



Civils Cafe

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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 11

- HAMBANTOTA PORT
- HIRE BENAKAL
MEGALITHIC SITA
- MONEY MULTIPLIER
- EQUALISATION LEVY
- GLOBALLY IMPORTANT
AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS
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SCAN TO EXPLORE



IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 11

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1) HAMBANTOTA PORT

IN NEWS: - Sri Lanka has formally handed over the Southern Sea Port of Hambantota to China on a 99-year lease.

ABOUT HAMBANTOTA PORT

- The Hambantota International Port is a deep-water port in Hambantota, Sri Lanka.
- It was opened on 18 November 2010, and is Sri Lanka's second largest port, after the Port of Colombo.
- The maritime inland port is also known as the Magampura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port
- It is constructed by the Sri Lankan Port Authority and mostly funded by EXIM bank of China.



SIGNIFICANCE OF HAMBANTOTA PORT

- Sri Lanka is situated between the lucrative shipping routes of the Malacca Straits and the Suez Canal, linking Asia and Europe in the process.
- But Sri Lanka has only one major port that can handle the

high volume of ships, the Port of Colombo.

- Therefore, a new port was proposed near the city of Hambantota which possessed a natural harbour and was close to international shipping routes as it was located at the southern end of Sri Lanka.
- The new port would help resolve the Colombo port's logistical problems and would provide fast access to the shipping lanes.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The Hambantota port is located in Sri Lanka
2. The Hambantota port's construction was mostly funded by the EXIM Bank of China

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer:-C

HISTORY AND CULTURE

2) HIRE BENAKAL MEGALITHIC SITES

IN NEWS: - Hire Benakal is among the six cultural heritage sites from India that have been added to the UNESCO tentative list of world heritage sites.

ABOUT HIRE BENAKAL MEGALITHIC SITE

- Hire Benakal is a megalithic site in the state of Karnataka, India.

- It is among the few megalithic sites in India that can be dated to the 800 BCE to 200 BCE period.
- The 2,800-years-old megalithic site of Hire Benakal has made it to the tentative list owing to the fact that it is one of the largest prehistoric megalithic settlements where some funerary monuments are still intact.
- According to scholars, the granite structures are burial monuments that may also have served many ritual purposes.
- Due to the extremely valuable collection of Neolithic monuments, the site was proposed for recognition.
- There are different types of megalithic monuments at Hirebenkal.
 - Several are dolmens – 3-sided chambers, with or without port-holes, and with a large stone, slabs called capstones forming their roofs.
 - Buried and semi-buried dolmens called cists and dolmenoid cists are sometimes found arranged in circles.
 - Other structures are irregular polygonal chambers and rock shelter chambers. Based on the typologies and technologies used, researchers date these megaliths to between 800-200 BC.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. Hire Benakal is located in the state of Karnataka
2. It is a megalithic site

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

ANSWER: C

ECONOMY**3) MONEY MULTIPLIER**

- Money multiplier is a term in monetary economics that is a phenomenon of creating money in the economy in the form of credit creation, which is based on the fractional reserve banking system.
- Money multiplier is also known as the monetary multiplier.
- It is the maximum limit to which money supply can be affected by bringing about changes in the amount of money deposits.
- The money multiplier effect is seen in commercial banks as they accept deposits, and after keeping a certain amount as a reserve, they distribute the money as loans for injecting liquidity in the economy.
- The amount of money that should be kept by commercial banks in their reserve for withdrawal purposes by the

customers is referred to as the reserve ratio, required reserve ratio, or cash reserve ratio.

- Mathematically, money multiplier formula can be represented as follows: **Money multiplier = $1/r$ Where r = Required reserve ratio or cash reserve ratio.**
- It means that if the reserve ratio is higher, then the money multiplier will be lower and the banks need to keep more reserves. As a result, they will not be able to lend more money to individuals and businesses.
- Similarly, a lower reserve ratio results in a higher money multiplier that allows a lesser amount of money to be kept as a reserve and more lending opportunities to the public.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Which among the following terms aptly describes the term Money multiplier?

- It is the maximum limit to which money supply can be affected by bringing about changes in the amount of money deposits.
- The percentage of cash required to be kept in reserves as against the bank's total deposits
- The reserve requirement that commercial banks are required to maintain in the form of cash, gold reserves, PSU, Bonds and Reserve Bank of India- approved securities before providing credit to the customers.
- None of the above

Answer: - A

4) EQUALISATION LEVY

IN NEWS: - Due to the amendments made in the Finance Act 2021 to widen the equalisation levy provisions, various interpretational issues have arisen.

ABOUT EQUALISATION LEVY

- Equalization Levy 1.0 – Commonly known as Google Tax, EL 1.0 was introduced in 2016 as a withholding tax.
- It covered only services and is introduced via part of Finance Act and not by way of amendment to the Income Tax Act 1961.
- It charged an equalisation levy at the rate of 6% of the amount of consideration for any specified service received or receivable by a - resident from a person resident in India or a non-resident having a permanent establishment in India.
- Equalization Levy 2.0 - Commonly known as the Amazon Tax, EL 2.0 was introduced in 2020 which is directly levied on the Non-resident.
- EL 2.0 covered e-commerce supply or services and was made by way of amendment to Finance Act 2016.

It charged an equalisation levy at the rate of 2% of the amount of consideration received or receivable by an e-commerce operator (non- resident) from e-commerce services to a person resident in India or a non-resident or a person who buys goods and services using internet protocol address located in India.

- EL 2.0 is applicable to e-commerce operators (ECO)

having sales, turnover, or gross receipts of Rs20 million in a financial year.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN FINANCE ACT

- Any foreign company providing services/goods in India through a digital platform could be within the scope of the levy.
- Given the expanded definition of 'online sale of goods', a mere payment that is made through an online mode can potentially be subject to the transaction to equalisation levy.
- The compliance obligation to discharge the levy in India is on the non- resident company.
- Pure traditional brick and mortar businesses that use a fair degree of digitisation, (website, digital payments) may also come under the net of EL 2.0.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

5) GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS

IN NEWS: - Recently FAO has designated 4 tea cultivation sites in China, Korea and Japan as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.

- Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem (China)
- Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System (China)
- Traditional Tea-grass Integrated System (Japan)
- Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem, Hwagae-myeon (Republic of Korea)

ABOUT GIAHS

- A GIAHS is a living, evolving system of human communities in an intricate relationship with their territory, cultural or agricultural landscape or biophysical and wider social environment.

In 2002, during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations launched a Global Partnership Initiative on conservation and adaptive management of “Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems”.

- The overall goal of the GIAHS Programme is to identify and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity, knowledge systems, and culture.
- The concept of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is distinct from, and more complex than, a conventional heritage site or protected area/landscape. They are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- Since 2005, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has designated 62 systems in 22 countries as agricultural heritage sites, and as of June 2021, 15 new proposals from 9 different countries were received
- The three GIAHS in India are:
 - Koraput Traditional Agriculture, Odisha
 - Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System, Kerala
 - Pampore Saffron Heritage, Jammu & Kashmi

SOCIAL JUSTICE

6) PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS

IN NEWS: - Ministry of Tribal Affairs has implemented the scheme of “Development of PVTGs” which covers 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) for their comprehensive socio-economic development.

ABOUT PVTGS

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups
- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.
- In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
- PVTGs have some basic characteristics - they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to PVTGs consider the following statements

1. There are a total of 75 PVTGs in the country
 2. The highest number of PVTGs is found in Odisha
- Which among the above statements are correct?
- a. 1 only
 - b. 2 only
 - c. Both 1 and 2
 - d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - C

INDIAN POLITY

7) NATIONAL TRIBUNALS COMMISSION

IN NEWS: - SC reiterates need for creation of National Tribunal Commission

ABOUT NATIONAL TRIBUNALS COMMISSION

- The idea of an NTC was first mooted by the Supreme Court in *L. Chandra Kumar v. Union of India* (1997).
- NTC is envisaged to be an independent umbrella body to supervise the functioning of tribunals, appointment of and disciplinary proceedings against members, and to take care of administrative and infrastructural needs of the tribunals.
- NTC will support uniform administration across all tribunals. It could set performance standards for the efficiency of tribunals and their own administrative processes.

TRIBUNALS

- Tribunal is a quasi-judicial institution that is set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes.
- It performs a number of functions like adjudicating disputes, determining rights between contesting parties, making an administrative decision, reviewing an existing administrative decision and so forth.
- Tribunals were not part of the original constitution, it was incorporated in the Indian Constitution by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
- Article 323-A deals with Administrative Tribunals.
- Article 323-B deals with tribunals for other matters.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about tribunals

1. The idea of an National Tribunals Commission was first mooted by the Supreme Court in L. Chandra Kumar v. Union of India
2. Tribunals were not part of the original constitution, it was incorporated in the Indian Constitution by 52nd Amendment Act, 1976.

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - A

MISCELLANEOUS

8) OPERATION VANILLA

IN NEWS: - The Indian Navy launched 'Operation Vanilla' on January 28 to provide relief and assistance to the cyclone-hit population of Madagascar. INS Airavat arrived at Madagascar's Port Antsiranana on January 30 with the relief material.

ABOUT OPERATION VANILLA

- Operation Vannilla was launched to assist the population of Madagascar affected by Cyclone Diane.
- Indian Navy also diverted a large amphibious ship viz. INS Airavat carrying clothing, medicines, and other relief material to provide assistance and support in the relief operations
- India assistance to Madagascar is in consonance with Prime Minister's vision of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'

ABOUT CYCLONE DIANE

- It is a tropical cyclone.
- Its origin is in the North-west off the coast of Mauritius in the South- western Indian Ocean.
- Madagascar has been hit by it and there has been heavy flooding and landslips causing loss of lives and displacement, affecting more than 92,000 people



MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

➤ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0:

Prime Objectives of PMKVY 3.0 are:

- Create an ecosystem for the youth to make informed choices on the available skilling avenues.
- Provide support to youth for skill training and certification.
- Promote sustainable Skill Centres for greater participation of private sector.
- Benefit 8 lakh youth across the country.

➤ India Skills

- India Skills, the country's biggest skill competition, is designed to demonstrate the highest standards of skilling and offers a platform to young people to showcase their talent at national and international levels.
- India Skills Competition is held every two years with the support of state governments and industry.
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is the nodal agency for skill and entrepreneurship development.

➤ Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)

- SANKALP is a Centrally sponsored scheme of MSDE, loan assisted by the World Bank
- The objectives of SANKALP are to strengthen the short-term skill ecosystem and to address key issues of skilling in the country through its three key result areas namely
 - ✓ Institutional Strengthening at National, State & District level
 - ✓ Quality improvement of skill development programmes
 - ✓ Inclusion of marginalized population in skill development programmes.

➤ Bharatskills (e-learning portal)

- Bharatskills is a Central Repository for skills

which provides NSQF (National Skill Qualification Framework) curriculum, course material, videos, question banks and mock tests for students and trainers.

➤ **STRIVE Project** (Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement)

- It is a new World Bank funded project
- The project aims to improve the relevance and efficiency of skills training provided through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and apprenticeships.
- The participants will get National Apprenticeship Certificate from the Directorate General of Training on clearing the assessment and examination.

➤ **JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN**

- Jan Shikshan Sansthan (formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth) provide vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs by identifying skills that have a market in the region of their establishment.

➤ **Oil Jeevika**

- It is the flagship livelihood initiative of Oil India Limited by Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati.
- The project is imparting skill development and upgradation training to the targeted beneficiaries on beekeeping & honey processing, mustard

buckwheat and local pulses processing for generating alternate source of income through formation of self-sustainable livelihood clusters

- Under this project, the brand 'Harbest'- Best of Harvest was successfully launched.

➤ **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)**

- NAPS aims to promote the apprenticeship in the country by providing financial incentives, technology and advocacy support.
 - The scheme has the following two components
1. Sharing of 25% of prescribed stipend subject to a maximum of Rs. 1500/- per month per apprentice with the employers.
 2. Sharing of basic training cost up to a maximum of Rs.7,500 per apprentice

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