



Civils Cafe

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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 24

- MULTILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE MILAN – 22
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SCAN TO EXPLORE





IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS
FOR PRELIMS VOL - 24
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INDIAN POLITY

1) POST OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

IN NEWS: - An MLA from UP was elected Deputy Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

ABOUT POST OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

- Article 93 of the Constitution provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Article 178 contains the corresponding position for Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of a state.
- The Deputy Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members right after the election of the Speaker has taken place.
- The date of election of the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker (date of election of the Speaker is fixed by the President).
- The institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms).
- At that time, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were called the President and Deputy President respectively and the same nomenclature continued till 1947.
- The election of the Deputy Speaker usually takes place in the second session, even though there is no bar on having this election too in the first session of the new Lok Sabha/Assembly.
- But the election of Deputy Speaker is generally not delayed beyond the second session without genuine and unavoidable constraints.
- In Lok Sabha, the election of Deputy Speaker is governed by Rule 8 of The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

- Once elected, the Deputy Speaker usually continues in office until the dissolution of the House.
- Like the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker remains in office usually during the life of the Lok Sabha (5 years).
- The Deputy Speaker may vacate his/her office earlier in any of the following three cases:
 - If he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha.
 - If he resigns by writing to the Speaker.
 - If he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha.
- Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.
- In the case of the State Assembly, the removal process is the same as that of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Under Article 95 of the constitution, the Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker's office when it is vacant.
- He/She also acts as the Speaker when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House.
- He/She also presides over the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, in case the Speaker is absent from such a sitting.
- The Deputy Speaker has one special privilege, that is, whenever he/she is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he/she automatically becomes its chairman
- Para 5 of the Tenth Schedule (commonly known as the anti-defection law) says that a person who has been elected Speaker/ Deputy Speaker shall not be disqualified:
 - If he, by reason of his election to that office, voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election,

- And does not, so long as he continues to hold such office thereafter, rejoin that political party or become a member of another political party.
- This exemption applies to the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, Chairman/ Deputy Chairman of a state Legislative Council, and Speaker/ Deputy Speaker of a state Legislative Assembly as well.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The institution of Deputy Speaker originated in India under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935
2. At that time, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were called the President and Deputy President respectively and the same nomenclature continued till 1947.

Which among the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: - b

INDIAN ECONOMY

2) GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX

IN NEWS: - India has climbed two spots and has been ranked 46th by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.

ABOUT GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation.
- It is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization, in partnership with other organisations and institutions.
- It is based on both subjective and objective data derived from several sources, including the International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.
- The index was started in 2007 by INSEAD and World Business, a British magazine.
- The GII is commonly used by corporate and government officials to compare countries by their level of innovation.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about Global Innovation Index

1. It is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization
2. The GII is commonly used by corporate and government officials to compare countries by their level of innovation

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

3) UNCTAD - TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

IN NEWS: - The annual report has been published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

ABOUT UNCTAD - TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2021, the global economy will grow at 5.3%, the fastest in nearly 50 years.
- The rebound is, however, highly uneven along regional, sectoral and income lines.
- These widening gaps, both domestic and international, might make resilience and growth as something enjoyed by fewer and fewer privileged people.
- It expects world output to grow 3.6% in 2022.
- Across the world, but particularly in developing regions, the damage from the COVID-19 crisis has been greater than that from the global financial crisis (GFC), most notably in Africa and South Asia.
- India's economic growth rate to hit a four-year high of 7.2% for 2021 against a contraction of 7% in 2020.
- UNCTAD projected India's economy to outpace all other major economies in 2022 even though the growth would be slower, at 6.7%, than the 2021 projected figure.
- The country has been hit by the second wave of the pandemic, vaccine roll-out, on top of rising food and general price inflation.

REPORTS PUBLISHED BY UNCTAD

- Trade and Development Report
- World Investment Report
- Technology and Innovation Report
- Digital Economy Report

UNCTAD

- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.

- It is part of the UN Secretariat.
- It reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, but has its own membership, leadership, and budget.
- It is also a part of the United Nations Development Group.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. World investment report is published by the IMF
2. Trade and Development report is published by the UNCTAD

Which among the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: - b

4) NATIONAL DIGITAL COMMUNICATION POLICY

IN NEWS: - The Union Cabinet has approved the new telecom policy now named National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 and also re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the "Digital Communications Commission".

ABOUT NATIONAL DIGITAL COMMUNICATION POLICY

- The new National Digital Communications Policy -2018 will replace the existing National Telecom Policy-2012, to cater to the modern technological advancements such as 5G, IoT, M2M etc. in the Telecom Sector. It envisages three Missions:
- Connect India: Creating Robust Digital Communications Infrastructure.
 - National Broadband Mission (Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan)- Provide Universal broadband connectivity at 50Mbps to every citizen by 2022.
 - BharatNet- Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.

- GramNet – Connecting all key rural development institutions with 10 Mbps upgradeable to 100 Mbps.
- NagarNet – Establishing 1 Million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas.
- JanWiFi – Establishing 2 Million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas.
- Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions including all educational institutions by 2022.
- Fibre First Initiative to take fibre to the home, to enterprises and to key development institutions in Tier I, II and III towns and to rural clusters.
- Establishment of a National Digital Grid by National Fibre Authority.
- Strengthening Satellite Communication Technologies in India by reviewing SATCOM policy, making available new spectrum bands, streamlining administrative processes for assignment and allocations, clearances and permissions related to satellite communication systems, etc.
- Ensuring Customer Satisfaction, Quality of Service and effective Grievance Redressal by establishing Telecom Ombudsman, framing a comprehensive policy to encourage the adoption of environmental and safety standards and incentivising the use of renewable energy technologies in the communications sector.
- Propel India: Enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation and IPR generation.
 - Attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector, expand IoT ecosystem to 5 Billion connected devices, accelerate transition to Industry 4.0 by 2022.
 - Creation of innovation led Start-ups in Digital Communications sector.

- Creation of Globally recognized IPRs (Intellectual Property Rights) in India.
- Development of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) in the field of digital communication technologies.
- Train/ Re-skill 1 Million manpower for building New Age Skills.
- Secure India: Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications.
 - Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals and facilitates India's effective participation in the global digital economy.
 - Ensure that net neutrality principles are upheld and aligned with service requirements, bandwidth availability and network capabilities including next generation access technologies.
 - Develop and deploy robust digital communication network security frameworks.
 - Build capacity for security testing and establish appropriate security standards.
 - Address security issues relating to encryption and security clearances.
 - Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

ABOUT M2M

- Machine-to-machine, or M2M, is a broad label that can be used to describe any technology that enables networked devices to exchange information and perform actions without the manual assistance of humans.

ABOUT IoT

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a seamlessly connected network system of embedded objects/devices, in which communication without any human intervention is possible using standard and interoperable communication protocols. E.g.: An IoT-enabled air conditioning system can report whether its air filter is clean and functioning properly.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**5) OSTEORAMA BELANGERI**

IN NEWS: - Manipur's state fish introduced in cage culture to enhance production and conservation. Around 500 to 2,500 Pengba fingerlings were released in each of the 10 cages in the Takmu water body at Sendra in Manipur's Bishnupur district of Manipur

ABOUT OSTEORAMA BELANGERI

- Osteorama belangeri (Pengba/Belengee) is a species of ray-finned fish in the genus Osteorama it was found in the Indian state of Manipur, but has been extirpated there and is found only in aquaculture, and in Myanmar.
- It is used as a food fish, from fish farms in Manipur and wild caught in Myanmar.
- The extirpation of this species from Manipur was caused by dam building, habitat degradation and the introduction of alien species which caused the populations to fragment
- It is the state fish of Manipur
- IUCN Status:- Near Threatened



6) BOVANY BARB

IN NEWS: - In the latest edition of the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species, the Bovany Barb has been listed as 'possibly extinct',

ABOUT BOVANY BARB

- *Barbodes bovanicus*, the Bowany barb, is a species of cyprinid fish native to the Cauvery River system in India where it is an inhabitant of reservoirs.
- This species can reach a length of 36 centimetres

7) COAL BASED HYDROGEN

IN NEWS: - The Union Government constituted a Task force and Expert committee to prepare a road map for coal-based hydrogen production (Black Hydrogen).

ABOUT COAL BASED HYDROGEN

- Coal (one of the Hydrocarbon Fuels) is one of the important sources of hydrogen making apart from natural gas and renewable energy through Electrolysis.
- However, Coal has not been encouraged in hydrogen production because of the fear of Carbon Emission while extracting hydrogen via coal.
- Almost 100% of hydrogen produced in India is through natural gas (Grey Hydrogen).
- Cost of hydrogen produced from coal can be cheaper and less sensitive to imports.

- Production of hydrogen from coal will have challenges in terms of high emissions and CCUS (Carbon capture, utilisation and storage) will play an important role.
- Carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide formed during the coal to hydrogen process have to be trapped and stored in an environmentally sustainable manner (CCS and CCUS).

HYDROGEN ECONOMY

- It is an economy that relies on hydrogen as the commercial fuel that would deliver a substantial fraction of a nation's energy and services.
- Hydrogen is a zero-carbon fuel and is considered an alternative to fuel and a key source of clean energy. It can be produced from renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind.
- It is an envisioned future where hydrogen is used as fuel for vehicles, energy storage and long-distance transport of energy. The different pathways to use hydrogen economy includes hydrogen production, storage, transport and utilization.
- In 1970, the term 'Hydrogen Economy' was coined by John Bockris. He mentioned that a hydrogen economy can replace the current hydrocarbon-based economy, leading to a cleaner environment.

8) SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- It is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).
- The Framework is for 15-year. It is a voluntary and non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

- The new Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

9) METHANOL AS FUEL

IN NEWS: - The first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant has been opened in Hyderabad.

ABOUT METHANOL AS FUEL

- Methanol is utilized as a motor fuel, to power ship engines, and to generate clean power all over the world. However, the majority of worldwide methanol production is derived from natural gas, which is a relatively easy process.
- Since India doesn't have much of the natural gas reserves, producing methanol from imported natural gas leads to outflow of foreign exchange and is uneconomical because of higher prices.
- The next best option is to utilise India's abundant coal. However, due to the high ash percentage of Indian coal, most internationally accessible technology will not be adequate.
- To address this issue, BHEL successfully demonstrated a facility to create 0.25 TPD (Ton per Day) Methanol from high ash Indian coal using a 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier.
- The methanol purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5%.
- This is part of NITI Aayog's 'Methanol Economy' programme that is aimed at reducing India's oil import bill, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and converting coal reserves and municipal solid waste into methanol.
- Also this in-house capability will assist India's coal gasification mission and coal-to-hydrogen production for Hydrogen Mission.

METHANOL ECONOMY

- Methanol is a low carbon, hydrogen carrier fuel produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, CO₂ from thermal power plants and natural gas. It is the best pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21 (Paris Agreement).
- Methanol vis-a-vis-Petrol and Diesel: Although slightly lower in energy content than petrol and diesel, methanol can replace both these fuels in the transport sector (road, rail and marine), energy sector (comprising boilers, process heating modules, tractors and commercial vehicles) and retail cooking (replacing LPG [partially], kerosene and wood charcoal).
- Blending of 15% methanol in gasoline can result in at least 15% reduction in the import of gasoline/crude oil. In addition, this would bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NO_x, and SO_x, thereby improving the urban air quality.
- The Methanol Economy will also create close to 5 million jobs through methanol production/application and distribution services.
- Additionally, Rs 6000 crore can be saved annually by blending 20% DME (Di-methyl Ether, a derivative of methanol) in LPG. This will help the consumer in saving between Rs 50-100 per cylinder.

10) GREEN VOYAGE 2050 PROJECT

IN NEWS: - Virtually addressing the high level session on IMO-Norway Green Voyage 2050 Project, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has said that India intends to increase share of renewable energy to 60% of total power demand of each of its major port from present share of less than 10%. This will be through solar and wind generated power

ABOUT GREEN VOYAGE PROJECT

- The Green Voyage 2050 Project is a partnership project between the Government of Norway and International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

launched in 2019 aiming to transform the shipping industry towards a lower carbon future.

- It supports developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in meeting their commitment towards relevant climate change and energy efficiency goals, for international shipping, through supporting the Initial IMO GHG Strategy.
- The International Maritime Organization is executing the GreenVoyage2050 Project through the Project Coordination Unit (PCU).
- The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment provides the funding for the GreenVoyage2050 Project.
- The GreenVoyage2050 Project is working with 12 countries: Azerbaijan, Belize, China, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka.
- The participating countries can be broadly categorized into “New Pilot Countries” and “Pioneer Pilot Countries”.
- New Pilot Countries (NPCs) are those which will, as a first step, undertake the development of a national maritime emissions assessment, establishing a baseline and building the information base, laying the foundation for targeted actions to reduce emissions from shipping.
- Pioneer Pilot Countries (PPCs) are those which have already undertaken maritime emissions baseline work and have initiated development of their National Action Plan (NAP) to address GHG emissions from ships.
- GreenVoyage2050 builds upon two IMO projects that may be regarded as baseline projects in this area
 - GEF-UNDP-IMO GloMEEP Project (Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Partnerships)
 - EU-IMO GMN Project (Capacity Building for Climate Mitigation in the Maritime Shipping Industry)

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The International Maritime Organization is executing the GreenVoyage2050 Project
2. The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment provides the funding for the GreenVoyage2050 Project.

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

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**11) RABIES**

IN NEWS: - On the occasion of World Rabies Day, the central Government has unveiled the 'National Action Plan for dog Mediated Rabies Elimination' (NAPRE) by 2030. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has drafted the action plan in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

ABOUT RABIES

- Rabies is a fatal but preventable viral disease. It can spread to people and pets if they are bitten or scratched by a rabid animal.
- Rabies is mostly found in wild animals like bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes, dogs and most rabies deaths in people around the world are caused by dog bites.
- The rabies virus infects the central nervous system.

- If a person does not receive the appropriate medical care after a potential rabies exposure, the virus can cause disease in the brain, ultimately resulting in death.
- Rabies can be prevented by vaccinating pets, staying away from wildlife, and seeking medical care after potential exposures before symptoms start.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. Rabies is a disease caused by Protozoa
2. Rabies is a fatal disease

Which among the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: - b

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

12) Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) Report

IN NEWS: Ministry of Education will be releasing a detailed report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21 on school education of India.

About UDISE+:

- UDISE+ is one of the largest Management Information Systems on school education.
- It covers more than 1.5 million schools, 8.5 million teachers and 250 million children.

- Launched in 2018-2019, UDISE+ was introduced to speed up data entry, reduce errors, improve data quality and ease its verification.

Highlights of UDISE Report 2020-21:

- The students enrolled in school education from primary to higher secondary saw an increase of 28.32 lakh in 2020-21 compared to 2020-19.
- In 2020-21 the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) stood at 26 for primary, 19 for upper primary, 18 for secondary and 26 for higher secondary, showing an improvement since 2018-19. The PTR for primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary was 28, 20, 21, and 30-respectively during 2018-19.
- In 2020-21 over 12.2 crore girls are enrolled in primary to higher secondary showing an increase of 11.8 lakh girls compared to the enrolment of girls in 2019-20.
- Number of schools having internet facilities increased to 3.7 lakh in 2020-21 from 3.36 lakh in 2019-20 with an increase of 2.6%.
- Percentage of the school with a functional girl's toilet facility has increased to 93.91 % in 2020-21 in comparison with 93.2 % in 2019-20 by adding the facility in additional 11,933 schools during the year.
- Percentage of the schools with functional drinking water has increased to 95.2 % in 2020-21 from 93.7 % in 2019-20.

Some other government initiatives:

- **New National Educational Policy, 2020**
- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**
- **Mid Day Meal Scheme**
- **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009**
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

13) MULTILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE MILAN – 22

IN NEWS: The sea phase of the 11th edition of MILAN which witnessed participation of 26 ships, one submarine and 21 aircraft, culminated recently. A series of complex and advanced exercises were undertaken in all three dimensions of Naval operations to enhance compatibility, interoperability, mutual understanding and maritime cooperation amongst the partner Navies.

Key points:

- It is a biennial, multilateral naval exercise which started in 1995.
- It has so far been held at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar but is now being shifted to Visakhapatnam which offers more infrastructure as well as sea space for the exercise.
- Theme 2022: “ Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration”
- It has several themes such as anti-submarine warfare among others along with deliberations, including by subject matter experts.
- The areas of cooperation of the exercise include capacity building, marine domain awareness, training, hydrography, technical assistance, and operational exercises.
- During the exercise, the Navy will also be showcasing its Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) capabilities meant to rescue submarines in distress.
 - India is one of the few countries in the region which possesses this capability.
- This year’s Milan will see the participation of all Quad countries, with the U.S. being invited for the first time.



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MINNU PM UPSC AIR 150



My association with CivilsCafe stemmed out of my personal friendship with Tojin Sir. During my personality test preparation, the one on one session with Remya mam & Arun Sir was really fruitful and it gave me immense confidence to attend the same.

Thank Civils Cafe for all your support & guidance. Wish you good luck for future endeavours.

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