



Civils Cafe
IAS Study Circle
Have fun. Achieve dreams.
Lead by IAS, IPS, IPoS officers

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 22

- HYBODONT SHARKS
- PEOPLE'S PLAN CAMPAIGN
- NATIONAL SCHEME FOR PM POSHAN SHAKTHI NIRMAN
- HELINA MISSILE
- SIMBEX
- AMAZON OF EUROPE
- RoDTEP SCHEME
- LUCY MISSION
- AUKUS



SCAN TO EXPLORE





Civils Cafe

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 22

Have fun. Achieve dreams.

INDIAN POLITY**1. PEOPLE'S PLAN CAMPAIGN**

IN NEWS: - Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development has launched People's Plan Campaign 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard.

ABOUT PEOPLE'S PLAN CAMPAIGN

- It aims to draw up Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) in the country and place them on a website where anyone can see the status of the various government's flagship schemes
- This year's campaign will be rolled out in all the States from 2nd October 2021 to 31st January 2022.
- During the campaign, structured Gram Sabha meetings will be held for preparing Panchayat Development Plans for the next financial year 2022-2023.
- The structured Gram Sabha meetings will include physical presence and presentation by frontline workers/supervisors on 29 sectors.
- These sectors represent the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

GRAM PANCHAYATH DEVELOPMENT PLAN (GPDP)

- Under Article 243 G of the Constitution, Gram Panchayats have been mandated for the preparation of GPDP for economic development and social justice utilizing the resources available to them.
- The GPDP planning process should be comprehensive and participatory by involving full convergence with the schemes of all related Central Ministries / Line Departments.



GPDP Creation Process



PPC is co-ordinated by Department of Panchayati Raj (DoPR) at State Level. DoPR shall process the implementation of following activities in time bound manner:



VIBRANT GRAMA SABHA DASHBOARD

- It is a dashboard that will help in increasing maximum participation from Panchayats through the meeting of Gram Sabha, the Standing Committee meeting of Gram Panchayat, meeting of elected Panchayat public representatives throughout the year.

GOVERNANCE

2. NATIONAL SCHEME FOR PM POSHAN SHAKTHI NIRMAN

IN NEWS: - The existing Mid-Day Meal scheme, which provides hot meals to students, has been renamed as the National Scheme for PM Poshan Shakti Nirman.

ABOUT NATIONAL SCHEME FOR PM POSHAN SHAKTHI NIRMAN

- The new scheme has a provision for supplementary nutrition for children in aspirational districts and those with high prevalence of anaemia.

- It essentially does away with the restriction on the part of the Centre to provide funds only for wheat, rice, pulses and vegetables. Currently, if a state decides to add any component like milk or eggs to the menu, the Centre does not bear the additional cost. Now that restriction has been lifted
- Nutri-gardens will be developed in schools to give children “firsthand experience with nature and gardening”.
- To promote vocals for local, women self-help groups and farmer producer organisations will be encouraged to provide a fillip to locally grown traditional food items.
- Social Audit: The scheme also plans “inspection” by students of colleges and universities for ground-level execution.
- Tithi-Bhojan: Communities would also be encouraged to provide the children food at festivals etc, while cooking festivals to encourage local cuisines are also envisaged.
- In other procedural changes meant to promote transparency and reduce leakages, States will be asked to do **direct benefit cash transfers** of cooking costs to individual school accounts, and honorarium amounts to the bank accounts of cooks and helpers.
- The rebranded scheme aims to focus on “holistic nutrition” goals. Use of locally grown traditional foods will be encouraged, along with school nutrition gardens.

ABOUT MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME

- The scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madarasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.
- Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.
- The Scheme comes under the Ministry of HRD.

- It was launched in 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP – NSPE), a centrally sponsored scheme. In 2004, the scheme was relaunched as the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- The Scheme is also covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The Mid day Meal scheme was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment
2. The Scheme is not covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013

Which among the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: - d

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. AUKUS

IN NEWS:- the US has announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS).

ABOUT AUKUS

- The security grouping AUKUS will focus on advancing strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Though the US has explicitly denied that the grouping is targeted against China, its Indo-pacific orientation makes it an alliance against China's assertive actions in the South China Sea.
- The three countries alongside Canada and New Zealand already share extensive intelligence through the Five Eyes alliance.

- As part of this initiative, Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines with help from the UK and the US.
- This step is significant because the US has only shared nuclear submarine technology once before, and it started in 1958 with Great Britain.
- AUKUS will also involve a new architecture of meetings and engagements between the three countries, as well as cooperation across emerging technologies (applied AI, quantum technologies and undersea capabilities).

ABOUT FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

- The Five Eyes alliance is an intelligence-sharing arrangement between five English-speaking democracies: the US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- The alliance was created during the Cold War (1946-1991) that was fought between the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as their respective allies.
- The alliance was needed to share sensitive information regarding their adversaries on all possible fronts available.
- It is often described as the world's most successful intelligence alliance.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Which among the above statements are correct?

1. AUKUS is a security partnership between Russia and US
2. The security grouping AUKUS will focus on advancing strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

Select the correct answer from the code given below

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

Answer: - b

INDIAN ECONOMY**4. RoDTEP SCHEME**

IN NEWS: - The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced rates of tax refunds under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme for 8,555 products for the FY 2021-22.

ABOUT RoDTEP SCHEME

- The new scheme will be implemented from 1st January 2020 and will replace the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and create a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the GST to help increase exports in India.
- It is expected to adequately incentivize exporters by reducing duties paid on exports and will initiate the refund of various taxes to exporters.
- By adopting to RoDTEP scheme, Indian exporters will be able to meet the international standards for exports as affordable testing and certification will be made available to exporters within the country instead of relying on international organizations.
- Also under it, tax assessment is set to become fully automatic for exporters. Businesses will get access to their refunds for GST via an automatic refund-route.
- Apart from boosting the export sector of our country, RoDTEP will coordinate with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to reduce the post-production transaction costs for exporters. The implementation of the scheme thereby must provide a production-oriented process along with WTO, which in turn can boost the production of SMEs, MSMEs.
- In general, according to principle recognised in WTO, indirect taxes on exports are reimbursed.

- A number of indirect taxes, such as import tariffs and goods and services tax (GST), are already reimbursed for exports in India and most other countries. RoDTEP would cover central and state indirect taxes, which are not currently reimbursed thereby complying with WTO rules.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. RoDTEP scheme will replace the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)
2. It will help create a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the GST

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

Have fun. Achieve dreams.

INTERNAL SECURITY

5. HELINA MISSILE

IN NEWS: - The helicopter-launched Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Helina, being developed indigenously, has completed all trials

ABOUT HELINA MISSILE

- Helina is a third-generation, Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system.
- It has all- weather day and night operational capabilities.
- It can defeat battle tanks with conventional and explosive reactive armour (ERA).
- It can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.

ABOUT NAG MISSILE

- Nag is a third-generation; fire-and-forget, anti-tank guided missile developed by DRDO to support both mechanized infantry and airborne forces of the Indian Army.
- It is an all-weather condition with day and night capabilities and with a minimum range of 500m and a maximum range of 4 km.
- Nag can be launched from land and air-based platforms. The land version is currently available for integration on the Nag missile carrier (NAMICA).
- DRDO has developed nag Missiles under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program

6. SIMBEX

IN NEWS: - The 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was conducted from 02 to 04 Sep 21.

ABOUT SIMBEX

- India and Singapore have carried out a mega naval war game in the southern fringes of the South China Sea, in reflection of their growing congruence of interests in the strategically key region.
- It was the 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX).
- Initiated in 1994, SIMBEX is the Indian Navy's longest uninterrupted bilateral maritime exercise with any foreign navy.
- Sustaining the continuity of this significant engagement despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic further underscores the strength of bilateral defence ties.
- India-Singapore defence ties remain a very significant aspect of the overall engagement between the two countries.

- Both navies have a representation in each other's Maritime Information Fusion Centres and have also recently signed an agreement on mutual submarine rescue support and coordination.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

7. AMAZON OF EUROPE

IN NEWS: - UNESCO designated Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve.

ABOUT AMAZON OF EUROPE

- The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.
- The total area of the reserve — a million hectares — in the so-called 'Amazon of Europe', makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.
- The aim is to revitalize 25,000 km of rivers and protect 30 per cent of the European Union's land area by 2030.
- The reserve is home to floodplain forests, gravel and sand banks, river islands, oxbows and meadows.
- It is home to continental Europe's highest density of breeding white-tailed eagle, as well as endangered species such as the little tern, black stork, otters, beavers and sturgeons.
- It is also an important annual resting and feeding place for more than 250,000 migratory birds, according to WWF.
- The reserve is inhabited by almost 900,000 people too.

8. HYBODONT SHARKS

IN NEWS: - In a rare discovery, teeth of new species of hybodont shark of Jurassic age have been reported for the first time from Jaisalmer

ABOUT HYBODONT SHARKS

- Represent a new species named by the research team as *Strophodusjaisalmerensis*.
- The genus *Strophodus* has been identified for the first time from the Indian subcontinent and is only the third such record from Asia, the other two being from Japan and Thailand.
- This discovery marks an important milestone in the study of Jurassic vertebrate fossils in the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan, and it opens a new window for further research in the domain of vertebrate fossils.
- Hybodonts, an extinct group of sharks, was a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time.
- Started to decline in marine environments from the Middle Jurassic onwards until they formed a relatively minor component of open-marine shark assemblages.
- Hybodonts finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.

9. BIR SHIKARGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

IN NEWS:- In October 2020, eight critically endangered Oriental white-backed vultures were released into the wild for the first time in India from the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC) situated at the Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary in Shivalik ranges of the Himalayan foothills in Haryana's Pinjore.

ABOUT BIR SHIKARGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Panchkula district of Haryana
- It also houses Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre, Pinjore.
- In 2009, the Government of India declared it an Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ)

ABOUT ORIENTAL WHITE BACKED VULTURE

- The Oriental white-backed vultures that were released in the wild are resident birds and not migratory, so they largely stay within a radius of 50-100 km of the breeding center.
- It is an Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae, which also includes eagles, kites, buzzards and hawks.
- It is closely related to the European Griffon Vulture, fulvus.

JATAYU CONSERVATION AND BREEDING CENTRE

- It is the first Vulture breeding facility in Asia.
- JCBC was established near Pinjore in 2004. Since then, the centre has successfully released its one pair of Himalayan Griffon vultures in 2016.
- Jatayu conservation breeding centre (JCBC) for vultures is situated just outside Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary in Morni hills of the Shivalik ranges, Haryana
- It was established for the breeding and conservation of Indian vultures and House sparrows.
- JCBC is run by the Forests Department, Haryana and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) with the help of the British charity Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
- Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre hosts and works towards breeding four environmentally threatened species:- Indian vulture (Critically Endangered), Slender-billed vultures (Critically Endangered), Himalayan Vultures (Near Threatened), Oriental white--backed vultures (Critically Endangered).

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. Jatayu conservation breeding centre is the first Vulture breeding facility in Asia.

2. It is located in Assam

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

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

10. LUCY MISSION

IN NEWS: - The NASA has launched Lucy, the spacecraft on a 12-year cruise to look back into the origins of the solar system through Trojans

ABOUT LUCY MISSION

- Lucy will fly by eight Jupiter asteroids—seven Trojans and one main-belt asteroid — over the next 12 years.
- It is NASA's first single spacecraft mission in history to explore so many different asteroids.
- Lucy will run on solar power out to 850 million kilometers away from the Sun.
- This makes it the farthest-flung solar powered spacecraft ever, according to NASA.

JUPITER TROJAN ASTEROIDS

- They are a large group of asteroids that share Jupiter's orbit around the Sun.
- Thousands of such asteroids exist in a gravitationally stable space.
- The swarms lead and follow the planet Jupiter along its orbit around the Sun.

- Lucy's Trojan destinations are trapped near Jupiter's Lagrange (L) points, which are gravitationally stable locations — it is where the gravity from the Sun and from Jupiter cancel each other out.
- This means their orbits are stable and the Trojans are trapped in the space between.
- This also means that asteroids are as far away from Jupiter as they are from the Sun.
- Jupiter's leading and trailing Lagrangian points (L4 and L5) have been stable over the age of the solar system.
- This means that their orbits have accumulated many, many asteroids.
- It makes sense to call a Trojan a co-orbital object, which moves around one of the two stable Lagrangian points.

LAGRANGE'S PROPOSITIONS

- This specific position of a peculiar behaviour was predicted by the Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange over 100 years earlier.
- Lagrange had argued that if a small celestial body is placed at one of two stable points in a planet's orbit around the Sun (the L4 and L5), the asteroid would remain stationary from the planet's perspective.
- This is due to the combined gravitational forces of the planet and the Sun.
- Thus, Lagrange's prediction acquired credibility. More such asteroids were discovered over subsequent months in Jupiter's Lagrange point L5.

BEHIND THE NAME LUCY

- It is the fossil of a hominin that lived 3.2 million years ago.
- She is known to be one of the most famous pre-human fossil in history.
- Nearly 40 per cent of the fossilised skeleton of this hominin was discovered in 1974 by a team of paleoanthropologists led by Donald Johanson.

- The name was inspired from the famous Beatles song “Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds,” which Johanson’s team listened to at camp the night of their discovery

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. LUCY Mission is launched by ISRO
2. They are a large group of asteroids that share Saturn’s orbit around the Sun.

Which among the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: - d

10. HAVANA SYNDROME

IN NEWS: - The number of reported cases of mysterious illness that is linked to Havana Syndrome has started growing .

ABOUT HAVANA SYNDROME

- In late 2016, US diplomats and other employees stationed in Havana reported feeling ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations in their hotel rooms or homes.
- The symptoms included nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems, and hearing loss, which have since come to be known as “Havana Syndrome”.
- Cuba had denied any knowledge of the illnesses even though the US had accused it of carrying out “sonic attacks”, leading to an increase in tensions.

- In 2020 The National Academies of Sciences (NAS) report, titled “An assessment of illness in US government employees and their families at overseas embassies”, by a committee of 19 experts in medicine and other fields examined four possibilities to explain the symptoms — infection, chemicals, psychological factors and microwave energy.
- The report has found “directed” microwave radiation to be its “plausible” cause.
- The more chronic problems suffered by Havana personnel included mainly “vestibular processing and cognitive problems as well as insomnia and headache”
- The report also warns about the possibility of future episodes and recommends that the State Department establish a response mechanism for similar incidents.

MICROWAVE WEAPONS

- Microwave weapons” are supposed to be a type of direct energy weapons, which aim for highly focused energy in the form of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.
- These weapons are based on the principle that microwave radiation of a certain kind can cause a buzzing sensation in the head, due to a phenomenon known as the thermoelastic effect.
- Such a weaponized microwave beam may cause a very slight expansion of the brain and produce a sound-like pressure, which strictly speaking is not sound but can be traumatic.
- According to a report in the ‘The Daily Mail’, China had first put on display its “microwave weapon”, called Poly WB-1, at an air show in 2014.
- The United States has also developed a prototype microwave-style weapon, which it calls the “Active Denial System”

MISCELLANEOUS**11. JUDIMA RICE WINE**

IN NEWS: - Judima, the wine brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam, has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag.

ABOUT JUDIMA RICE WINE

- This wine is made from rice and a certain herb.
- It is the first beverage from the north-eastern region to earn this label.
- Judima is intrinsic to the social and cultural life of the Dimasas.
- The GI tag for the drink came 14 years after the ginger of the adjoining Karbi Anglong district received its geographical indication.

ABOUT GI TAG

- It is an indication which is definite to a geographical territory.
- It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.
- The goods need to be produced or processed or prepared in that region.
- The product must have a special quality or reputation.
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 provides registration and also protection of GI goods in India.
- The Geographical Indications Registry for India is located in Chennai.
- A registered GI tag prohibits a third party to use such products.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. Judima is a the wine brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam
2. It has been awarded GI Tag

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

12. PARASURAM KUND

IN NEWS: - Union Minister for Tourism laid the foundation stone for the “Development of Parshuram Kund, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh.

ABOUT PARASURAM KUND

- The project “Development of Parasuram Kund, Lohit District Arunachal Pradesh” was approved by the Ministry of Tourism in January 2021.
- The project is sanctioned under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- The components sanctioned include Interventions near the Parking area, Tourist Information Centre, Rain Shelters, Kiosks, interventions near Mela ground, View Points, Souvenir Shops, Water Supply line, Approach Road, Food Court/ Prasadam Centre etc.

ABOUT PRASAD SCHEME

- The ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) is a Central Sector Scheme.
- The scheme is launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15
- The scheme aimed at infrastructure development to envisage world class infrastructural development of the sites with special emphasis on Tourist Facilities including Tourist Facilitation Centers, way-side amenities Parking, and Public convenience, Illumination and Sound and Light Shows.

13. KONGTHONG VILLAGE

IN NEWS:- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed gratitude to the people of Kongthong for a special tune in his honour and in appreciation of Government of India’s efforts in promoting the village as a prime tourism destination.

ABOUT KONGTHONG VILLAGE

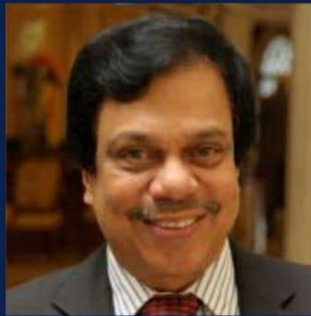
- Meghalaya's Kongthong village, which is also known as the "whistling village", recently honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi by making him part of a unique tradition that goes back centuries.
- In this village, located in the lush, rolling hills of the northeast state, everyone's name is a melody as mothers compose a special tune for each child when it is born.
- Everyone in the village, inhabited by the Khasi people, then addresses the person with the individual little tune or whistle for a lifetime. They have conventional "real" names too, but they are rarely used.
- The custom of assigning tunes to residents here is known as "jingrwai lawbei", meaning "song of the clan's first woman", a reference to the Khasi people's mythical original mother.
- The Ministry of Tourism recently nominated the village for the UNWTO Best Tourism Villages Contest from India

Have fun. Achieve dreams.



Civils Cafe
IAS Study Circle
Have fun. Achieve dreams.
Lead by IAS, IPS, IPoS officers

**Civils Cafe IAS Study Circle
is the Only institute in Kerala
which is lead by IAS,IPS &
IPoS Officers**



T BALKRISHAN IAS Retd
**FORMER ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY,
KERALA**
Chief Advisor, Civils Cafe IAS Study Circle

☎7306994905 ☎9048073888
www.thecivilscafeias.com

🌐📷thecivilscafeias
📍civilscafeiascc

Copyright © by Civils Cafe IAS Study Circle. All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of Civils Café IAS Study Circle.

© Civils Café IAS Study Circle.