequality – financial and otherwise. Java Island, especially Jakarta which is spread across more than 661.5 square kilometres, is immensely populated whereas East Kalimantan, spread across 127,346.92 square kilometres, is bigger than Jakarta, it is a lot less populated than the current capital.

Relocation Site:

The new capital (Nusantara) will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo, which the country shares with Malaysia and Brunei.

However, environmentalist critics of the capital's move have warned it could damage ecosystems in the region, where mining and palm oil plantations already threaten rainforests that are home to Borneo's endangered species.

Note

- Indonesia is not the first country in the region to relocate from an overpopulated capital.
- Malaysia moved its government to Putrajaya from Kuala Lumpur in 2003, while Myanmar moved its capital to Naypyidaw from Rangoon in 2006.

Sea Level Rise (SLR)

- **About:** SLR is an increase in the level of the world's oceans due to the effects of climate change, especially global warming, induced by three primary factors:
 1. **Thermal Expansion:** When water heats up, it expands. About half of the sea-level rise over the past 25 years is attributable to warmer oceans simply occupying more space.
 2. **Melting Glaciers:** Higher temperatures caused by global warming have led to greater-than-average summer melting of large ice formations like mountain glaciers as well as diminished snowfall due to later winters and earlier springs. That creates an imbalance between runoff and ocean evaporation, causing sea levels to rise.
 3. **Loss of Greenland and Antarctic Ice Sheets:** As with mountain glaciers, increased heat is causing the massive ice sheets that cover Greenland and Antarctica to melt more quickly, and also move more quickly into the sea.
- **Rate of SLR:**
 1. Sea level is primarily measured using tide stations and satellite laser altimeters.

2. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021 report, sea-level rise has tripled compared with 1901-1971. The Arctic Sea ice is the lowest it has been in 1,000 years.
- **Consequences of SLR:**
 1. **Coastal Flooding:** Globally, eight of the world's 10 largest cities are near a coast, which is threatened by coastal flooding.
 2. **Destruction of Coastal Biodiversity:** SLR can cause destructive erosion, wetland flooding, aquifer and agricultural soil contamination with salt, and lost habitat for biodiversity.
 3. **Dangerous Storm Surges:** Higher sea levels are coinciding with more dangerous hurricanes and typhoons leading to loss of life and property.
 4. **Lateral and Inland Migration:** Flooding in low-lying coastal areas is forcing people to migrate to the higher ground causing displacement and dispossession and in turn a refugee crisis worldwide.
 5. **Impact on Infrastructure:** The prospect of higher coastal water levels threatens basic services such as internet access.
 6. **Threat to Inland Life:** Rising seas can contaminate soil and groundwater with salt threatening life farther away from coasts.
 7. **Tourism and Military Preparedness:** Tourism to coastal areas and military preparedness will also be negatively affected by an increase in SLR.
- **Steps taken to Tackle SLR:**
 1. **Relocation:** Many coastal cities have planned to adopt relocation as a mitigation strategy. For example, Kiribati Island has planned to shift to Fiji, while the Capital of Indonesia is being relocated from Jakarta to Borneo.
 2. **Building Sea Wall:** Indonesia's government launched a coastal development project called a Giant Sea Wall or "Giant Garuda" in 2014 meant to protect the city from floods.
 3. **Building Enclosures:** Researchers have proposed Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED), enclosing all of the North Sea to protect 15 Northern European countries from rising seas. The Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Irish Sea, and the Red Sea were also identified as areas that could benefit from similar mega enclosures.
 4. **Architecture to Steer Flow of Water:** Dutch City Rotterdam built barriers, drainage, and innovative architectural features such as a "water square" with temporary ponds.

India's Case:

- **Vulnerability:**
 1. India's 7,516-kilometre-long coastline includes 5,422 kilometres of coastline on the mainland and 2,094 kilometres on the islands belonging to nine states and four Union Territories.
 2. The coastline accounts for 90% of the country's trade and it spans 3,331 coastal villages and 1,382 islands.
- **Related Initiatives:**
 1. Coastal Regulation Zone
 2. National Action Plan on Climate Change

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

5G Telecoms and Airline Safety

Recently, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has warned that the new 5G technology could interfere with sensitive navigation equipment such as altimeters, which could lead to "catastrophic disruptions." Airlines across the world, including India, are adjusting their scheduled flights to the US due to the rollout of 5G by telecom companies near American airports.

5G Technology

- 5G is the 5th generation mobile network. It is a new global wireless standard after 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G networks.
- It enables a new kind of network that is designed to connect virtually everyone and everything together including machines, objects, and devices.
- Internet speeds in the high-band spectrum of 5G has been tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (gigabits per second), while, in most cases, the maximum internet data speed in 4G has been recorded at 1 Gbps.
- In India, Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA) has voiced concerns over the Government's plan to include the Millimetre Wave (mm Wave) bands in the 5G spectrum auction.

Key Points

About:

- The higher the frequency in the spectrum, the faster the service. So in order to get full value from 5G, operators want to operate at higher frequencies.
- Some of the C band (a radio frequency band between 3.7 and 4.2 GHz) spectrum auctioned had been used for satellite radio but the transition to 5G means there will be much more traffic.
- The new C band 5G service could render a significant number of aircraft unusable, causing chaos for US flights and potentially stranding tens of thousands of Americans overseas.

Concern:

- The United States auctioned mid-range 5G bandwidth to mobile phone companies in early 2021 in the C band, for about USD 80 billion.
- FAA warned that the functioning of Altimeters, which measure how far above the ground an aeroplane is travelling, operating in the 4.2-4.4 GHz range which sits too close to the frequency of C range, may get hampered. In addition to altitude, altimeter readouts are also used to facilitate automated landings and to help detect dangerous currents called wind shear.
- Companies have argued that C band 5G has been deployed in about 40 other countries without aviation interference issues. They have agreed to buffer zones around 50 airports in the United States, similar to those used in France, for six months to reduce interference risks.

Solution:

- In the short-term, Companies agreed to temporarily defer turning on some wireless towers near key airports to avert a significant disruption to US flights.
- In the Longer-term, the FAA needs to clear and allow the vast majority of the US commercial aeroplane fleet to perform low-visibility landings at many airports where 5G C-band will be deployed. This means certifying altimeters to operate near 5G base stations.

PRELIMS FACT

Great Resignation

Recently, in the aftermath of Covid-19, large numbers of people are embracing the credo of “antiwork”, and walking out of their jobs, especially in the US and European countries. A record 4.3 million people resigned in August 2021, up 2,42,000 from July, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The American-psychologist Anthony Klotz has called it the “Great Resignation” — a call to remap priorities in the work-life equation.

Key Points

Impact of Covid:

- While those opting out of work include, prominently, employees in the retail and hospitality sectors, many were willing to switch jobs or to re-evaluate their options.
- Many countries in Central and Eastern Europe, have recorded a fall in the skilled labour force. However, this could be due to stronger social safety nets.
- Living through and surviving pandemic lockdowns nudged many to see “work-free” living as a viable option.

Significance of Great Resignation:

- Grievances about low pay, unrealistic deadlines and bad bosses bubbled up from subconscious depths to feed the impulse.
- This also means that these workers have market values beyond their existing employers. They are relying on their experience and contacts to bag better job opportunities or choose start-ups.
- There is a general apprehension that not enough capital allocation has been made in capacity building.

Indian Scenario:

- Due to the absence of social security and unemployment benefits, there are no such phenomena in India. The luxury of walking out of jobs was not available to most in India.
- However, remote working has made it possible for corporates and employees to have flexible work models.
- Due to this, the jobs are moving towards people in tier II and tier III cities. Thereby, making a shift in India’s spatial economy. Also, work-from-home has triggered changes in the demand structure in the market.
- Further, Indians are switching their jobs in the IT and ITeS sectors. Several start-ups have become unicorns and many are hiring in bulk and are ready to pay significantly higher

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Critically analyse the consonance of the ‘Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019’ with the Indian Constitution. (250 Words)

Ans:

Introduction

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was notified on December 12, 2019 and came into force from January 10, 2020. It seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Body**Provisions of CAA**

- The objective of the CAA is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.
- Those from these communities who had come to India till December 31, 2014, facing religious persecution in their respective countries, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.
- The Act provides that the central government may cancel the registration of OCIs on certain grounds.

CAA is in consonance with principles of Constitution

- This Bill will come as a big boon to all those people who have been the victims of Partition and the subsequent conversion of the three countries into theocratic Islamic republics.
- Government has cited that the partition of India on religious lines and subsequent failure of the Nehru-Liaquat pact of 1950 in protecting the rights and dignity of the minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh as the reasons for bringing this Bill.

CAA is not in consonance with principles of constitution

- The first is that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is against the letter and spirit of our Constitution. Articles 5 to 11 of the Constitution deal with citizenship, and the Citizenship Act, 1955, lays down criteria for citizenship based on birth, descent, registration, naturalization, and citizenship by incorporation of territory.
- By setting new criteria, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act goes against the premise of common citizenship regardless of differences of caste, creed, gender, ethnicity and culture.
- Further, Article 14 of the Constitution lays down that the “State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India”.
- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is divisive, deeply discriminatory and violative of human rights.
- Our national unity was won through struggle; the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is one of the many threats to its survival. Our hard-won Constitution recognizes individual and social differences, and that we must weave the cord of unity by creating a sense of belonging and inclusiveness for all.
- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act attempts to create and deepen communal division and social polarization in the country.
- The Act gives eligibility for citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, and specifically excludes Muslims from that list.
- In granting citizenship on the basis of religion, it discriminates against Muslims and rejects the basic concept of secularism.
- That the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is discriminatory and violative of human rights has been recognized by those who have come out on the streets in many States, in opposition to the Act.
- The agenda of Hindutva and its ultimate goal of establishing a “Hindu Nation” underlie the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, is well established both by past experience and the present actions of the BJP-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.
- In the days since the passage of the CAA, multiple protests across north and Northeast India last week. Ironically, these protests are themselves expressions of India’s overlapping multi-religious, multi-ethnic character that the CAA seeks to undermine.
- The mobilizations in the Northeast were about anxieties of ethnicity, culture and language as much as religion while the protests in Delhi, Aligarh and Lucknow are chiefly about religious identity and discriminatory exclusion of Muslims from the CAA.

Conclusion

The onus is now on the Supreme Court, being the Guardian of the Constitution, to interpret the provisions of the Act and test its Constitutionality that whether the “classification” done in the Act is “reasonable” or not if tested against Article 14. The policy towards illegal migrants and refugees needs wider debates and deliberation. However, religion can never be the basis of Indian Citizenship.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements about Pangong Tso lake:

1. It is an endorheic lake.
2. The Line of Actual Control passes through this lake.

3. It has been identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q2. With reference to Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
- 2. It represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.
- 3. It defines nuclear-weapon states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding 5G mobile network.

- 1. 5G technology is meant to deliver higher multi-Gbps peak data speeds, ultra-high latency, more reliability and massive network capacity.
- 2. 5G wireless devices will connect to the Internet and telephone network by radio waves through a local antenna.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

- 1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance.
- 2. It was created in 1949 by the United Kingdom.
- 3. It is headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. International Labour Organisation, Conventions 138 and 182 are related to

- a. **Child labour**
- b. Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
- c. Regulation of food prices and food security
- d. Gender parity at the workplace